

## First Morecambe Bay surveys for 50 years as part of National Grid project

National Grid undertakes first major marine surveys in Morecambe Bay for almost 50 years ready for consultation this year on North West Coast Connections Project.

**19 May 2016**

- National Grid carrying out marine survey work in Morecambe Bay
- First major surveys in Morecambe Bay since 1968
- Work likely to continue for another 4 weeks □ Results could influence route a tunnel could potentially take
- National Grid to ask for feedback on tunnel during consultation

National Grid is currently undertaking survey work in Morecambe Bay as proposals are developed ahead of this year's public consultation on the North West Coast Connections project.

These are the first major surveys to be carried out in Morecambe Bay for almost 50 years and will provide a more detailed insight into the geological make-up of the bay.

Some initial investigations were carried out last month to make sure there was no unexploded ordnance at any of the 23 sites National Grid is looking to explore further within the bay. Now two drill rigs are being used to dig boreholes at these locations.

Seven boreholes will reach a depth of 100 metres below the sea bed, while the other 16 will need to be 60 metres deep. The boreholes are needed to show National Grid where different geological layers begin and end under the surface of Morecambe Bay.

This work will help develop plans to build a tunnel carrying electrical cables under Morecambe Bay as part of the North West Coast Connections project. National Grid is currently working to finalise its proposals for the project ahead of a formal public consultation, which will run later this year.

During the consultation exhibitions will be held along the project route, with members of the public invited to give feedback on proposals. Depending on weather conditions, the survey work is expected to take about another four weeks to complete, following which the results will be analysed.

Robert Powell, Project Manager said: "Our proposal to build a tunnel across Morecambe Bay is one we are very excited about. "We are hopeful that these surveys will give us invaluable information about the bay should plans for the tunnel go ahead.

"We will be asking for people's views on the tunnel and other elements of our project during a public consultation later this year and we encourage people to take part and let us know their views."

People can register their details on the North West Coast Connections project website now to ensure they get regular updates on the project and details of the consultation: [www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com) For any other enquiries, please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

☐ Freephone: 0800 876 6990

☐ Email: [nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com](mailto:nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com)

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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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