

Western Link's 'The Big Ride' raised thousands for charity

Western Link team cross finish line at Connah's Quay

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Western Link's 'The Big Ride' crosses the finish line in Connah's Quay and raises thousands for charity

A team of cyclists from the Western Link project who took part in The Big Ride 2014, a 500-kilometre charity bike ride, recently presented Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support with funds totalling £15,000.

The Big Ride 2014 was created to celebrate the Western Link project, a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. This pioneering £1 billion project will bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in Wales and England via a 385-kilometre subsea cable route and, on completion, will play a major part in helping the UK meet its renewable energy targets.

The challenging four-day event saw a core team of ten cyclists depart from the project's converter station site at Hunterston, West Kilbride on 5th September to follow the route of the Western Link cable as closely as possible through Ayrshire and the Lake District, along the north west coast and the through **the Wirral** to arrive at the **Flintshire Bridge converter station site at Connah's Quay in North Wales** on 8th September. The main team, representatives from the joint venture companies and construction consortium, Siemens and Prysmian, were joined in support by colleagues who rode with them for the morning of the first day and the afternoon of the last.

Graham Edwards, Western Link's project director, said: "We are immensely proud of what The Big Ride cyclists have achieved. We wanted to create an event that would not only celebrate the Western Link, but also showcase the teamwork and collaboration that is apparent across all aspects of the project.

"To raise £15,000 is a phenomenal achievement and we would like to thank everyone who has sponsored the event and the cycling kits, as well as those who have donated so generously to our two chosen charities," he added.

Western Link:

The Western Link is a £1 billion construction project being delivered through a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. A new high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable will run more than 400km, mostly under the sea, to bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales. A contract for the construction of the Western Link has been let to the Siemens/Prysmian consortium. Prysmian Group is responsible for the cable installation work, including all preparations and reinstatement. Siemens is responsible for building and commissioning converter stations at each end of the cable, at Hunterston in Scotland and Deeside in Wales, where the electricity will be converted between direct current and alternating current for onward transmission.

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- 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.
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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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