

Ground investigations begin at the Dwyryd Estuary, Snowdonia

Surveys to be conducted to help plan works to remove a section of overhead line across the estuary.

16 Oct 2017

- **Ground investigations at the Dwyryd Estuary until the end of October**
- **Works will help National Grid develop plans which could see section of overhead power line removed**
- **Existing connection from Garth to Cilfor could be placed in a tunnel**

A short programme of ground investigation survey work has begun in and around the Dwyryd Estuary. These works will help develop plans which could see a section of overhead line that runs across the estuary, from Garth to Cilfor, removed and the electricity connection placed in a tunnel.

The work, which will run until the end of October 2017, is part of National Grid's Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project. This is a major national initiative to reduce the visual impact of existing high voltage power lines in protected areas across Wales and England.

National Grid has been working with local organisations including the Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Council, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Cadw, the National Trust and Natural Resources Wales to find the best way to enhance the landscape and replace the overhead line with an underground solution.

The results of the survey work will help National Grid to understand the geology of the area in and around the estuary and develop detailed engineering designs.

The works will be carried out at a number of locations across the Dwyryd Estuary and surrounding areas, some of which will be accessed by hovercraft. A mixture of boreholes and pits will be dug using a machine excavator and drilling rigs. Temporary fencing will be placed around the sites to protect pedestrians and animals.

Experts including ecologists, archaeologists and safety specialists will be on hand to make sure that any disruption to residents and users of the estuary is kept to a minimum. A site office has been set up in Penrhyndeudraeth, opposite the railway station.

Before National Grid finalises plans, a public consultation will be carried out to seek the views of the local community.

Hector Pearson, National Grid VIP Project Manager, said: "This work is an important stage in the development of our plans to reduce the visibility of existing electricity infrastructure in such a nationally important landscape.

"We are committed to enhancing the natural beauty, culture and environmental heritage found in the Snowdonia National Park, and will continue to work closely in partnership with stakeholders to mitigate the visual impact of our transmission lines."

To find out more about the work taking place in the Snowdonia National Park or for more information about the VIP project, please contact the project team on FREEPHONE 0800 019 1898, email visualimpact@nationalgrid.com or visit the website snowdonia.nationalgrid.co.uk.

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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>

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