

Work starts today on Richborough Connection Project

National Grid has today started work on the construction of a new 400kV overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury.

03 Oct 2017

Construction starts on the Richborough Connection Project

National Grid has today (3 October) started work to build the Richborough Connection Project, a new 400kV overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury.

The line will connect Nemo Link® (an electricity link between Herdersbrug near Bruges in Belgium and Richborough, near Sandwich in the UK) to our high voltage electricity network. It will ensure the UK has a safe, reliable and secure electricity supply.

The new overhead line will be ready to connect Nemo Link in late 2018 and the UK Power Networks' line will be taken down between 2019 and 2021.

The work follows the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's decision in August to give the project the green light after a lengthy consultation process which sought the views of local land owners, tenants, the local community and stakeholders.

During the first few months of construction, National Grid will be working to set up site offices near Westbere, as well clearing some vegetation along the route. This is in preparation for constructing temporary access roads for putting up the pylons and installing the wiring later.

Work will also continue at Canterbury North substation and Richborough substation, to install new equipment, upgrade the existing technology and extend the substation buildings, ready for the new connection.

Commenting on the start of construction, Graham Dolamore, Project Director, said:

"I'm delighted that we are able to start this work following approval from the Secretary of State. Throughout the project we will work responsibly and safely, and keep local residents informed about what we are doing. For the most up to date information, I encourage you to regularly check our website (www.richboroughconnection.co.uk). Or if you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch on our freephone number 0800 157 7878".

Graham added: "During our works, there will also be a small number of occasions where temporary road and public rights of way closures and diversions will be required. Kent County Council will publish details of all closures and diversions on an interactive map on their website".

Project background

Our project includes the following key elements:

- Construction of a 20km 400kV overhead line and pylons
- The removal of an existing 132kV UK Power Networks overhead line
- Localised temporary and permanent diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines in the area, where our new proposed route would cross.
- Other works such as temporary access roads, highway works, and temporary construction compounds, protective scaffold structures and work sites

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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