

## INTRODUCTION



**At National Grid, our job is to connect people to the energy they use, whether to heat and light homes, or to keep factories and offices running. As old power stations close we need to join new sources of energy to our network, so that electricity continues to be available to us all at the flick of a switch.**

One of these new sources of energy is a proposed high-voltage electricity link between Belgium and Richborough near Sandwich in Kent, known as the Nemo Link®. There is no high-voltage National Grid electricity network in the Richborough area, so we will need to build a new connection to join Richborough to our existing network approximately 20km away, near Canterbury.

To explain the proposals we have prepared a series of plans and reports. These are available for you to comment on from 10th February 2015 until 27th March 2015. We will take your views into consideration before submitting our application (known as a development consent order) to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2015.

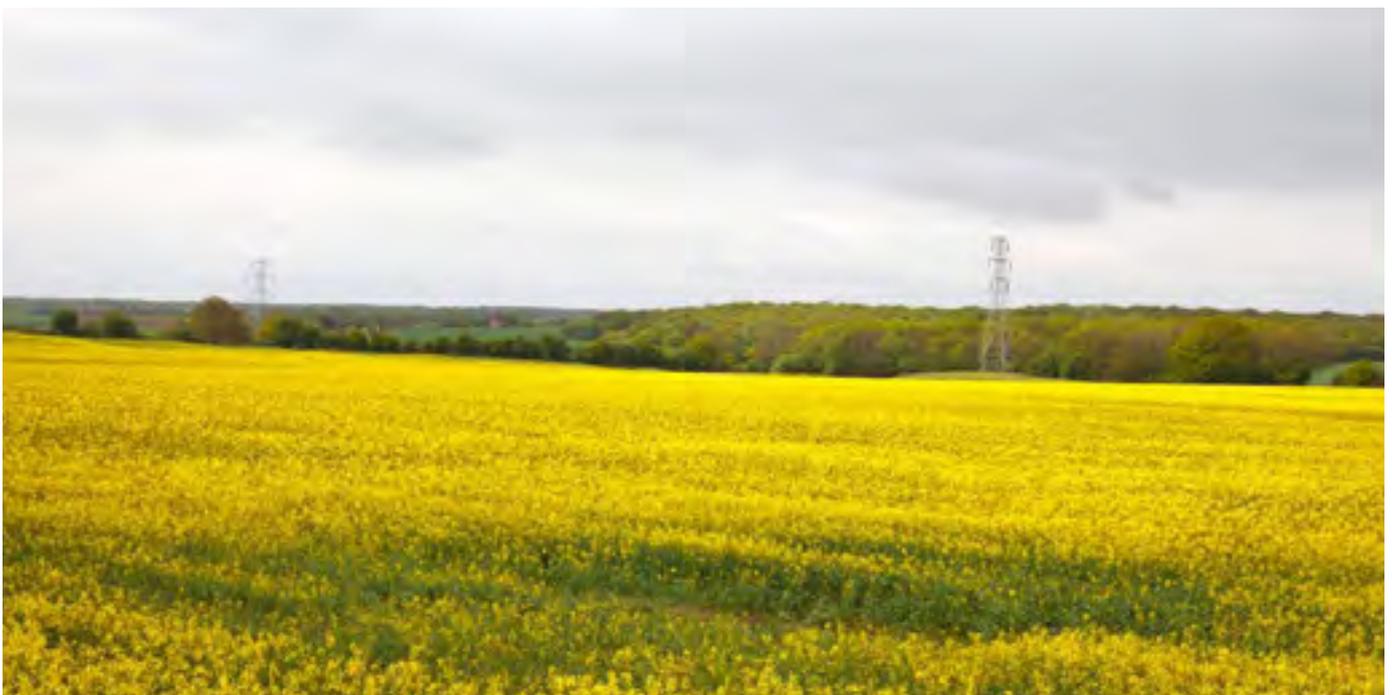
This booklet tells you what information you will find in each plan and report. You can turn to the back page to find out how you can access the documents.

The documents are split into five volumes.

# VOLUME 1

This volume contains the plain English documents we have produced to explain the proposals. We suggest you read these documents first.

- 1.1 Document Navigation Booklet** – this booklet is part of Volume 1.
- 1.2 Project News** – this provides an introduction to the project and the consultation. It includes a large overview map of the proposals and details of how to get involved in the consultation.
- 1.3 Overview Report** – this gives an overview of the project and provides information on what we propose in your area. We suggest you read this report before telling us what you think.
- 1.4 Feedback Form** – you have the opportunity to fill in a Feedback Form to tell us what you think of the proposals. Turn to the back page to find out where you can pick up a paper copy, or visit [www.richboroughconnection.co.uk](http://www.richboroughconnection.co.uk) to submit your feedback online.



## VOLUME 2 – PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR)

At National Grid we try to balance the need to build our equipment with consideration for the environment. To help us achieve this balance we need to look at the impact our project will have on the environment. This is known as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). As part of the EIA process, we have been carrying out surveys to establish the potential effect of our proposals. We have now published a report that gives the environmental information we have gathered so far on the project. We have based our decisions on the project so far on this information.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) outlines the results of our environmental studies. This will be covered in more detail in the Environmental Statement which will be published as part of the application. The PEIR is broken down into a number of topic specific chapters which are set out below:

**2.1 PEIR Non Technical Summary** – The Non-technical Summary provides a concise overview of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report avoiding technical or specialist words and phrases.

### **2.2 PEIR**

- **Chapter 1** – Introduction
- **Chapter 2** – Need for the Proposed Development and Alternatives Considered
- **Chapter 3** – Description of the Proposed Development
- **Chapter 4** – Planning Policy Context
- **Chapter 5** – Approach to EIA
- **Chapter 6** – Landscape – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on the features and characteristics that shape the landscape.
- **Chapter 7** – Visual – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on important viewpoints
- **Chapter 8** – Historic Environment – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on archaeological remains, historic buildings and other historic aspects of the landscape

- **Chapter 9** – Biodiversity – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on specially protected areas and the potential impact on protected habitats and species
- **Chapter 10** – Traffic and Transport – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on the transport network, such as roads, public rights of way, footpaths, public bridleways, byways, railways, rivers and cycle routes
- **Chapter 11** – Noise and Vibration – we have assessed the noise and vibration that is likely to occur when we construct pylons, lay cables and remove an existing overhead line
- **Chapter 12** – Air Quality – we have assessed the potential effect of construction, for example, dust from earthworks, or gases from vehicle exhausts.
- **Chapter 13** – Water Environment – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on the risk of flooding and water quality
- **Chapter 14** – Geology, Soils and Agriculture – we have assessed the potential effect of the project on soils, geology and agriculture and ground contamination
- **Chapter 15** – Socio-Economics – we have assessed the potential effects of our plans on people, local businesses and communities

**2.3 Appendices (Figures)** – this contains all the diagrams and maps referred to in the PEIR chapters.

**2.4 Appendices (Technical)** – this contains background technical information referred to in the PEIR chapters.

## VOLUME 3 – PLANS

This volume contains the plans which show where we propose to undertake work.

There are eleven different types of plan each showing a different element of the project. These are outlined below:

- 3.1 Location Plan** – This plan shows the whole route, from Canterbury to Richborough.
- 3.2 Land Affected Plan** – these show the boundary within which we propose to build the connection.
- 3.3 Land Plans** – these show the boundary within which we propose to build the connection and the land owned by different people.
- 3.4 Special Category Land Plans and Crown Land Plans** – these show the boundary within which we propose to build the connection and the land, such as common land, owned by special bodies such as the National Trust. Not every section of the route has Special Category Land. They also show where this interacts with crown land. Crown land is where land belongs to Her Majesty in right of the Crown or in right of Her private estates, an interest belonging to a government department or held in trust for Her Majesty for the purposes of a government department, and such other interest as the Secretary of State specifies by order. Not every section of the route has Crown Land.
- 3.5 Works Plans** – these show the proposed route of the development in each Section. They also show the boundary within which we propose to build the connection.
- 3.6 Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans** – these show any changes proposed to public roads, footpaths and bridleways and access to these.
- 3.7 Design Drawings** – these provide details such as the size and height of the new infrastructure we propose.
- 3.8 Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Affected Plans** – these show the trees and hedgerows we may remove when we build the proposed development.

**3.9 Environmental Features** – Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation

**3.10 Habitats of Protected Species, Important Habitats or Other Diversity Features and Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plans** – these show the land which is of particular environmental importance including areas that are important habitats and water bodies.

**3.11 Heritage Designation Plan** – these show historically important places such as listed buildings.

Each set of plans is accompanied by a key to help you understand what they show. You can also visit one of our public consultation events where a member of our team will be able to explain the plans in further detail. Pick up a copy of our Project News or visit [www.richboroughconnection.co.uk](http://www.richboroughconnection.co.uk) to find out more about the location and times of the events.



## VOLUME 4 – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

In order to build the proposed connection we need consent from the Government. These documents outline the legal powers we are seeking.

**4.1 The Draft Development Consent Order** – this details the legal powers for which we are seeking consent. It contains a list of all the draft work we propose to do and a series of draft ‘Requirements’, similar to planning conditions, which set out our various obligations if consent is granted.

**4.2 The Draft Explanatory Memorandum** – this explains the purpose of the Draft Development Consent Order and the powers contained in this. You should read this before reading the Draft Development Consent Order.



## VOLUME 5 – OTHER DOCUMENTS

This volume includes additional documents National Grid has produced for the consultation.

- 5.1 Pylon Design Options Report** – this explains how we considered the different pylon designs available to the project.
- 5.2 Need Case** – this explains why the project is needed. This was first published in June 2013.
- 5.3 Strategic Options Report**– this explains the process of developing and assessing strategic options at the beginning of the project. This was first published in June 2013
- 5.4 Route Corridor Study** – this report documents the work undertaken to identify and appraise the potential route corridor options which could accommodate a 400kV overhead line between the Nemo Interconnector proposed at the former Richborough power station site and the existing Canterbury North substation. This was first published June 2013.
- 5.5 Preferred Connection Option and Route Corridor Report** – this sets out why we have chosen to build an overhead connection between Richborough and Canterbury. It also sets out how we assessed the two areas of land in which the connection could be built (known as route corridors) taking into account feedback received from the Summer 2013 consultation. This was first published in November 2013.
- 5.6 Connections Options Report** – this explains how we have looked at different options for building the Richborough Connection within a section of land known as the preferred route corridor (North Corridor) and the reasons for choosing our preferred draft route. This was first published May 2014

## WHERE TO FIND THE DOCUMENTS

**Electronic versions** – all the reports and plans are available to download electronically from the project website [www.richboroughconnection.co.uk](http://www.richboroughconnection.co.uk). A DVD with all the reports and plans is also available free of charge at our information points and public exhibitions (locations and opening times are on the project website). You can also contact the community relations team on 0800 157 7878 or email [richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk) to request a copy.

**Viewing paper versions** – you can view paper versions of all the reports and plans by visiting our information points or attending a public exhibition (locations and opening times are on the project website). Inspection boxes with paper copies of the reports and plans have also been placed in your local library, county and district council (a list of these locations can be seen on the project website).

**Paper copies** – copies of the Project News, Overview Report and Feedback Form are available free of charge at information points and public exhibitions (locations and opening times are on the project website). Owing to the size and number of reports and plans we recommend that you view these electronically or visit an information point or exhibition to see the paper versions. However, you can purchase a paper copy of the suite of documents for a cost of £500. Please send your request to the community relations team by email [richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk) or to Freepost RICHBCONNECTION.



## Contact us

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Visit our project website:

[www.richboroughconnection.co.uk](http://www.richboroughconnection.co.uk)



Send an email to:

[richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk)



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