



National Grid announces further plans for underground connection at the Menai Strait

15 Jun 2016

- **Overhead line routes ruled out near Llanddaniel Fab, Gaerwen and Bangor**
- **Crossing options announced around the Menai Strait**
- **Up to 5km of cable to go underground**
- **More information on crossing technology**

Following a public consultation at the end of 2015, National Grid has announced more details on its work to put the connection for Wyifa Newydd underground at the Menai Strait. Some of the strong themes from the public have been taken on board and have helped shape the plans announced today.

- An overhead route near Llanddaniel Fab, Gaerwen and Bangor has been ruled out. People's feedback and the results of studies that looked at ecology, communities, cultural heritage and the landscape and views suggested that other route options could keep effects lower.
- National Grid is also no longer looking at sites for sealing end compounds – where overhead and underground cables join – in the south search area on Anglesey or north search area in Gwynedd. And it has reduced its remaining search areas to keep further away from the coast.
- It has also found four possible crossing options at the Strait that meet its engineering needs and avoids sensitive features like historically important sites.

Based on these latest proposals up to 5km of the new line could go underground helping to preserve the valued and protected Menai Strait coastal area.

Gareth Williams, Senior Project Manager at National Grid said: "We know how important this area is to people both as a valued landscape and tourist destination so we've provided an update as soon as we can.

“Our own assessments and feedback from communities and specialists showed just how important this area is. This has really helped to influence our work here and we’ve looked carefully at finding the best way of putting the connection underground.”

Technical considerations will now help National Grid to refine its proposals further and more detailed information will be presented as part of a consultation later this year.

Gareth Williams continued: “Crossing the Menai Strait is a complex engineering challenge – we’re confident we can do it but it is continuing to take a lot of work and careful planning.

“We’ve still got more to do and are carrying out studies. These will help us to establish the technology we use and exactly where we propose to route the underground cables. Our next consultation will give people the chance to see how and where we’d make the connection and what our equipment could look like. So we’re keen for as many people as possible to get involved and have their say.”

More information about National Grid’s work at the Menai Strait, including the technology options it could use to cross and an interactive map of the updated proposals is available at www.northwalesconnection.com.

For all the latest updates, you can register online, sign up for text alerts by sending NGCYM to 80800 or follow National Grid on Twitter: @NGNorthWales.

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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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