PROPOSED NAVITUS BAY WIND PARK

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION 3

CHAPTER 33
ONSHORE RECREATION

SEPTEMBER 2013

NAVITUSBAY

VERSION HISTORY			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
02/09/2013	A	Final	Issue to s.42 consultees

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33. RECREATION

33.1 Introduction

33.1. This chapter assesses the potential impacts on recreation activities arising from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the onshore components of the Navitus Bay Wind Park Project ('the Project'). For the purpose of this assessment, the Onshore Development Area comprises the following project components: the cable landfall, a 35km onshore cable and associated accesses, temporary compounds and an onshore substation. For further details of the Project description used within this assessment refer to Chapter 2, Navitus Bay Wind Park Project.

33.2. This assessment considers potential impacts in relation to: recreational cycling, horse riding, nature study (focussing on bird watching), recreational walking, angling (fresh water fishing) and shooting. This chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapter 22 which details the recreational assessment in connection with the offshore components of the Project. This assessment also draws from other topic specific assessments, including the Landscape and Visual Assessment (Chapter 29), Traffic and Transport (Chapter 30) and Socio-economics and Tourism (Chapter 32).

33.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

33.3. This section outlines the legislation, policy and guidance that is relevant to this assessment. Professional judgement has been applied on their relevance and importance to the assessment.

33.2.1 International

33.4. There is no international legislation or guidance relevant to this assessment.

33.2.2 National

33.5. The relevant national policies are discussed below.

33.6. This section should be read in conjunction with Chapter 3 EIA Methodology, which details the legal and policy context within which an impact assessment should be undertaken, for example the EIA Regulations Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

National Policy Statements

33.7. National Policy Statements (NPSs) establish the primary basis on which the Secretary of State is required to determine applications for development consent. In preparing this assessment the following NPSs were reviewed:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a);
- NPS for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (DECC, 2011b);
- NPS for Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5) (DECC, 2011c).

33.8. Table 33.1 details the specific parts of these NPSs that are relevant to this assessment. It also identifies where in this chapter the matter has been addressed.

Table 33.1 Compliance with National Policy Statements

Summary of NPS provision	Where addressed in PEI
NPS EN-1	
Paragraph 5.9.10 states that '*…applications should include an assessment of: …any detrimental effect on… recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.'*	Refer to the Impact Assessment section for details.

Table 33.1 Compliance with National Policy Statements	
Summary of NPS provision	Where addressed in PEI
Paragraph 5.10.6 states that *'Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal. Applicants should use any up-to-date local authority assessment or, if there is none, provide an independent assessment to show whether the existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land is surplus to requirements.'*	None of the onshore components would result in the loss of recreational land. Therefore this paragraph and related paragraphs are not considered relevant to this assessment.
Also paragraph 5.10.24 states that *'The IPC should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails and other rights of way.'*	Refer to the Impact Assessment section for details.
NPS EN-3	
There are no specific paragraphs of relevance to this assessment.	
NPS EN-5	
There are no specific paragraphs of relevance to this assessment.	

Countryside and Rights of Way Act

33.9. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ('the CRoW Act') makes provision for the public to access the countryside and amends the law relating to public rights of way ('PRoW'). Under the CRoW Act the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land without having to follow paths. There is access land within the study area (refer to the Baseline Environment section of this chapter for details).

33.10. The access rights entitle the public to enter and remain on CRoW Act access land for the purposes of 'open-air recreation'. This term is not defined, but includes most common forms of recreation on foot, including walking, running and climbing.

33.11. Countryside and Rights of Way Act section 22 gives the landowner (or farm tenant if there is one) an entitlement to restrict use of CRoW rights at their discretion for up to 28 days per calendar year.

33.2.3 Regional

33.12. There is no regional policy or guidance relevant to this assessment.

33.2.4 Local

33.13. The following local development strategies, insofar as they relate to recreation, are relevant to the study area:

Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy Submission Draft 2013

- Objective 6 seeks the development of new Green Infrastructure (including footpaths, bridleways and cycleways) to encourage people to enjoy recreation without the need to travel by car.
- Policy HE4 sets out provisions for the protection of open space.

New Forest District Adopted Core Strategy 2009

- Objective 9 Leisure and Recreation, seeks to develop a range of opportunities for leisure and recreation, promote participation in active recreation, to facilitate the enjoyment of the coast and to manage recreational pressures within areas subject to environmental designations.
- Policy CS7 Open spaces, sport and recreation, includes provision for protecting open space.

New Forest Adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2012

- Strategic objectives seek to support development which encourages sustainable tourism and recreation, and provide opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities.
- Policy CP3 seeks to support proposals which create, maintain and enhance a network of green infrastructure to relieve recreational pressures on internationally important nature conservation sites. Policy DP3 sets out provisions for protecting open space.
- Policy DP21 sets out the provisions for recreational horse keeping and Policy DP23 sets out the provisions for the development of maneges.

33.14. The Baseline Environment and the Impact Assessment sections in this chapter have regard to the policies in these development strategies.

33.2.5 Guidance

33.15. There are no statutory guidelines for the assessment of recreation impacts. However, the Scottish Natural Heritage guidance (SNH, 2009) identifies an approach to the assessment of recreation impacts and effects that has broadly been followed for the purposes of this assessment. It states that the following matters should be considered:

- Loss/closure/extinguishment/ diversion of links, routes, or walks;
- Reduction in amenity;
- Enhancement of amenity and access;
- Potential obstructions to access routes;
- Changes to setting and context.

33.3 Assessment Methodology

33.3.1 Study area

33.16. The study area has been developed from an understanding of how potential impacts on recreation receptors may arise. This has been informed by the Scoping Opinion and consultation undertaken to date, as well as professional judgement on the type of changes to recreation activities that may result from the onshore components of the Project. The nature of the onshore aspects of the Project mean that it potentially affects onshore land-based recreation and has the potential to result in the following effects on recreational receptors:

- Visual impacts from the Onshore Substation;
- Obstruction and disturbance (e.g. noise, dust, and movement) from construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning activities.

33.17. Taking this into account, along with feedback from consultees, the study area includes a 3 km zone around the Onshore Substation and 2 km around the Onshore Cable Corridor. The study area is illustrated in Figure 33.1.

33.18. Impacts on paths and routes along the coast are assessed in the Offshore Recreation assessment (Chapter 22).

410000

425000

95000

95000

Moors Valley Country Park

Holt Heath

Avon Heath Country Park

West Moors

Hurn Forest

River Avon

New Forest

New Forest

Bournemouth

Christchurch

Ringwood

Wimborne Minster

Poole

0 2.5 5 Km

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area

Scale @A3 1:100,000	**Coordinate System:** British National Grid	N
Date: 08/08/2013	**Datum:** OSGB 1936	
Ref. No.: PMSSRM/130702161	**Data Source** RTP SeaZone OS	
Fig. No.: Figure 33.1		
Author: NDU		
Rv.No.: 01	**Checked:** RM	**Approved:** SMF

Navitus Bay Development Ltd

Study Area

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33.3.2 Consultation

33.19. Consultation to define the scope of this assessment has taken place through an EIA scoping exercise, specific correspondence and meetings with local authorities and a survey of recreation groups. A summary of the consultation undertaken to date is detailed in Table 33.2.

33.20. This section should be read in conjunction with the interviews undertaken with recreation groups active within the study area, which are detailed in the Baseline Environment section of this chapter.

Table 33.2 Consultation

Organisation and date	Summary of response	Where addressed in this assessment
The IPC 2011 Scoping Opinion (IPC is now part of the Planning Inspectorate)	It is requested that potential environmental issues are identified and an assessment is undertaken of potential impacts on recreational users (summary section).	Refer to the Impact Assessment section for details.
	It is acknowledged that the rationale for scoping out an assessment of potential impacts on recreation receptors during the operation and maintenance phase, but seeks a justification to be provided within the assessment (paragraph 3.28).	Refer to the Assessment Methodology section for details.
	It was noted that effects on offshore or onshore ornithology may have implications on tourism; and sought an assessment of the interrelationships of these matters, and associated cross referencing (paragraph 3.59).	An assessment has been made of the potential impact of the Project on bird watching as a recreational receptor (refer to the Impact Assessment section for details). The Environmental Statement that will form part of the application for development consent, when submitted in early 2014, will include an assessment of all potential interrelationships.
	It was requested that cross referencing is provided, to link the assessment of potential impacts from a landscape and visual perspective on recreational users, specifically those using Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (paragraph 3.136).	Refer to the Impact Assessment section for details.
	It is stated that the assessment should consider temporary impacts on local residents as a result of construction traffic and the re-routing of other traffic, including public transport, as a result of any required road closures and diversions. It was also requested that consideration should be given to pedestrians and cyclists, having regard to the location of PRoW (including footpaths, bridleways and byways) and should clearly set out any impacts on them, including within the wider area (paragraph 3.142).	A Public Rights of Way Strategy will be developed with consultees and will form part of the application for development consent when submitted in early 2014.
Tourism officers for local authorities in the study area (December 2012 –February 2013) and the Tourism Liaison Group meeting (January 2013)	It was stated that there should be a discussion in respect of recreation research in order to review the use of primary research and information from stakeholder as part of the assessment of impacts.	Refer to the Impact Assessment section for details.

Table 33.2 Consultation		
Tourism officers in Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council meetings (March - May 2013)	Discussions were held in relation to potential impacts of the Project on recreation receptors.	Refer to the Baseline Environment and Impact Assessment sections for details.
Tourism officers in East Dorset and Christchurch District Council (March – May 2013)	Interviews were sought with tourism officers at East Dorset and Christchurch Council to discuss potential impacts of the Project on recreation receptors. No response has been received to date.	N/A
Hampshire County Council Rights of Way	The Council was contacted to obtain details of paths that may be affected by temporary closures as a result of the onshore components of the Project.	Refer to the Baseline Environment and Impact Assessment sections for details.
East Dorset District Council	The Council was contacted to obtain details of paths that may be affected by temporary closures as a result of the onshore components of the Project.	
British Horse Society	The Society was contacted to obtain details of paths that may be affected by temporary closures as a result of the onshore components of the Project, although no response has been received to date.	
Ramblers Association	The Association was contacted to obtain details of paths that may be affected by temporary closures as a result of the onshore components of the Project. The Association stated that two footpaths would be affected (West Moors Footpath 2 E55/2, and West Moors Footpath 1 E55/1) in addition to forest tracks and a long section of cycle route through Hurn Forest. The Association enquired about management of closures along a stretch of cycleway and requested alternative routes when paths are closed.	
Christchurch Angling Club (July 2013)	The Club provided information on fisheries in the study area following a request for information.	Refer to the Baseline Environment For details.
Wiltshire and Dorset Angling Club (July 2013)	The Club provided information on angling activities in the study area following a request for information.	Refer to the Baseline Environment For details.

33.3.3 Scope of the assessment

33.21. Table 33.3 details the recreational activities considered by this assessment.

Table 33.3 Recreation impact assessment scope

Assessment Topic	Scope
Recreational cycling	Cycling for recreation purposes within or crossing the study area. It excludes journeys to work, school or other non-recreational trips.
Horse riding	Horse riding on rights of way and open spaces within or crossing the study area.
Nature study	Bird watching within the study area.
Recreational walking	Walking for recreation purposes within or crossing the study area, including orienteering, dog walking, geocaching. It excludes journeys to work, school or other non-recreational trips.
Angling (recreational freshwater fishing)	Use of river and lake fisheries.
Shooting	Organised recreational shooting.

33.22. This scope was determined having regard to feedback to consultation received to date, a review of recreational activities that have the potential to be affected by visual, obstruction or other disturbances from the onshore components of the Project and professional judgement.

33.3.4 Issues scoped out

33.23. Recreational activities scoped out relate to:

- Nature study other than bird watching, as no other nature studies has been identified as have the potential to be affected, either through the consultation, desk-based assessments or other sources.
- River based recreation such as river kayaking, as no effects are predicted on these activities, due to installation of the cabling through the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling ("HDD") at the relevant sections of the Onshore Cable Corridor.
- Other onshore outdoor sports (e.g. tennis, football and rugby) as there are no known obstructions to any facilities (e.g. golf courses, sports pitches) within the study area. This is reinforced by the findings from the surveys with recreational users (see Table 33.2), as no users come forward to notify NBDL that there would be an adverse impact on their amenity provision.

33.24. The operation and maintenance phase of the cable route operation has been scoped out of this assessment as the infrastructure would remain underground, with very limited need for maintenance or interaction with recreation receptors. However, an assessment has been made of the potential impacts of the onshore substation (refer to the Impact Assessment for details).

33.3.5 Impact assessment methodology

33.25. Given that there is no specific guidance in relation to the assessment of impacts on recreation, the methodology applied accords with that detailed Chapter 3. The criteria used to determine receptor sensitivity, magnitude of effect and impact significance are detailed in Tables 33.4 – 33.7.

Sensitivity of a receptor

33.26. Table 33.4 outlines the criteria used to assess the sensitivity of recreation receptors, which has been informed by the baseline characteristics and interviews with recreation groups.

33.27. The assessment of recreational receptor sensitivity does not take explicit account of tolerance and recoverability, as these are concepts most suited to known, measureable populations against which estimates of change and rates of recovery can be calibrated. Impacts on recreational receptors rely on a systematic qualitative approach more appropriate to changes in human behaviour. However, where it is possible to form views on the tolerance of activities, these are referred to in the text supporting the assessments.

Table 33.4 Definition of sensitivity of a receptor

Sensitivity of receptor	Criteria
High	Where the receptor or activity is defined as being of international status or formal designation; important in an international context and/or is not flexible in relation to the locations in which activities can be carried out (e.g. there is only one discrete location in the country where a recreational activity can take place).
Medium	Where the receptor or activity is defined as being of national/regional status or formal designation; is important in a national/regional context and is flexible in terms of the locations where the activity can be carried out and can avoid obstructions.
Low	Where the receptor or activity is defined as being of local status or formal designation; is important in a local context and is flexible in terms of the locations where the activity can be carried out and can avoid obstructions.
Imperceptible	Where the receptor or resource is defined as being of less than local status or has no formal designation.

Magnitude of effect

33.28. The magnitude of an effect is defined in Table 33.5, having regard to the duration and spatial extent of an effect. The magnitude of effect was informed by interviews with recreation groups and information from other impact assessments undertaken in relation to the Project (e.g. visual impact).

Table 33.5 Definition of magnitude of effect

Magnitude	Criteria
High	Where the extent of effects on receptors (activities, resources, or businesses) is across a wide area (such as the whole of the study area) and a large number of people or activities would be affected; or where there is an obvious immediate view of the Project with potential to cause significant visual impact or other disturbance. Duration is a consideration, with effects over at least the medium or long-term duration (3-5 years and 6+ years respectively).
Medium	Where the extent of effects on receptors is medium in scale (i.e. a discrete location or set of locations within the study area), but a large number of people or activities would be affected; or alternatively the extent of impacts on activities, resources and/or businesses is large in scale (i.e. the majority of the study area) but only a small proportion of people or activities would be affected. Duration is a consideration, with effects over at least the medium-term duration (3-5 years).
Low	Where the extent of effects on receptors is small in scale (e.g. a discrete location within the study area) and would only affect a small proportion of people or activities or is of very short duration (i.e. less than three years); or where the project would be unlikely to be visible or heard (as it would be obscured by hills or woodland) or would be at a distance.
Imperceptible	Where the effect would not be noticeable by recreation users.

Significance of impact

33.29. Impact significance is the term used to categorise the impact (e.g. negligible, minor, moderate and major). and can be positive, neutral or negative. Predicted impacts are reported in this chapter as either 'Significant' (those determined to have an impact significance rating of major or moderate) or 'Not Significant' (those determined to have a significance rating of minor or negligible) as shown in Figure 33.3.

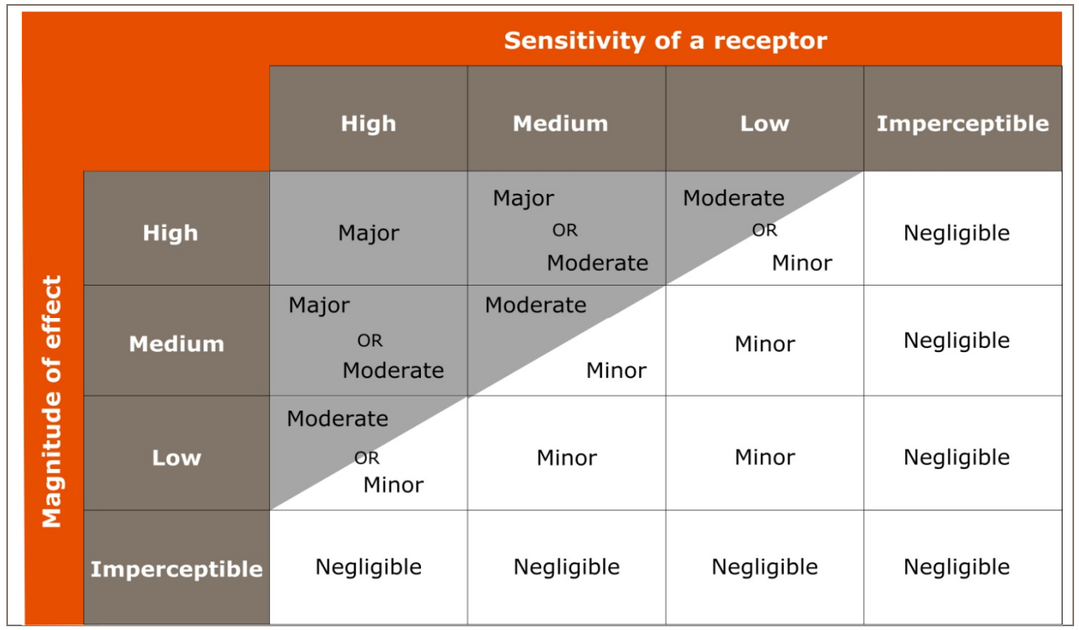


Figure 33.2 Derivation of Significance of Impact

33.30. Table 33.6 defines the types of impact related to a given significance.

Table 33.6 Definition of impact significance

Significance	Criteria
Major significance	The value of the receptor and the magnitude of effects are predicted to give rise to impacts that are fundamental and may be material in the decision-making process. This would indicate that a recreational activity of some importance would be lost to many residents and visitors.
Moderate	The value of the receptor and the magnitude of effects are predicted to give rise to impacts that are material but not likely to cause fundamental change to the activity. This would indicate that a recreational activity of some importance in the study area was reduced in scale or attractiveness for many of the people pursuing it.
Minor	The value of the receptor and the magnitude of effects are predicted to give rise to impacts that are detectable but alone are not likely to be material to the activity. This would indicate that a recreational activity in the study area was reduced in scale or attractiveness for many of the people pursuing it.
Negligible	The value of the recreation receptor and the magnitude of effect are not predicted to give rise to impacts that are detectable or outside the normal variance in participation that might be expected.

33.3.6 Limitations and embedded mitigation

Limitations

33.31. Limitations to the impact assessment relate to a lack of available and consistent data for the different recreational receptors, particularly in relation to year on year variations in scale and choice of locations. There is no specific locally applicable data source and so pragmatic use has been made of different information sources. This includes estimates of participation based on national participation rates, which is useful for generating an indication of order of magnitude in the absence of other estimates, but may vary within the study area.

33.32. There is no register of those taking part in recreational activities. Therefore, the method adopted builds on professional judgement and makes the best use of information available.

Assumptions

33.33. The assessment of impacts upon recreation activities has been informed by the assessments undertaken in relation to other topics. The assumptions used in other assessments that are relevant to this recreation assessment are as follows:

Landscape and Visual

33.34. The Landscape and Visual chapter (Chapter 29) considers users of PRoW as receptors, which are assessed as having a high sensitivity. The chapter also considers users of the national cycling route, assessing them as having a high-medium sensitivity.

33.35. The predicted effects of the onsubstation on PRoW and bridleway users are considered to be imperceptible during all phases of the Project. The visual impact is assessed as not significant for these receptors.

33.36. The potential visual impact of the on cable corridor on PRoW users and national cycling route users are considered to be:

- Major/moderate (depending on the viewpoint used) for national cycle route users during construction and not significant during operation;
- Moderate for Hurn Forest users during construction and not significant during operation;
- Major/moderate for the users of the Avon Valley Path during construction and not significant during operation;
- Major/moderate for PRoW users during construction and not significant during operation.

33.37. Chapter 29 did not include any fisheries locations as assessment viewpoints. Therefore, it is assumed that the visual effects on recreation anglers are equivalent to PRoW users.

Noise

33.38. The Noise chapter (Chapter 26) considers impacts on sensitive human receptors during the construction and operation and maintenance phases. It concludes that there would be no significant impact following mitigation.

33.39. It is assumed that decommissioning of the onshore substation would result in noise impacts no greater than those experienced during construction; and there would be no impacts associated with decommissioning the onshore cables as these would remain in situ.

Air Quality

33.40. The Air Quality chapter (Chapter 25) predicted that there could be up to a minor adverse impact, following mitigation, during construction on residential receptors within 100 m of the works. No impacts are identified during the operation and maintenance phase; and impacts during the decommissioning phase would be similar to those during construction in relation to the onshore substation.

33.41. An assessment of potential for gas emissions and odours concluded that they would not reach the threshold for causing an effect and were therefore scoped out.

33.42. It is assumed that recreation receptors would experience effects no greater than those experienced by residential receptors. However, this is a conservative assumption as recreation receptors often move into and out of areas, thereby reducing the duration of any effects.

Ornithology

33.43. The Onshore Ornithology chapter (Chapter 28) identifies that there are three places that birds have the potential to be affected by the onshore construction activities. These are the River Avon, Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation.

33.44. Impacts would be minimised through the use of HDD techniques used to lay the cables under the River Avon outside of the winter bird season. Therefore the impact on the bird locations and populations is considered to be negligible.

Fish

33.45. The Ecology chapter (Chapter 27) identifies that fish populations in rivers available to recreational anglers would not change due to the construction techniques to be adopted. It is also assumed that there would be no changes to fish populations available to recreational anglers in fishing lakes, due to the distance from the cable route. Therefore, only the anglers' enjoyment is assessed (refer to the Impact Assessment section for details).

Traffic and transportation

33.46. The Traffic and Transport chapter (Chapter 31) considers the effect of construction traffic on different receptors. In relation to 'parks and recreation areas, shopping areas and roads used by pedestrians with footways' it is predicted that there would be a short term impact due to potential obstruction and disruption, albeit this could be reduced through mitigation.

Embedded mitigation

33.47. In some instances embedded mitigation is sufficient to prevent any significant impacts from occurring.

33.48. The following measures are some of those incorporated into the design that are relevant to this assessment:

- Avoidance of statutory environmentally designated sites where practicable (e.g. 37 statutory sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Areas (SPA), Ramsar, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR)) have been avoided within the cable corridor;

- Sensitive siting of the onshore substation components, to minimise potential environmental impacts and sensitive designations;
- Screening and landscaping of buildings and equipment of between 11 m and 14 m in height at the Onshore Substation;
- Trenchless cable installation would be used for crossing main communications routes and environmentally sensitive areas. This includes the Castleman Trail, the River Avon and the West Moors River. In relation to the River Avon, the drilling compounds would be sited approximately 300 m from the river bank. Temporary closure of PRoWs would be publicised through advertisements in the press and signs at the entry points;
- Vegetation would be reinstated;
- Below ground infrastructure would remain in situ as part of the decommissioning phase;
- Some minor roads would be temporarily obstructed but suitable diversions would be in place and/or there may be some inconvenience during construction.

33.4 Baseline Environment

33.49. The following section details the baseline data gathering methodology for the assessment, as well as details of the data sources used.

33.4.1 Baseline data gathering methodology

Data sources

33.50. Table 33.7 details the data sources used to form the baseline and support the assessment of impacts.

Table 33.7 Recreation data sources

Source	Information
Sport England Active Recreation Survey 2011	Participation rates in active recreation.
British Equestrian Trade Association National Equestrian Survey 2010-11	Participation in horse riding.
VisitEngland GB Day Visitor Survey 2012	Participation in recreation activities as part of leisure days out.
Bournemouth Borough Council	Cycle count data 2000-2012.

33.51. The following assessments have also helped to inform the baseline and assessment of impacts:

- Chapter 26 - Onshore Noise and Vibration;
- Chapter 28 - Onshore Ornithology;
- Chapter 29 - Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 31 - Traffic and Transport.

Survey methodology

33.52. Desk-based research was compiled along with a review of the project characteristics and an initial assessment of potential effects in order to identify recreation and amenity groups within the study area. Interviews were then held with some of the groups identified, where possible by telephone (or, by request, email). Using a discussion guide, interviewees were asked about the scale and location of their activities and their views on the potential impact of the Project on those activities. These interviews have been complemented by data provided by some of those interviewed.

33.4.2 Recreation activities – within the study area

Cycling

33.53. The UK National Cycling Strategy (1996) noted that leisure cycling has potential for growth; it can be a stimulus to tourism, is a high-quality way to enjoy the countryside and a good way to introduce people to cycling for their everyday transport needs. To encourage more leisure cycling there needs to be small-scale improvements, better signposting, marketing and information. Flagship leisure routes, using quiet roads or disused railway paths, can increase the profile and boost leisure cycling in towns and the countryside.

33.54. The UK Active Travel Strategy (Department for Transport (DfT), 2010) notes that deterrents to cycling include: confidence, concerns about safety, lack of cycle parking, poor road design and inadequate cycle signing.

33.55. Cycling takes place across the study area on roads, traffic-free cycle paths, mountain bike trails and from cycle centres such as the one located at Moors Valley Country Park and the velodrome at Slades Farm in Bournemouth. Dedicated cycle routes are illustrated in Figure 33.4.

Horse riding

33.56. The survey indicates that many of the popular horse riding routes are inland, such as through the New Forest, Hurn Forest and Town Common (on the northern edge of Christchurch). Reasons for user choice at these locations (provided by the clubs and associations who responded) were the scenery and safety, as a number of routes are off main roads. Many of the riding centres in the study area serve a mainly local customer base and operate daily throughout the year, with typical number of riders in a group between 5 and 10, on rides lasting between 0.5 to 2 hours.

33.57. Horse riders are often dependent upon riding locations accessible from their base. Therefore, the continued local availability of bridleways and other areas for horse riding is important, both for riders owning their own horses and those who attend a specific riding centre where riding takes place off site.

Nature study – bird watching

33.58. While bird watching takes place across the study area, specific areas of interest are on the River Avon, Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation, as identified in Chapter 28. Holt Heath National Nature Reserve has curlew, Dartford warbler, stonechat and nightjar. Local Nature Reserves (LNR) include Pennington's Copse, Alder Bed and Broadmoor LNR, and Slop Bog LNR to the west of West Moors Plantation; and Milford on Sea LNR to the north of Milford on Sea. Of these, Pennington's Copse, Alder Bed and Broadmoor LNR have bird watching interest.

Walking

33.59. Walking takes place along PRoW and through open access countryside and beaches. There are about 4,800 km of PRoW in both Dorset and Hampshire, as well as the access land and other locations.

33.60. The findings of the recreation survey indicate that walking is a year-round activity. The factors influencing choice of location include: scenery/views, availability of circular routes, terrain, accessibility and suitability for dogs.

33.61. Walking in the study area would be a combination of residents walking in their immediate locality and people travelling to the area for recreational walking. The New Forest National Park is located to the east and north of the study area and is popular with recreational walkers.

Angling

33.62. A privately run fishing lake is located adjacent to the Moors River north of the A31, close to the onshore cable corridor. Moors Valley Country Park also includes a lake fishing.

33.63. There is a fishery on the Moors River along the western side of Hurn Forest. The season is June to March and the Moors River is considered a small fishery compared to other locations in the area, partly due to the dense bank vegetation and weed growth constraining fishing in the summer months. Species include roach, dace, sea trout and wild brown trout. It is understood that very little fishing activity takes place currently because of the current quality of access to the fishery and the level maintenance of the Moors River to allow fishing to occur.

33.64. Fishing takes place along the River Avon, which is a relatively high profile fishing location. Species include: barbel, chub, roach, dace, bream, carp and pike. The season is June to March. The fishing rights at the point the cable route crosses the River Avon are held by the landowner.

Shooting

33.65. Shooting takes place on private estates within the study area, which is either managed by the landowner or a club. The Onshore Cable Corridor would pass through areas currently used for shooting on two estates. As the activity is on private land it takes place only with the permission of the owners, who are at liberty to withdraw their permission.

33.4.3 Participation

33.66. Estimates of participation rates for different recreational activities are presented in Table 33.8. It should be noted that these estimates are drawn from a variety of surveys, and are national participation rates of the population, which will vary locally. However these rates are useful in

providing an indication of the scale of activity in the absence of other estimates. Note that recreational angling will include sea angling as well as inland angling (although some anglers will pursue both).

Table 33.8 Recreation Participation Estimates

Activity	Estimate of participation rates (% of adult population)	Source
Recreational angling	2.1%	National Watersports Participation Survey (Arkenford, 2012)
Recreational cycling (at least once a month)	8.6%	Active People Survey 5 (Sport England, 2011)
Horse riding (at least once a month)	3.2%	National Equestrian Survey 2010-11 (British Equestrian Trade Association, 2011)
Recreational shooting	0.3%	Active People Survey 7 (Sport England, 2013)
Nature study	5.9%	Based on estimates given by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) estimates
Recreational walking	9.0%	Great Britain Leisure Day Visits Survey 2012 (VisitEngland, 2013)

33.67. Of the activities in scope, recreational walking and cycling are the largest participant activities.

33.4.4 Recreation Activities – within the study area for the Onshore Substation

33.68. There is an extensive network of PRoW (Figure 33.2) which extends across the 3 km study area. These PRoW are largely concentrated around the open heaths and commons which surround Three Legged Cross. The majority of routes within the study area, particularly those on slightly elevated ground, afford views towards the Onshore Substation.

33.69. There are no dedicated routes within or adjacent to the Onshore Substation, although permissive paths extend through the plantation woodland along the western boundary.

33.70. The substation study area includes a number of local PRoW and Long Distance Routes (e.g. the Ferndown Stour and Forest Trail).

33.71. Moors Valley Country Park is located just to the north of the Onshore Substation and is one of the most used recreation locations in the study area, as well as the wider area. The Country Park provides walking, cycling, a narrow gauge railway, an outdoors activity centre, angling and other recreational activities. Entrance to Moors Valley is free, although parking and some activities are chargeable (Moors Valley Country Park, 2013).

33.72. Access land, as defined under the CRoW Act (2000), within the study area for the Onshore Substation includes:

- Ashley Heath (part of Moors Valley Country Park);
- West Moors Plantation;
- Ferndown Forest;
- Avon Heath Country Park;
- Lower Common;
- Horton Common;
- Mannington Heath;
- Holt Heath;
- West Moors Nursery.

33.73. Avon Heath Country Park includes a play area, as well as parking and toilet facilities. Access is free although parking is chargeable. Avon Heath is Dorset's largest country park and events generally undertaken include walking, photography and wildlife activities.

33.4.5 Recreation Activities – Within the study area of the cable corridor

33.74. The cable corridor study area includes:

- The 16 mile Castleman Trailway is a multi-use trail that run through West Moors Plantation. It is part of the Games Way long distance route which runs from Weymouth to London. The trail runs through West Moors Plantation on a disused railway line and is crossed by the

Onshore Cable Corridor. Part of the Castleman Trailway is designated as regional cycling route (reference No.69), which runs between Upton Country Park in Poole and Ashley, near Ringwood.

- National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 2, situated north of Christchurch.
- Avon Valley Path is a 34 mile walking route from Christchurch to Salisbury.
- Cycle, walking and horse riding routes within Hurn Forest, which include a traffic free cycleway which runs along the main drive through the Forest from the car park at Matchams Lane through to Oaktree Park, near St Leonard's Bridge.

33.75. In addition, there are numerous local footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and other recreational tracks within the study area.

33.76. The PRoW that would be crossed by the onshore cable corridor are listed in Table 33.9.

Table 33.9 PRoWs crossed by the Onshore Cable Corridor (listed from landfall to substation)

Parish/area	PRoW reference	Proposed crossing method
New Milton	715	HDD
New Milton	716	Open cut
New Milton	717	Open cut
New Milton	718	Open cut
New Milton	730	Open cut
Hordle	735	Open cut
Hordle	737	Open cut
Bransgore	723	Open cut
Bransgore	730	Open cut
Bransgore	735	Open cut
Sopley	3	Open cut
Sopley	14	Open cut
Sopley	20	Open cut
Sopley	24	Open cut
West Moors	1	Open cut
West Moors	2	Open cut
West Moors	9	Open cut
Verwood	15	Open cut

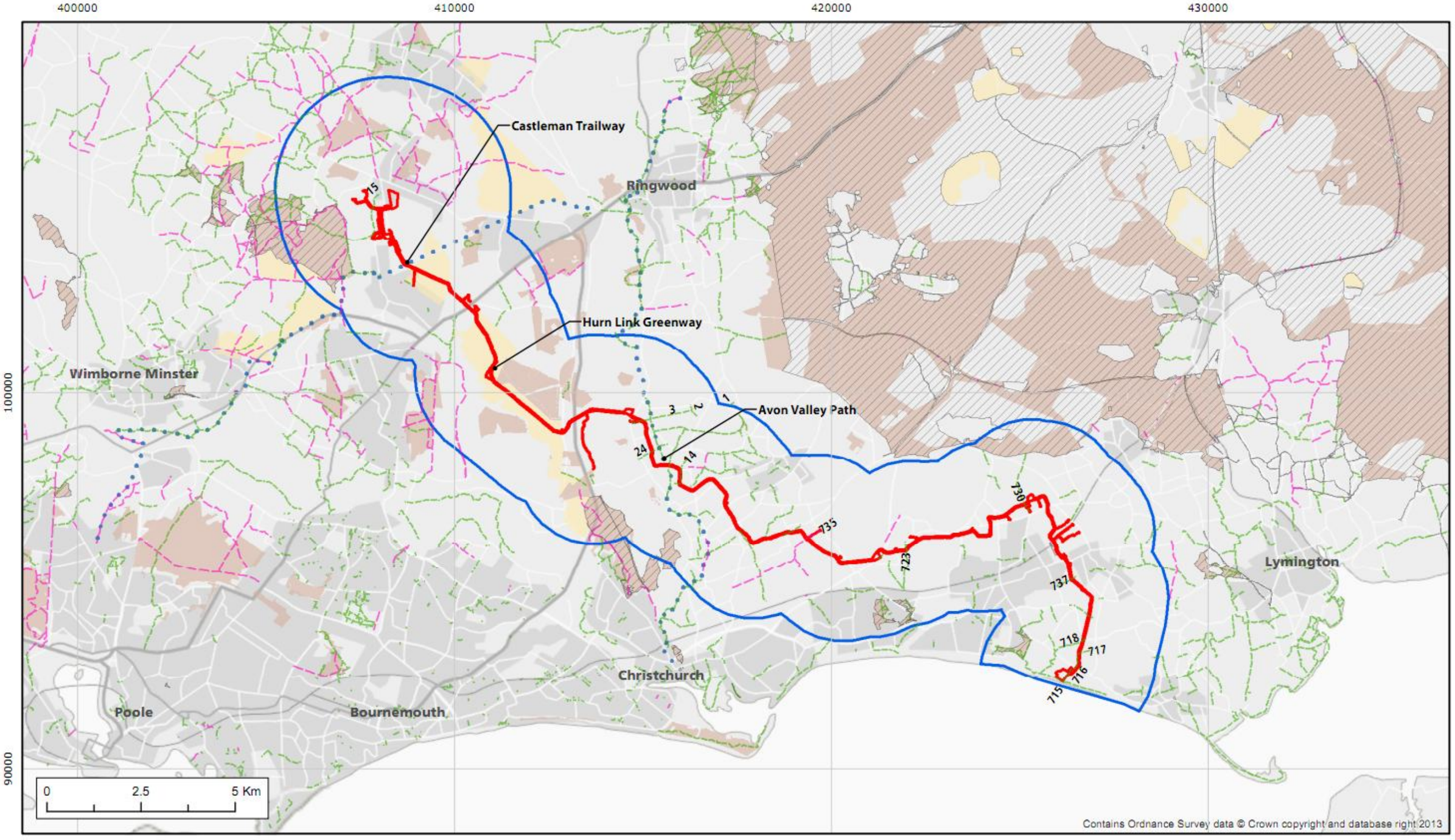
33.77. Access land, as defined under the CRoW Act (2000), within the study area for the Onshore Cable Corridor includes:

- Land to the east of Barton on Sea;
- Land to the east of Ashley (south of Stanley's Copse);
- Land at Wootton;
- Land at Ogber;
- Land at Cowards Marsh;
- Hurn Forest.

33.78. Hurn Forest is typically accessed via car parks located at Matchams Road and Boundary Lane. These locations have the heaviest use, predominantly by dog walkers. The central portion of Hurn Forest is some way from the main access points (mid-point is approximately 2 km from Matchams Road and Boundary Lane car parks) and beyond the range of many informal walkers. Hurn Forest is used to access the West Moors river fishery, which is on the western side of the forest.

33.79. The Hurn Link Greenway (for cyclists and other users) is located within the Hurn Forest and follows the Onshore Cable Corridor within Hurn Forest. Hurn Forest is regularly used by cyclists as a cycling location in its own right (making use of fire roads or other paths in the forest), as well as forming part of longer cycling trips.

33.80. West Moors Plantation is adjacent to West Moors village and is regularly used by residents and other visitors for general leisure and recreation. The Castleman Trailway (used by cyclists, walkers and horse riders) runs along the northern boundary of the plantation. Some cyclists combine riding in West Moors Plantation with Hurn Forest (as well as other locations such as St Catherine's Hill) to provide longer routes.



Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area
- Bridleway
- Footpath
- Long Distance Walk
- Countryside & Rights of Way Open Land - Section 15 Land
- Countryside & Rights of Way Open Land - Access
- Countryside & Rights of Way Open Land - Section 16 Dedicated Land

Scale @A3 1:100,000	**Coordinate System:** British National Grid	N
Date: 08/08/2013	**Datum:** OSGB 1936	
Ref. No.: PMSSRM/02072013163	**Data Source** OS RTP	
Fig. No.: Figure 33.3		
Author: NDU		
Rv.No.: 01 **Checked:** RM	**Approved:** SMF	

Navitus Bay Development Ltd

Walking & Riding - PRoWs

NAVITUSBAY

410000

425000

95000

Hurn Greenway

New Forest

0 2.5 5 Km

Legend

- Onshore Development Area
- Study Area
- Local Cycle Route
- Regional Cycle Route
- National Cycle Route

Scale @A3 1:100,000	**Coordinate System:** British National Grid	N
Date: 02/07/2013	**Datum:** OSGB 1936	
Ref. No.: PMSSRM/130702161	**Data Source** OS; Sustrans; RTP	
Fig. No.: Figure 33.4		
Author: NDU		
Rv.No.: 01	**Checked:** RM	**Approved:** SMF

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Cycle Routes

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33.5 Impact Assessment

33.5.1 Assessment Parameters

33.81. Parameters have been used to define the 'Rochdale Envelope' used to describe the potential realistic worst case scenarios for each potential effect on recreation receptors. Refer to Table 33.10 for details.

Table 33.10 Assessment Parameters Relevant to the Recreation Impact Assessment

Potential effect	Realistic Worst Case Scenario	Rationale
Construction		
Obstruction of access to areas used for recreation. Disturbance (noise, air quality, visual). Reduction in recreation activity from reduced use of facilities in the study area.	Six cables of maximum (275 kV) capacity to be installed	Requires the greatest amount of manpower/ancillary equipment and time to install. Therefore there would be a greater level of obstruction (as cable corridor width would be greater), disturbance levels in terms of volume and duration. These factors then lead to the worst case effect upon the tourism economy of the study area.
Exclusion from construction site. Disturbance from construction noise. Interference with recreation activity by construction traffic and plant.	Individual cable lengths are 700 m for 100 % of the cable route	Results in the greatest amount of jointing bays to be installed. Consequently this would cause the greatest use of manpower/ancillary equipment and the greatest potential for disturbance in terms of volume and duration. It would also cause the greatest level of obstruction to access along the cable route.
	Greatest amount of ancillary systems, e.g. sustainable drainage systems	Requires the greatest amount of manpower/ancillary equipment and time to install. Therefore there would be greater potential for obstructions to accesses (volume of area affected and duration). This would lead to the greatest level of disturbance from additional installation of supporting works and ultimately, the greatest effect upon recreation activities in the study area.
	Open cutting is used for all minor roads	Leads to the greatest level of obstruction to access; roads would remain open where this is possible, but traffic management systems (e.g. use of temporary traffic lights, diversions) may lead to delays. Results in greatest level of disturbance. Ultimately it would cause the greatest effect upon recreation activities in the study area.

Table 33.10 Assessment Parameters Relevant to the Recreation Impact Assessment		
	Maximum size of site equipment used at the landfall: • Drill rig – 250 tonnes; • Control cabin – 6 tonnes; • Power pack – 10 tonnes; • Hiab flat container – 8 tonnes; • 2 x bentonite mud pumps – 14 tonnes each; • Storage container – 6 tonnes; Mud recycling unit – 22 tonnes.	Largest equipment would lead to the greatest area to cause an obstruction to access and the greatest level of disturbance (primarily visual). This would lead to the greatest level of effect upon recreation activities.
Operational		
Disturbance (noise, air quality, visual) to recreation activities.	Substation buildings is maximum height of 14 m	This would lead to greatest potential for visual disturbance in relation to tourism related businesses and ultimately the overall effect on recreation in the study area.
	Maximum number of maintenance trips to the substation are programmed	This would result in the greatest level of disturbance to the study area from visits to site and presence of maintenance workers, vehicles and equipment. This would cause the greatest effect upon recreation in the study area.
	Maximum number of abnormal load deliveries (4) for high voltage transformers	This would result in the greatest level of obstruction to access and disturbance to the study area from use of heavy vehicles. This would cause the greatest effect upon recreation in the study area.
Decommissioning		
Obstruction of access recreation activities. Disturbance (noise, air quality, visual) to recreation activities. Reduction in recreation activity from reduced use of facilities in the study area.	Six cables to be in place (which require cutting at the decommissioning phase)	This would require the greatest amount of cutting at decommissioning. Therefore it would require the greatest amount of personnel or ancillary equipment and lead to the longest duration. Consequently this would result in the greatest level of disturbance and obstruction to access and ultimately causes the greatest effect upon recreation in the study area.
	Individual cable lengths are 700 m for 100% of the cable route	This would require the greatest amount of removal and in-fill at jointing bays (as number of jointing bays are maximised) at decommissioning. Therefore this would require a greater volume of personnel or ancillary equipment and lead to a longer duration of activities. Consequently this would result in the greatest level of disturbance and obstruction to access and ultimately causes the greatest effect on recreation in the study area.

33.5.2 Onshore Substation Impact Assessment

Angling

Construction

33.82. Angling is pursued by 2.1 % of the national population. Within the Onshore Substation study area there are fisheries, including the lakes at Moors Valley Country Park and at East Moors Farm. Nearby watercourses include the West Moors River although there is not an active fishery at this location. Within the study area angling is of local importance with alternative fisheries available, and is therefore assessed as **low** sensitivity.

33.83. There are no obstruction impacts anticipated from the construction of the onshore substation on the fisheries in the study area and no changes are predicted in the availability of fish in rivers or lakes. The noise impacts are assessed as not significant for the substation construction and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter fishing in the area. Air quality impacts are considered as minor in relation to potential disturbance to anglers. It is assumed that visual effects on recreational anglers would be imperceptible to the construction of the onshore substation.

33.84. The overall magnitude of effect for recreational angling is assessed as **imperceptible**, as it is unlikely that the effect would be noticeable. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.85. Angling continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity during the operation and maintenance phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.86. There are no obstruction impacts anticipated from the operation of the onshore substation on the fisheries in the study area and no changes in the availability of fish in rivers or lakes. The noise impacts are assessed as minor for the substation operation and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter fishing in the area. It is assumed that visual effects on recreational anglers would be imperceptible from substation operation.

33.87. The overall magnitude of effect for recreational angling is assessed as **imperceptible**, as it is unlikely that the effect would be noticeable. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

33.88. Angling continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity during the decommissioning phase for the reasons set out above.

33.89. There are no anticipated decommissioning obstruction effects on current activity and nor changes in the availability of fish in rivers or lakes. The visual impact assessment considers the visual impacts to continue to be imperceptible during this phase. The noise impacts are assumed to be similar to construction.

33.90. The overall magnitude of effect for recreational angling is assessed as **imperceptible**, as it is unlikely that the effect would be noticeable. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Cycling

Construction

33.91. Cycling is one of the most commonly pursued recreational activities and the onshore study area includes National Cycle Network and regional trails, as well as other popular forest cycling locations.

33.92. Taking into account the scale of the activity, the type of designation (i.e. national and regional) and the popularity of the routes and locations, cycling is assessed as **medium** sensitivity.

33.93. Cycling takes place in the vicinity of the onshore substation site, although no obstructions are anticipated to those activities. The noise impacts are assessed as not significant for the construction phase of the onshore substation and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter cycling in the area. The visual impact assessment considered effects on PRoW and bridleway users to be imperceptible from construction of the substation. Construction traffic effects on road users are assessed as not significant.

33.94. Based on professional judgement, considering the lack of obstruction or disturbance, the overall magnitude of effect for cycling is assessed as **imperceptible**, as it is unlikely that the effect would be noticeable.

Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.95. Cycling continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the operation and maintenance phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.96. There are no anticipated obstructions to current activity as a result of the operational and maintenance phase. The visual impact assessment considered the visual impacts would continue to be imperceptible during operation of the substation. The noise impacts are assessed as minor for the substation operation and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter cycling in the area. Access to the Onshore Substation during operation would be limited and as a result there would be little traffic generated.

33.97. The overall magnitude of effect for cycling is assessed as **imperceptible**, as it is unlikely the effect would be noticeable. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

33.98. Cycling continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the decommissioning phase for the reasons set out above.

33.99. There are no anticipated obstructions to current activity as a result of the decommissioning phase. The visual impact assessment considered the visual impacts to continue to be imperceptible during decommissioning of the substation. The noise impacts are assumed to be similar to those that would be experienced during the construction phase, which were assessed as not significant and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter cycling in the area. It is assumed that traffic impacts would be no greater than those that would be experienced during the construction phase, which were assessed as Not Significant.

33.100. The overall magnitude of effect for cycling is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Horse riding

Construction

33.101. Horse riding is pursued by 3.2% of the national population. The study area has a set of popular riding locations, whilst these are locally important none have any specific designations, beyond a bridleway designation. Horse riding is therefore assessed as **low** sensitivity.

33.102. Horse riding takes place in the vicinity of the substation site. However no obstruction effects are anticipated during the construction phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assessed as not significant for the substation construction (and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter riding in the area).

33.103. The visual impact assessment considers the impact on cyclists and those using PRoW and bridleways to be imperceptible during the construction of the onshore substation.

33.104. Based on professional judgement, the overall magnitude of effect for riding is assessed as **imperceptible** as the effect would not be noticeable. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.105. Horse riding continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity during the operation and maintenance phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.106. No obstruction effects are predicted on current activity. The visual impact assessment assessed that visual impacts would continue to be imperceptible during operation phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assessed as minor during the operational phase of the Onshore Substation and therefore it is unlikely that noise would deter riding in the area.

33.107. The overall magnitude of effect for horse riding is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

33.108. Horse riding continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity during the decommissioning phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.109. No obstruction effects are predicted on current activity. The visual impact assessment assessed that visual impacts would continue to be imperceptible during decommissioning phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assumed to be similar to those predicted during construction, which were assessed as not significant, and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter riding in the area.

33.110. The overall magnitude of effect for horse riding is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Nature study

Construction

33.111. The study area includes some popular bird watching sites and National Nature Reserves used for bird watching. Bird watching is therefore assessed as a **medium** sensitivity.

33.112. The effect on bird populations or locations is assessed as negligible in the ornithology assessment (Chapter 28). No obstruction effects are anticipated during the construction phase of the onshore substation. The noise impacts are assessed as not significant for the construction phase of the Onshore Substation and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter bird watching in the area. Nature study receptors may be affected by the from a visual impact perspective during the construction phase, albeit the visual impact assessment considered that the effect on PRoW and bridleway users would be imperceptible.

33.113. Given the low level of impact predicted on the bird population and the lack of other effects, the overall magnitude of effect for bird watching is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.114. Bird watching continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the operation and maintenance phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.115. The effect on bird populations or locations is assessed as negligible. No obstruction effects are anticipated during the operation and maintenance phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assessed as minor for the operation of the onshore substation and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter bird watching in the area. The visual impact assessment considered that the effects on PRoW and bridleway users would be imperceptible.

33.116. The overall magnitude of effect for bird watching is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

33.117. Bird watching continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the decommissioning phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.118. The effect on bird populations or locations is assessed as negligible. No obstruction effects are anticipated during the decommissioning phase of the onshore substation. The noise impacts are assumed to be similar to those experienced during the construction phase, which are assessed as not significant, and are unlikely to deter bird watching in the area. Similarly, air quality impacts are assumed to be similar to those experienced during the construction phase, which are assessed as minor. The visual impact assessment considered that the effects on PRoW and bridleway users would be imperceptible, for the reasons set out above.

33.119. The overall magnitude of effect for bird watching is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Walking

Construction

33.120. Walking is also one of the most commonly pursued recreational activities, with promoted walking routes (Castleman Trail and Avon Valley Path) as well as popular forest walking locations located within the study area.

33.121. Taking into account the scale of the activity and the type of routes within the study area, walking is assessed as being of **medium** sensitivity.

33.122. No obstruction effects are anticipated during the construction phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assessed as not significant for construction of the onshore substation and on this basis it is unlikely that

noise would deter walking in the area. The visual impact assessment considers predicted effects on PRoW and bridleway users would be imperceptible. The effects on 'parks and recreation areas, shopping areas, roads used by pedestrians with footways' caused by construction traffic is assessed as not significant.

33.123. The overall magnitude of effect for walking is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.124. Walking continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the operation and maintenance phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.125. No obstruction effects are anticipated during the operation and maintenance phase of the Onshore Substation. The noise impacts are assessed as minor and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter walking in the area. The visual impact assessment considers that the effects on PRoW and bridleway users would be imperceptible.

33.126. The overall magnitude of effect for walking is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Decommissioning

33.127. Walking continues to be assessed as **medium** sensitivity during the decommissioning phase, for the reasons set out above.

33.128. There are no anticipated decommissioning obstruction effects on current activity. The landscape and visual impact assessment considers that the visual impacts would continue to be imperceptible during decommissioning phase of the substation. The noise impacts are predicted to be similar to those experienced during construction, which are assessed as not significant and on this basis it is unlikely that noise would deter walking in the area.

33.129. The overall magnitude of effect for walking is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

33.5.3 Onshore Cable Corridor Impact Assessment

Angling

Construction

33.130. Angling continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in relation to the onshore substation.

33.131. There would be obstruction effects to the fishery on West Moors river as a result of construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor through Hurn Forest. This would result in a longer access to this fishery as a result of route diversion. However, given that there is currently little or no use of this fishery, the number of anglers affected would be minimal.

33.132. There would be disturbance effects to the fishery at East Moors Farm, where the cable route would pass close to the fishing lake. This facility is privately run and available for angling from time to time. Discussions with the landowner are ongoing.

33.133. There would be disturbance effects on angling where the Onshore Cable Corridor would cross the River Avon. While the river would be crossed using trenchless techniques there is the potential for disturbance from the compounds located approximately 300 m from the river bank. No obstruction to the access to the river bank are anticipated. Therefore the disturbance effects would be limited. Furthermore, the River Avon fisheries extend up and downstream from the cable crossing location, suggesting easily accessible nearby locations allowing the same activity for the duration of the construction work.

33.134. Construction of the cable route would result in visual effects (see Chapter 29) which are assessed as having a major to moderate impact on PRoW and bridleway users. Whilst visual effects may occur as the Onshore Cable Corridor would cross the River Avon, the cable corridor would not be visible from West Moors river fisheries.

33.135. There would be no changes in the availability of fish in rivers or lakes.

33.136. The magnitude of effect of the construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor on angling is assessed as **imperceptible**. This takes into account low number of anglers who would be affected by the obstruction to the Moors River fishery and the limited effects on the River Avon anglers. It also takes

into account the limited effect on recreational angling of any temporary unavailability of the privately owned East Moors Farm fishery.

33.137. The impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.138. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction, visual or noise impacts.

Decommissioning

33.139. Angling within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor continues to be assessed as **low** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.140. The limited decommissioning works would result in localised and temporary disturbance at the jointing pits. There would be no changes in the availability of fish in rivers or lakes.

33.141. The overall magnitude of effect for angling is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Cycling

Construction

33.142. Cycling activity within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.143. The construction of the cable route would result in the following obstructions to cyclists:

- Cycling in Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation would be obstructed, with cycling access obstructed for periods of up to five months in Year 2 or 3. While the cable works would not restrict access to all of these areas, the severance would mean that cyclists could not pursue circular routes around the areas or cross them. Furthermore, cyclists would not be able to use the traffic free cycle route through the Forest for the duration of the construction works.
- Route NCN 2 would be affected where the Onshore Cable Corridor would cross the route south of Bransgore. NCN 2 is on Lyndhurst Road at this point and there would be temporary diversions in place.
- The Castleman Trail (regional cycling route 69) would remain open as the cable would cross the route using trenchless techniques.

33.144. The Onshore Cable Corridor would result in visual effects (see Chapter 29), which are assessed as being of a major to moderate impact on PRoW and bridleway users. However, the findings of the recreation survey indicate that visual impacts are unlikely to have a major effect on location or frequency of cycling trips.

33.145. The cable corridor would result in noise and vibration effects (Chapter 26), which are assessed as being of a minor impact on users of the local area.

33.146. Impacts on road users as a result of the Onshore Cable Corridor crossing existing accesses is considered to be not significant (see Chapter 31).

33.147. Taking these factors into consideration, the magnitude of effect on cyclists is assessed as **medium**, primarily as a result of potential obstructions. This takes into account the NCN and the Castleman Trail remaining open and the presence of some alternative local cycling locations broadly comparable to Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation, as well as the temporary nature of the obstruction. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **moderate** and the level of significance is **Significant**. However, the impact would reduce following mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

33.148. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction, visual or noise impacts.

Decommissioning

33.149. Cycling within the study area of the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the onshore substation.

33.150. The limited decommissioning works would produce localised, temporary, disturbance at the jointing pits. This would have a limited impact on cycling activity.

33.151. The overall magnitude of effect for cycling is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Horse riding

Construction

33.152. Horse riding within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **low** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the assessment of impacts in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.153. The construction of the Onshore Cable Corridor would result in obstruction effects on horse riders. Riding in Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation would be obstructed, with access curtailed for periods of up to five months in Year 2 or 3. While the cable works would not restrict access to all of these areas, the severance would mean that riders would not be able to pursue circular routes around the areas or cross them.

33.154. The Castleman Trail would remain available for horse riding during the cable construction works.

33.155. it is unlikely that high visual sensitivity by itself would result in changes to the behaviour of riders or their choice of routes, given that surveys with recreational users of the area found that users are also influenced by accessibility and lack of traffic.

33.156. The construction of the cable route would also result in noise and vibration effects, which are assessed as having a minor impact during these works.

33.157. Taking these factors into consideration, including the temporary nature, the magnitude of effect on horse riders is assessed as **high**, primarily due to the potential for obstructions and lack of alternative routes which are comparable to Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation that can be accessed without on road journeys. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **moderate** and the level of significance is **Significant**. However, the impact would reduce following mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

33.158. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction, visual or noise impacts.

Decommissioning

33.159. Horse riding within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **low** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.160. The limited decommissioning works would produce localised, temporary, disturbance at the jointing pits.

33.161. The overall magnitude of effect is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Nature study

Construction

33.162. Bird watching within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.163. The construction of the cable route would result in obstruction effects for bird watchers in Hurn Forest, one of the locations in the study area identified as being used for bird watching.

33.164. The effect on bird populations and their locations is assessed within Chapter 28 as negligible.

33.165. The noise and vibration effects assessed within Chapter 26 as minor.

33.166. The visual effects assessed in Chapter 29 are identified as major to moderate on PRoW and bridleway users, which would apply to bird watchers. However, this factor is likely to be secondary to the presence and visibility of birds of interest.

33.167. Taking these factors into consideration, the magnitude of effect on bird watchers is assessed as **low**, as a result of the obstructions and the availability of alternative local bird watching locations in the study area, including use of unaffected parts of Hurn Forest. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **minor** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.168. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction, visual or ornithology impacts.

Decommissioning

33.169. Bird watching within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.170. The limited decommissioning works would produce localised, temporary, disturbance at the jointing pits, which would have only a limited potential to affect bird watching.

33.171. The overall magnitude of effect for bird watching is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Shooting

Construction

33.172. Shooting is undertaken by a relatively small proportion of the national population on a limited set of privately owned locations. It is therefore assessed as a **low** sensitivity receptor.

33.173. Whilst the Onshore Cable Corridor would cross shooting locations on two estates, the location of shooting on those estates is under the control of the landowners who are able to direct shooters to different parts of the estates. The landowners would be kept up to date with the progress so that shooting could continue having regard to the construction programme. Discussions are ongoing between NBDL and the landowners to agree a way forward.

33.174. Given the small number of people affected, the private nature of the activity and the potential to relocate elsewhere on the estate the magnitude of effect is assessed as **low**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **minor** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

Operation and Maintenance

33.175. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction impacts.

Decommissioning

33.176. Shooting continues to be assessed as a **low** sensitivity receptor, for the reasons set out above.

33.177. The decommissioning works would produce localised, temporary, disturbance at the jointing pits, which would have limited potential to affect shooting.

33.178. The overall magnitude of effect for shooting is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**. As per the construction phase, discussions are ongoing with the landowners.

Walking

Construction

33.179. Walking within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.180. The construction of the cable route would result in obstruction effects on walkers, insofar as:

- Walking in Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation would be obstructed, with access curtailed for periods of up to five months in Years 2 and 3. While the works would not restrict access to all of these areas, the severance would mean that walkers would not be able to pursue longer circular routes around the areas or cross them.
- Other footpaths along the cable route would be obstructed for up to five months.
- Access land to the east of Ashley (south of Stanley's Copse) would be partially obstructed.

33.181. The Castleman Trail would remain open during this phase.

33.182. Taking these factors into consideration, the magnitude of effect on walkers is assessed as **medium.** This rating has been assigned having regard to

potential obstructions, but noting the availability of alternative walking locations within the study area (including unaffected parts of Hurn Forest and West Moor Plantation), albeit access to some would require the use of car or public transport to access them. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **moderate** and the level of significance is **Significant**. However, the impact would reduce following mitigation.

Operation and Maintenance

33.183. The operation of the cable route is scoped out because the infrastructure is underground and is not anticipated to cause any impacts, either in terms of obstruction, visual or ornithology impacts.

Decommissioning

33.184. Walking within the study area surrounding the Onshore Cable Corridor is assessed as **medium** sensitivity, for the reasons set out in the impact assessment in relation to the Onshore Substation.

33.185. The decommissioning works would produce localised, temporary, disturbance at the jointing pits, which would have limited potential to affect walking.

33.186. The overall magnitude of effect for walking is assessed as **imperceptible**. Therefore, the impact significance is considered to be **negligible** and the level of significance is **Not Significant**.

33.6 Potential Mitigation

33.187. Mitigation measures are being identified in discussions with relevant statutory consultees and stakeholders which will seek to minimise predicted impacts.

33.188. This assessment has identified potential temporary adverse impacts on cycling, horse riding and walking during the construction phase of the of the cable route. The following measures will be discussed with stakeholders in order to agree a mitigation scheme in advance of the submission of the application for development consent:

- A communications protocol to disseminate information to recreational users during the construction of the onshore cable route.
- A reduction in the construction working length and site specific measures such as diversions or alternative crossings in some areas where assesses are crossed (e.g. Castleman Trail, Hurn Forest and West Moors Plantation) in order to minimise the obstruction.
- Support and in some instances fund improvements to access arrangements for other pathways and access land in the area, which would make alternative routes more accessible and attractive.

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Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Bentonite	Absorbent aluminium phyllosilicate used in drilling and construction
Geocaching	Recreational 'treasure' hunt using GPS
Go Ape	Proprietary high wire adventure
Hiab	Lorry load handling system
Multi-use trail	Route suitable for walkers, cyclists or horse riders
National Cycle Network	Network of on and off road signed cycle routes created by the charity Sustrans
Natura 2000 sites	EU wide network of nature protection areas established under the 1992 Habitats Directive
Open Access Land	Land defined under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 where the public can walk freely.
Ramsar	Wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention in Iran in 1971
Rochdale envelope	Term used where there is uncertainty about key design parameters that are therefore defined as maximum extents for the purposes of EIA parameters for a project, in order to gain planning consent
Scoping Opinion	Response provided by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (now the Planning Inspectorate) on the initial outline of the Environmental Statement
Tourism Liaison Group	Group of local Authority officers with responsibility for tourism development, formed for this project to discuss the impact assessment.

Abbreviations

TERM	DEFINITION
DfT	Department for Transport
EIA	Environmental impact Assessment
ha	Hectares
HDD	Horizontal directional drilling – used for cable route construction
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolts
LNR	Local Nature Reserves – environmental designation
m	Metres
NCN	National Cycle Network
NNR	National Nature Reserves – environmental designation
NPS	National Policy Statement
O&M	Operation and maintenance
PRoW	Public rights of way – includes footpaths and bridleways
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation – environmental designation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protected Areas – environmental designation
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest – environmental designation