

NATIONAL GRID ON THE BACK FOOT?

The latest news is that National Grid (NG) has once again postponed its final consultation until “the end of the summer.” That’s good news! It shows that the people at NG have been worried by all the recent negative publicity about their plans and have realised they under-estimated the strength of opposition. NG was forced to issue a press statement saying they had not yet made a final decision on how and where the new connection would be built. At the end of a week of unprecedented media coverage, on 22 April— the eve of our Black Combe walk— PWP had an email from project director Robert Powell. It said: “You may have seen recent media speculation about the amount of undergrounding we are considering for this project. I can confirm that the figures quoted are a long way from our current thinking.” That means NG now realise they have to do more to reduce the impact of their proposals.

ST. GEORGE’S DAY WALK ON BLACK COMBE

It was a fantastic day with sunshine, blue skies and fabulously clear views when nearly 80 people set out on a protest walk to highlight the giant pylons threat to the landscape. Crews from BBC North West Tonight and ITV News Border arrived at Silecroft village hall then followed the start of the walk up Black Combe to film the scenery and hear what campaigners had to say. Walkers displayed placards and unfurled a banner at the summit of Black Combe. The North West Evening Mail publicised the walk earlier and came to take photos on the day too. The event featured in Radio Cumbria’s news bulletins the day before and PWP chairman Graham Pitts was interviewed. To see the coverage click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).



The walk was organised by Power Without Pylons and Friends of the Lake District, with both organisations setting up information stands in the village hall. Thanks to all who took part, helped and gave their support.

LETTER WRITING



The next target in our letter-writing campaign is Rory Stewart MP, DEFRA minister with responsibility for National Parks. Tell him why you think the Lake District National Park and surrounding area should be protected from giant pylons and ask for his support. You’ll find some key points to help you on our website but remember to use your own words for maximum effect. You may already have written to your MP. If you have, let us know but if you haven’t please do so. The current media focus makes now a good time to let your views be known and keep the pressure on to get an acceptable solution.

MAKING THE NEWS



In addition to the excellent media coverage we gained for the St George’s Day Black Combe walk, the campaign against new pylons in the Lake District has featured in the news as follows:

- The Times P3, 18 April
- The Mail online, 18 April
- Interview with PWP secretary Graham Barron on LBC, 18 April—our first broadcast outside this region
- Guardian online, 22 April—one of our ‘No Pylons’ posters was pictured in a window in Broughton
- The Guardian, 23 April

MP ENGAGEMENT

PWP chairman Graham Pitts had a productive meeting with Barrow and Furness MP John Woodcock who hopes to meet with PWP. Mr Woodcock supports the drive to exclude pylons from around the Duddon Estuary and has agreed to chair a meeting between his constituents and National Grid. He will call National Grid to his London base before the date of the public consultation.

Copeland MP Jamie Reed is to attend a meeting of Millom Without Parish Council in early May to hear the concerns of residents there.

DOOR TO DOOR

Our supporters have been busy putting leaflets and posters through letterboxes in several areas and delivering them to post offices and other venues. Many thanks to those who have helped. We’d like to do more of this so if you can help in your area please contact us and we’ll give you a supply of literature.



