

First pylon goes up on Richborough Connection

National Grid builds first pylon on new line which will allow electricity to flow between the UK and Europe

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- **First of 60 pylons complete on new overhead power line between Richborough and Canterbury**
- **Line will connect NemoLink® running from Belgium to Richborough into the high voltage network**
- **Electricity to supply homes across Kent, the South East and beyond will flow through the new connection**

National Grid has finished building the first of 60 new pylons for the Richborough Connection project, a new 400kV overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury which will allow electricity to flow between the UK and Europe

The new 20km line will connect Nemo Link®, an electricity link between Herdersbrug near Bruges in Belgium and Richborough, near Sandwich into the high voltage electricity network. The interconnector will play a vital role in the UK's energy mix as the ability to import electricity is becoming increasingly important, given the current programme of power station closures and the target to end coal-fired generation by 2025.

The first pylon has been built at the junction of Broad Oak Road and Vauxhall Road just outside Canterbury. Engineers from Murphy Ethel Joint Venture (MEJV), used over 5,000 steel parts and 66 bags of bolts to construct it with the aid of a 150 tonne crane. The pylon stands 47m tall and weighs just over 25 tonnes.

Graham Dolamore, Project Director for National Grid said:

"This is the first step in what is a significant project for Kent and for the UK as a whole. This is the first major new power line to be built in the county since the UK electricity transmission system was built in 1961 and it will play a vital role in helping us supply the electricity needed by homes across the county, the region and beyond.

"However, we won't lose sight of what is important locally. Our work won't involve any interruption to peoples' electricity supplies and we'll make sure we carry it out in a way which causes as little disruption as possible."

John Murphy, CEO of Murphy said: "We are extremely proud to be supporting National Grid in the successful delivery of this major piece of infrastructure. Our consistent delivery comes from planning and dependable project management. Our direct delivery model, enabled by great people and our better engineering capability, will allow us to find creative ways to solve problems alongside National Grid."

In addition to the new line, construction is also taking place 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.

Site offices have been set up near Westbere and at Richborough, and a number of temporary roads have been built to access the areas where the new pylons are being built.

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 2017 to give the Richborough project the green light. This followed a lengthy consultation process which sought the views of local land owners, tenants, the local community and stakeholders.

For more information, people can visit the project website at www.richboroughconnection.co.uk or call the project hotline on Freephone 0800 157 7878.

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

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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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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