

The technology available for the Richborough Connection

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

Technology types

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.

What is a T-pylon?

- 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.



Lattice steel pylon T-pylon

We also consider how the visual and environmental effects of a new overhead line connection could most appropriately be minimised. This includes consideration of the connection route, the location of pylons and the 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 connection 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.



Underground cable

How you can get involved

We are now holding several weeks of consultation from Tuesday 25 June 2013 until Friday 9 August 2013. A number of consultation events are planned, and we want to hear the thoughts and views of the local community and interested organisations on the work we've done to date. In particular, we would like your comments on the connection options identified, the two potential route corridors we have identified, and ways of reaching Canterbury North substation within the North Corridor.

You will find copies of the **Strategic Options Report** and the **Route Corridor Study** on our website and at our consultation events. You can give your comments via our website or by completing a feedback form at a consultation event.

Following the consultation, we will confirm a preferred connection option and preferred route corridor later in 2013.

You can also 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.

Consultation event schedule

This timetable is subject to change, so please visit the project website or call our Freephone helpline number to ensure the information is correct.

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 26 June	Chisleat Centre	2pm – 7pm
Thurs 27 June	Monkton Village Hall	2pm – 8pm
Fri 28 June	Broad Oak Village Hall	2pm – 8pm
Sat 29 June	Ash Village Hall	10am – 4pm
Thurs 4 July	BayPoint Leisure Centre, Richborough	2pm – 8pm
Fri 5 July	Hersden Community Centre	2pm – 8pm
Sat 6 July	St Stephen's Church Hall, Canterbury	10am – 4pm
Mon 8 July	Sturry Social Centre	2pm – 8pm
Sat 13 July	Wickhambreaux Village Hall	10am – 4pm

Richborough Connection Project

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 electricity continues to be available to us all at the flick of a switch.

One of these new sources of energy is the Nemo Link®, an electricity link between Zeebrugge in Belgium and Richborough, near Sandwich in Kent. There is no National Grid high-voltage electricity network in the Richborough area, so we will need to build a new connection to join Richborough to our existing network. This new infrastructure project is called the 'Richborough Connection'.

We would like to hear your views about the project. The development process will take several years and your feedback is important. This leaflet sets out how you can get involved.

Key facts about the Richborough Connection Project

- We have a contract to join Nemo Link® to the UK's electricity network
 - We have considered several locations at which we could join Nemo Link® to the UK's electricity network
 - We have also considered various types of technology that could be used on this project
 - We are now presenting the connection options considered and the two 'route corridors' of land through which an electricity connection could be built
- We plan to announce a preferred corridor later in 2013.

What is Nemo Link®?

Nemo Link® is proposing to construct an electricity interconnector between the UK and Belgium. An interconnector is a connection between the networks of two different countries. The Nemo Link® interconnector features subsea and underground cables, as well as a converter station in each country connecting to the high-voltage electricity networks. Nemo Link® will allow electricity to flow in either direction between the UK and Europe.

To find out more information on Nemo Link® visit www.nemo-link.com

Ways of making the connection

Our role requires us to develop secure and reliable energy solutions that strike the right balance between community feedback, legislation, Government policy and advice from professionals and statutory bodies. We have assessed a number of options for developing our existing high-voltage transmission network to join the Nemo Link®. Each of these options has been explained in a document known as a **Strategic Options Report**.

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 in particularly sensitive areas.

Identifying route corridors

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.

We have identified two potential route corridors of approximately 20km in length. These are explained in a **Route Corridor Study** document.

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 Chislehurst and Sare in the north, and Ash and Wingham in the south.

The map on pages three and four shows two possible route corridors, North and South, that we have identified to accommodate an overhead line from Richborough.

The North Corridor follows the route of an existing lower-voltage overhead line (owned by another company called UK Power Networks) from Richborough to Canterbury. This corridor gives the option to remove the existing overhead line and we have discussed this with UK Power Networks.

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 UK Power Networks lower-voltage overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury, would have the lowest level of environmental effect. On balance we believe this to be the most appropriate option to take forward to the next stage. We would like your views on the route corridor options we have examined.

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 are keen to hear your views on all of the options we examined.

Our corridors for the Richborough Connection, including sub-options

