



### **VISUAL AMENITY AND UNDERGROUNDING IN NATIONAL PARKS AND AONBs**

WPD'S geographic area includes numerous National Parks and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). These include the Isles of Scilly and Dartmoor in the South West, Pembrokeshire and Gower in Wales, the Cotswolds in the West Midlands and the Peak District and Lincolnshire Wolds in the East Midlands.

Electricity supplies in rural areas are predominantly provided using overhead lines and this means that overhead lines are installed within National Parks and AONBs, sometimes near important sites. Many overhead lines have been in place for a long time, but there are locations, especially at popular tourist sites, where the removal of selective overhead lines can enhance the visual amenity.

As part of an Ofgem approved voluntary initiative, and following stakeholder engagement and feedback, WPD's approved business plan for the regulatory period 2015 - 2023 includes sums of money for each of its four licence areas to underground lines.

WPD works collaboratively with representatives of National Parks and AONBs to identify the areas that would most benefit from the undergrounding of overhead lines.

WPD successfully undertook undergrounding projects during the last distribution price review period 2010 – 2015 that had been identified by the representatives of the National Parks and AONBs.

For further information on this initiative, please contact the following WPD Steering Group Members:-

East Midlands

Arthur Jones - 01455 232305 or 07802 452813

[Arthurjones4@westernpower.co.uk](mailto:Arthurjones4@westernpower.co.uk)

West Midlands

Beckie Downing – 07834 621664

[rdowning@westernpower.co.uk](mailto:rdowning@westernpower.co.uk)

South West and Wales

Lynda Tossell – Tel 01209 616662 or 07703 218069

[ltossell@westernpower.co.uk](mailto:ltossell@westernpower.co.uk)