

Your Views on Our plans: Visual Amenity

RIIO-ED2 Stakeholder Engagement



What SP Energy Networks Do?

SP Energy Networks own and operate the electricity distribution network in the Central Belt & South of Scotland (SP Distribution) serving 2 million customers, and in Merseyside and North Wales (SP Manweb) serving 1.5 million customers. Our networks include nearly 40,000km of overhead power lines carrying electricity to our customers at various voltages. These lines traverse our licence areas, keeping vital electricity supplies safe, secure and reliable.

We are seeking your views on our investment plans for improving the visual impact of our network during our next regulated price control period (known as RIIO-ED2) running from 2023 to 2028.

Our Visual Amenity Strategy

We are fortunate to operate across many **designated areas** of natural beauty including National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (England and Wales) and National Scenic Areas (Scotland). In SP Manweb, **16%** of our overhead network is within these areas, mostly within Snowdonia National Park, in 2015 we signed an Accord with Snowdonia National park setting our commitment for sustainable operation in this area). In SP Distribution, **2%** of our overhead network is within these areas including Upper Tweeddale and the Fleet Valley.

Electricity in these rural areas is mostly provided by overhead power lines which have been in place for many years, in some cases before areas were designated. Where these assets are highlighted to us as intrusive, we may be able to undertake targeted replacement with underground cable to enhance the visual amenity. Under our regulated allowance we cannot fund undergrounding without engagement and support from our stakeholders.

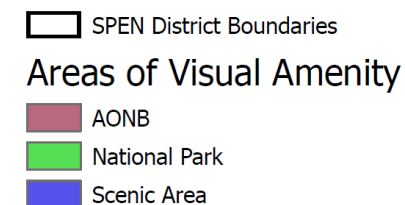
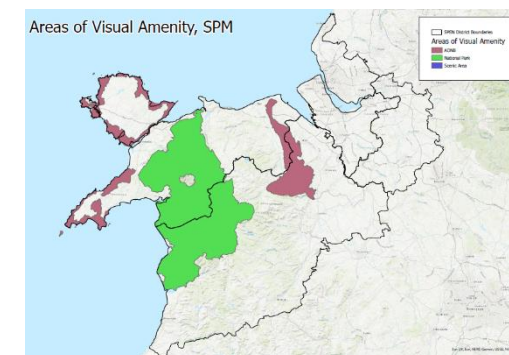
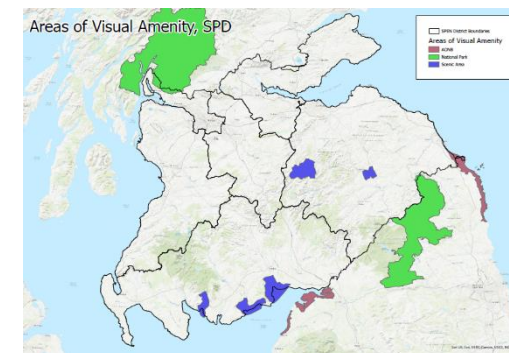
We are keen to consult with our stakeholders and appropriate interest groups to identify areas that would benefit most from the undergrounding of overhead lines and to gain support for our stated approach.

Gathering Your Views on our Plans

Do you represent any designated areas? Are you aware of network assets which impair the visual aesthetic in these areas that you would like us to consider undergrounding?

Are you aware of any other areas of overhead network in our areas you believe we should consider undergrounding to improve visual amenity?

Our Visual Amenity investments must be informed by stakeholder engagement, how would you like us to engage with you in these areas in future?



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Contact us with your views at RIIO_ED2@spenergynetworks.co.uk or online at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk