Land under and around National Grid lines can be used as open space and for recreation. Many activities are compatible with the presence of the lines, provided that safe separation distances are maintained, tree planting complies with the Tree Regulations and general safety measures are observed.

**What are the issues?**

Although open space and recreation activities are often preferred and recommended as the best use under the lines, some activities can still result in issues for both the National Grid lines and the activity or development. These issues were each discussed in Section 2 of this guide. To recap, matters of relevance to open space and recreation include:

- increased risks of electrical hazards – structures (such as goal posts), vegetation or activities (such as fishing) too close to lines and structures
- the need to keep almost all buildings outside the National Grid Yard.

We are here to help
Contact Transpower to discuss your proposal: transmission.corridor@transpower.co.nz
How can these issues be managed?

**Ensure the activity is compatible with the lines**

There are some open-space activities that must be avoided (or take place with caution) near National Grid lines:

- **Kite flying:** The kite string can create a dangerous electrical hazard risk if any part of the kite touches the conductors.
- **Model aircraft and drones:** These can become caught in National Grid lines, creating faults on the lines, and require outages to be removed.
- **Boating:** Be aware of the height of masts when passing underneath National Grid lines.
- **Fishing:** Casting can result in the fishing line coming into contact with the conductors and becoming a conductor itself.
When recreational uses that require larger open areas, such as sports fields, golf courses or courts, are located under or near the lines, ensure that any structural elements, such as rugby goal posts, stands or lighting, are located away from the lines and comply with NZECP 34 separation distances.

Facilities for light aircraft, helicopters, hang gliding and ballooning need to be well away from National Grid lines. Ensure flight paths avoid National Grid lines.

Please contact us for assistance with the correct NZECP 34 safe distances for your site.

**Design of open space and recreation**

When planning parks and open spaces, ensure you take the National Grid lines (including their support structures) into account. For example, the location of the National Grid lines will influence the location of tall structures, such as floodlights or goal posts.

Careful planning of paths and tracks can assist with mitigating landscape and visual effects of the lines and towers/poles. For example, a path could weave under the lines rather than following it in a straight line. Careful planting of shrubs and low trees can also screen longer views. Always avoid locating paths or areas of congregation directly next to towers or poles.

The National Grid Yard can also provide a good opportunity to create wetland areas or wildlife corridors through built-up areas, provided that vehicle access to the towers or poles is maintained. Wetlands can be successfully developed, provided tower foundations are not affected.
Comply with NZECP 34

Always ensure that any activities, buildings and structures comply with the safe separation distances required by NZECP 34. These distances will depend on the voltage of the line and the length of the span crossing your site.

Comply with the Tree Regulations

Trees near and around National Grid lines can become a problem if the trees grow tall enough to interfere with the lines or fall on them. It is important that the safe clearances within the Tree Regulations are met as well as setbacks to cover tree fall hazard. Trees must remain a sufficient distance from the lines so that, if a tree falls in a storm, it will not make contact with the lines.