

NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

SCHEDULE 9 STATEMENT

1. Introduction

This statement is provided under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 as amended by the Utilities Act 2000.

National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) is responsible for distributing electricity to homes and businesses across South West England, the Midlands, and South Wales.

We operate under four Distribution Licences and are committed to delivering safe, reliable and sustainable electricity distribution across our regions.

Under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, as amended, NGED has a duty, when formulating relevant proposals to install overhead and underground electricity line and to undertake works on the operation and maintenance of the electricity distribution system, to:

- have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty;
- conserve flora, fauna, and geological or physiographical features of special interest;
- protect sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.

2. Our Commitment to the Environment and Sustainability

NGED recognises that the transition to a net-zero energy system must go hand-in-hand with the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.

Through our Environmental Action Plan and Sustainability Strategy, we are committed to:

- reducing our operational carbon emissions in line with national Net Zero targets;
- enhancing biodiversity and promoting nature-based solutions;
- embedding circular-economy principles in our materials and waste management;
- transparently reporting progress each year through our Environmental and Sustainability Report.

NGED recognise that climate change and biodiversity loss are interconnected and as such we are developing a Biodiversity Strategy that aims for No Net Loss in biodiversity for all large capital projects consented from 2024 onwards, and Biodiversity Net Gain from 2026 onwards.

We are exploring woodland planting, peatland restoration and targeted undergrounding of overhead lines in National Landscapes and National Parks to improve visual amenity and ecological value.

3. Environmental Management and Governance

NGED operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to ISO 14001. The EMS provides the framework for identifying, managing and improving environmental performance, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation, and supporting continual improvement.

Environmental performance is governed through a formal structure with escalation to the NGED Executive Board. Progress against our environmental objectives and key performance indicators is reviewed monthly and quarterly and reported annually.

All NGED employees and contractors receive environmental awareness training appropriate to their role. Contractors are required to meet NGED's environmental and sustainability standards, and to comply with all licence and consent conditions.

4. Relevant Proposals and Project Governance

NGED only seeks to build new lines or substations where existing assets cannot be economically upgraded, or where new customer connections or reinforcement are required.

Environmental considerations are embedded throughout project development:

- Opportunity and Design Stage: environmental constraints are mapped early using geographic information systems and statutory datasets to identify protected landscapes, designated habitats, cultural heritage and sensitive receptors.
- Assessment Stage: projects undergo a sustainability or environmental assessment proportionate to scale and risk. Major projects include an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).
- Construction Stage: all activities are undertaken in accordance with environmental consents, licences and permits.
- Completion Stage: sites are reinstated as close as possible to their original condition, and post-works reports are provided to the relevant authorities.

5. Consultation Procedures

NGED recognises that open consultation is fundamental to preserving amenity and achieving environmental balance.

We will consult, as appropriate, with:

- Statutory Bodies: Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales, Marine Management Organisation and relevant National Park Authorities.
- Local Authorities: County, District and Parish Councils on all new overhead lines, and with adjoining authorities where projects cross administrative boundaries.
- Non-Statutory Bodies: such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), local wildlife trusts, and archaeological societies, where their expertise can inform project design.
- Landowners and Stakeholders: who may be affected by proposals or can contribute to mitigation and enhancement measures.

Where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under The Electricity Works (EIA)

(England and Wales) Regulations 2017, NGED will ensure that all relevant consultees are notified and that their representations are fully considered.

6. Implementation and Continuous Improvement

NGED will continue to seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity, reduce waste, and minimise the visual and environmental impact of its operations.

Examples include:

- the use of lower-impact materials and recycled conductors;
- targeted undergrounding schemes in high-amenity landscapes;
- active management of substations to create pollinator habitats;
- collaboration across the Energy Networks Association (ENA) to promote environmental best practice; and
- undertake research and investment in new technology relevant to the business

7. Review of this Statement

This statement will be reviewed every three years or if there are significant regulatory, financial or environmental changes affecting NGED's approach to preserving amenity.

8. Contact

Enquiries about this statement or NGED's environmental and sustainability commitments should be directed to:

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