

Welcome

Richborough Connection Project

This event is part of National Grid's first public consultation on a new project known as the Richborough Connection. The project aims to connect Nemo Link®, an electricity link between Zeebrugge in Belgium and Richborough, near Sandwich in Kent, to the UK's high-voltage electricity network. The Richborough Connection is one of a number of National Grid projects underway around the UK to ensure we have a reliable supply of electricity for years to come.

During this consultation you will learn about:

- Why the project is needed
- The story so far
- How the plans will develop in the coming years
- How you can be involved

The community's feedback plays an important part in the development of National Grid's projects and we would like to know what you think.

At our events, and during the consultation period until Friday 9 August, we will be seeking your views on our proposals.

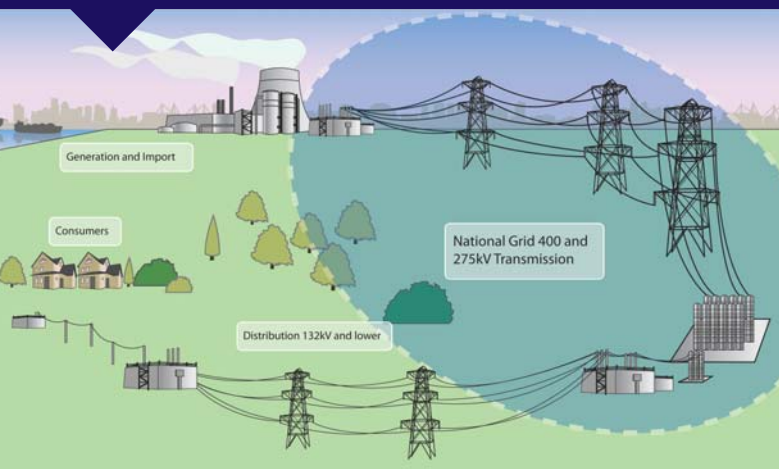
Thank you for taking the time to come to the exhibition. We hope you find it informative and we encourage you to speak to the project team if you have any questions. Please complete a feedback form before you leave.



**Securing our energy supply
for future generations.**

The energy challenge

Richborough Connection Project



We need to find ways to meet the UK's future projected energy needs whilst also tackling climate change.

National Grid is at the heart of this challenge. Our job is to connect people to the energy they use. As old power stations close, we need to join new sources of energy to the national grid so that electricity continues to be available in our homes and businesses at the flick of a switch.

We are regulated by a Government Office, known as Ofgem*, and are required to provide efficient, co-ordinated, economical and reliable electricity supplies. We also have a legal requirement to offer to join new energy suppliers to our network. Where the electricity network needs to be developed to do this, we must work within the regulatory, legislative and policy framework that is set by the Government on behalf of consumers and society.

*The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Why is the Richborough Connection needed?

Richborough Connection Project



National Grid is connecting new nuclear, wind farm and other energy sources around the UK. One of these new sources of energy is the Nemo Link[®]. This will allow electricity to flow between the UK and Europe, helping to provide a secure supply of electricity to homes and businesses for years to come.

There is no National Grid high-voltage transmission network in the Richborough area, so we will need to build a new connection to join Richborough to the national grid high-voltage transmission network. Our **Need Case** document explains this in more detail. This new infrastructure project is called the Richborough Connection.

There are pylons that run west from the former Richborough Power Station site, but these are owned by UK Power Networks, a separate company to National Grid. These operate at a lower voltage, and are not capable of carrying the additional 1000MW of power Nemo Link[®] will provide.

For more information on the need for the new connection, please speak to a member of the Richborough Connection project team. To find out more information on Nemo Link[®] visit www.nemo-link.com

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Options for making the connection

Richborough Connection Project

We identified several ways of creating the connection that meet the legislative and regulatory framework under which National Grid has to operate when planning new energy infrastructure projects. These included underground cables, overhead line, and subsea options to Cleve Hill, Kemsley, Canterbury North and Sellindge substations.

We examined the technical, environmental and socio-economic issues associated with each option, as well as the build and lifetime costs.

The subsea options would incur substantially greater costs than the onshore options and would also have the potential to affect international ecological sites. The onshore options to Cleve Hill and Kemsley involve longer connection routes and have greater potential to create environmental effects.

The assessment is explained in more detail in the **Strategic Options Report**, which is available online and in hard copy at this exhibition. Please speak to the project team if you would like to see a copy.

Balancing all the information available at this time, our view is that an overhead line connection between Richborough and Canterbury is the most appropriate way to join the high-voltage transmission network to Nemo Link®.

As the project develops, we will consider the ways in which the impacts of a new line could be minimised. This could include placing the line underground if appropriate in sensitive areas.

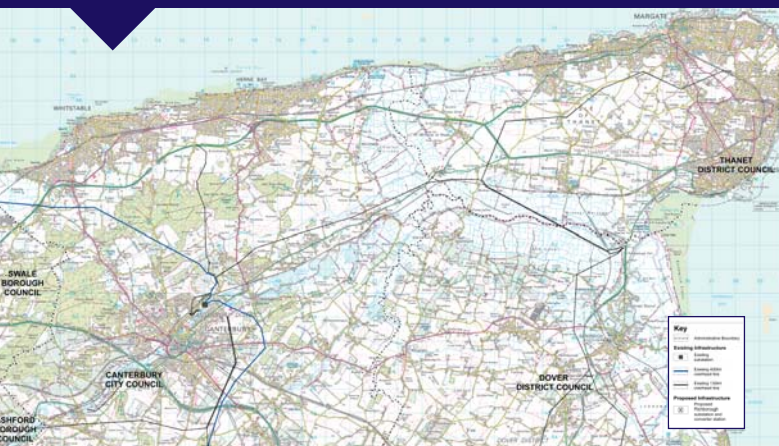
We would like your views on all the options we have examined.



Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Finding a route corridor

Richborough Connection Project



This map is based up on Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office ©Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence No. 100024241 2013.

A study has been undertaken to identify areas of land between Richborough and Canterbury within which a new high-voltage connection could be constructed. We call these route corridors.

To identify the route corridors, we looked at a study area between Richborough in the east and Canterbury in the west; and between the residential areas of Chislet and Sarre in the north, and Ash and Wingham in the south.

Within this study area, particular consideration was given to the following:

- Residential areas
- Areas of woodland
- Water bodies and marsh
- Environmental designations
- Local planning policy and designations
- Existing overhead lines

Taking these considerations into account, we have identified two potential route corridors for the Richborough Connection. These have been assessed in our **Route Corridor Study** document.

For more information on our study, please speak to the project team.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Two route corridors

Richborough Connection Project



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence No. 100024241 2013.

The map above shows two possible route corridors, North and South, that we have identified to accommodate an overhead line between Richborough and the existing Canterbury North substation.

The North Corridor follows the route of an existing lower-voltage overhead line. This corridor gives the option to remove the existing overhead line.

The South Corridor would involve building a new connection through an area of land that does not currently have an overhead line.

Environmental studies revealed that building in the North Corridor, including removal of the lower-voltage overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury, would have the lowest level of environmental effect. On balance we believe this to be the best option to take forward to the next stage.

We would like your views on all the route corridor options we have examined.

For more information on the studies we have undertaken, please speak to the project team.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Ways to connect into Canterbury North Substation

Richborough Connection Project



This map is based up on Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office ©Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence No. 100024241 2013.

Due to residential areas, other buildings, areas of woodland and existing overhead lines to the north-east of Canterbury, we have identified three potential ways for the western end of the North Corridor to reach Canterbury North substation. After careful consideration, we have included two of these as part of the North Corridor and referred to them as 'sub-options'.

Sub-option A would pass between Broad Oak and Sturry to Canterbury North substation.

Sub-option B would pass north of Broad Oak before coming south to Canterbury North substation.

We would like your views on all the options we have examined.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Technology types

Richborough Connection Project



National Grid has no general preference for the type of technology it considers when planning connections for new energy sources. Our Route Corridor Study examines the pylon types that could be used for the connection, including the use of lattice pylons and T-pylons.

What are lattice steel pylons?

- Lattice steel pylons are used on high-voltage electricity networks throughout the UK, including Kent
- Lattice steel pylons for this type of connection range in height, but are often around 50m high

For more information on technology types, please speak to the project team.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Technology types

Richborough Connection Project



National Grid has no general preference for the type of technology it considers when planning connections for new energy sources. Our Route Corridor Study examines the pylon types that could be used for the connection, including the use of lattice pylons and T-pylons.

What are T-pylons?

- T-pylons are a new pylon type currently being developed
- There are not yet any T-pylons in use on the UK's electricity network, but they are likely to be around 35m high

For more information on technology types, please speak to the project team.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Technology types

Richborough Connection Project



We also consider how the visual and environmental effects of a new overhead line connection could be minimised. This includes consideration of the route of the connection, location of pylons, screening through planting and use of the existing landscape and topography to minimise the effects.

If particularly sensitive landscapes are identified and cannot be avoided, the benefits of undergrounding sections of the overhead line will be considered.

What is an underground cable?

- Onshore underground cables are copper wires, electrically insulated by plastic
- The ground must be carefully assessed before cables are laid, and there are usually restrictions on how the land above can be used once the cable is put into service

For more information on technology types, please speak to the project team.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

What happens next?

Richborough Connection Project

Following this consultation, we will confirm the preferred connection option and preferred route corridor. We will then study the preferred route corridor to identify a more detailed route and look at ways to reduce visual and environmental effects. This is referred to as a 'route alignment'.

We will require permission from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change before this connection can be built. To receive this permission, we need to submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate for consent, known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Before we submit the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, we will carry out further consultation with local people and organisations on the connection and the findings of any further studies.

For more information on our consultation, please speak to the project team.

Summer 2013	Public consultation
Winter 2013	Publish Preferred Route Corridor
Spring 2014	Preliminary detailed routeing
Spring 2014 - 2015	Environmental Impact Assessment
Winter 2014	Planning Act 2008 S42 and 47 consultation
Autumn 2015	Submission of application
Spring 2017	Commencement of construction
Autumn 2018	Connection commissioned

Securing our energy supply for future generations.

Your views

Richborough Connection Project

You can record your comments on feedback forms at this event. Alternatively, you can contact the project team or respond to the consultation in the following ways:



Call our Freephone helpline number: **0800 157 7878**
(lines open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)



Email:
richboroughconnection@communitycomms.co.uk



Write to:
FREEPOST RICHBCONNECTION



Visit our website:
www.richboroughconnection.com

Please note that although all comments will be recorded and acknowledged, we will not respond individually to every enquiry during the consultation period.

Securing our energy supply for future generations.