



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

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03 May 2011

National Grid
Freepost NAT3717
London
SE1 2BR

Email response sent to: info@nationalgridundergrounding.com

Dear Sir or Madam,

Response to: Consultation on National Grid's Proposed Approach to Undergrounding New Electricity Transmission Lines

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 23,000 spatial planners. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of spatial planning for the benefit of the public. As well as promoting spatial planning, the RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation on National Grid's approach to undergrounding. Our response was completed drawing on the knowledge and expertise of RTPI members; this included a workshop which was held in conjunction with National Grid on 3rd March, at which the background to the guidance was explained and discussed.

We were initially waiting for the publication of KEMA's and IET's report on the costs of undergrounding before the submission of our response but as the date for the publication of the report remain unconfirmed, we enclose the RTPI response (in the form of the response questionnaire) which may be subject to amendment after the publication of the report.

The RTPI believes the case for undergrounding should be assessed on a scheme by case basis. We have also identified a number of further issues for your consideration. If you require further assistance, have any queries relating to the enclosed or require clarification of any points made, then please contact Jas Mahil on 020 7929 9466 or email jas.mahil@rtpi.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Thomson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Thomson
Head of Policy and Practice
Enc.