

## Richborough Connection Project

### Introduction

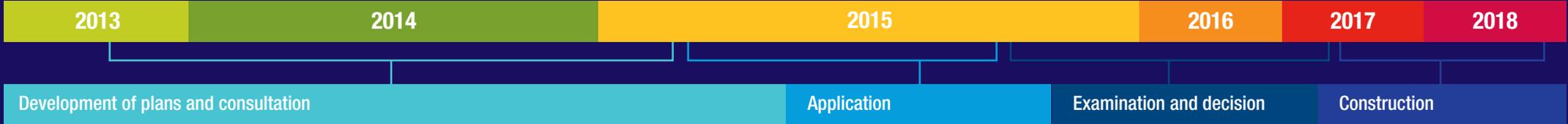
National Grid connects people to the energy they use. As old power stations close, we need to connect new sources of energy to our network so that electricity continues to be available in our homes and businesses at the flick of a switch.

One of the new sources of energy that National Grid is required to connect to its network is the Nemo Link®, an electricity link between Zeebrugge in Belgium and Richborough in Kent.

There is no high-voltage network in the Richborough area, so we will need to build a new connection to join Richborough to our network. This project is called the 'Richborough Connection'.

Since 2013 we have been developing our plans with input from the local community and stakeholders. This leaflet outlines the work we have done so far, and the next steps for the project.





### Identify connection and route corridor options

We introduced the Richborough Connection to members of the public and stakeholders, explaining why the project is needed and why we think it's best to make the connection from Richborough to Canterbury. We also set out two corridors of land in which we propose the connection could be built and asked you for your views.

Over summer 2013 we held nine public exhibitions at nine different locations in and around the two route corridors.



### Identify a preferred route corridor

Following further studies and consultation on the two corridors, we announced our proposal to develop plans for an overhead connection in the North Corridor and confirmed that this will allow us to remove the existing lower-voltage pylons owned by UK Power Networks.

### Identify a proposed draft route

Following extensive studies and feedback from the public, we published the proposed draft route for the electricity connection and held public exhibition events to further explain our proposals.

We also looked at whether the connection could be placed underground in particularly sensitive areas. The studies our experts carried out showed that the impact on the local environment can be managed with careful design and routing of an overhead line, and that no part of the route is sensitive enough for us to place any of the connection underground.



### Formal consultation on our plans

From 10 February 2015 to 27 March 2015 we are holding a formal consultation with the public on all of our proposals to date, in line with our obligations under Section 42-47 of the Planning Act. This is likely to be our last round of consultation on the Richborough Connection project before we submit our plans in autumn 2015.



### Application

#### Finalise plans and apply for permission to build

We will submit our application to the Planning Inspectorate, after which they will have 28 days to validate the application and decide if the application has met the right standard to proceed to examination.



### Examination and decision



#### Examine the application and make a decision

The Planning Inspectorate examines the application, holds a number of public hearings, and makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. The final decision rests with them.

### Construction

#### Build the connection

If approved, construction will start in Spring 2017 and the new connection will be up and running by Autumn 2018. We'll then take down the UK Power Network's existing lower voltage line between Richborough and Canterbury.



## What happens after the Planning Inspectorate validates an application?

### Pre-examination: →

Those wishing to be involved in the examination process must register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate by a specified date. This is done by filling in a 'Registration and Relevant Representation Form'. Those registering an interest are then invited to a preliminary meeting where the timetable for the six month examination period is explained.

### Examination: →

Those who have registered are invited to provide more detail of their views in writing and may be invited to speak at any public hearings.

### Decision:

After the examination period has ended, the Planning Inspectorate has three months to recommend to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether or not the application should be approved. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make the final decision.

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## Contact us:



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