

# Project News

Dinorwig to Pentir underground cable replacement project



## Answering some of your questions



**Victoria Haworth**

Senior Project Manager,  
National Grid

**We're really grateful for the continued patience of residents and businesses while we do our essential work.**

As the Senior Project Manager, I wanted to provide you with answers to some of the common queries we receive. You can find further information, including the latest updates on our work and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, on our project website.

**Victoria Haworth**



## You asked...

### **Q Why do you need to do this work?**

**A** Dinorwig Power Station, also known as 'Electric Mountain', is operated and maintained by First Hydro Company. It's a vital part of the electricity network in Wales and England. It provides fast-response power generation when electricity consumption is at its peak, helping us to maintain a reliable supply to British homes and businesses. Dinorwig Power Station is capable of reaching maximum generation in less than 16 seconds.

We need to replace the existing underground cables that carry electricity between Dinorwig Power Station and our substations at Pentir and Penisa'r Waun. The original cables were installed in the late 1970s and have been in use ever since. They are now coming to the end of their operational life and need replacing to maintain the security of electricity supplies for the local area and beyond.

### **Q Why do you need to put new cables underground?**

**A** We need to keep Dinorwig Power Station operational as we work. This is because it plays such an important role it can't be disconnected from the national network while we install the replacement cables. We're keeping the cables underground so that the countryside will continue to look as it does now, rather than using overhead lines on pylons.

### **Q Why is your work taking so long?**

**A** This is a large and complex project with many technical elements, including crossing roads, rivers and meadows. We've encountered extremely difficult ground conditions along the A4086, with highly challenging sections of granite and volcanic rock. It's some of the hardest rock the team has ever seen, and is difficult to get through, even when using diamond-tipped rock cutting wheels.

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## Answering some of your questions (Cont'd)

### **Q Why is your work taking so long? (cont'd)**

**A** We're working to complete our activity as swiftly as possible. We do a lot of work behind the scenes to plan our activity carefully and considerately, and to make sure we keep disruption to a minimum.

### **Q Why do you need so many traffic lights?**

**A** It's really important we use temporary traffic management to keep both our workers and road users safe.

We are installing our new cables in one side of the carriageway along much of the A4086 and A4244. This means we can keep one lane open and use temporary traffic lights to keep traffic moving.

We always look at the number of groups of workers we have on each road, to balance delays with the time it takes to complete the work overall. We try and keep disruption to a minimum, for example by varying the timings of temporary traffic lights at rush hour in the morning and evening.

Our temporary traffic lights are designed to reset and all turn red if someone jumps the lights. This is to make sure that vehicles don't meet head-on. For this reason, we'd encourage everyone not to jump the lights.

### **Q Why do timings of your work change?**

**A** The nature of our work means that we occasionally have to adapt where we work and when, because of factors such as the ground conditions or bad weather. We do everything we can to keep this to a minimum.

### **Q What compensation is there for people and businesses?**

**A** We all use electricity every day. While there are short-term impacts, our work will ensure homes and businesses in the local area and beyond have secure and reliable supplies in the decades ahead.

We are unable to compensate for indirect impacts which result from temporary traffic management on roads while we carry out this essential work.

One of the ways we contribute to local communities we work in is through our Community Grant Programme. We have already awarded grants locally and encourage further applications. You can read more about this on the next page.

## Our upcoming work

We have been installing ducting in the A4244 and A4086 to carry our new cables. We're also installing cable ducting in Ger y Llyn car park and the nearby play area in Llanberis. Temporary traffic lights will be used for a short period of time near our work in the play area, because of how close the activity will be to the A4086 in Llanberis. Work to install cable ducting under the Afon y Bala river, near Dinorwig Power Station, is also continuing.

In June this year we will be starting the next phase of our work, which involves pulling very large, heavy power cables in lengths of up to 1km through the ducting we've installed underground.

We're doing this by pulling them through and joining them together at regular points called joint bays that we will excavate along the route. Some of these joint bays will be in laybys or under the carriageway of the A4086 and A4244. Others will be in fields and inside Dinorwig Power Station.



Where the work is on local roads, it will also need traffic management.

In the coming months, we are also installing cables under Afon Rhythallt at two locations, near Brynrefail and Llanrug. This work is in fields and set back from the A4086, but may be visible when using local roads and footpaths.



## In the community

### Ysgol Gynradd Bethel new outdoor equipment

Our Community Grant Programme provides grants of up to £20,000 to local projects run by charities and community groups that meet local community needs by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

A successful recent application was from Ysgol Gynradd Bethel, which was awarded £20,000 for new outdoor play equipment (pictured). We're currently considering other local applications and we'd encourage other groups in the local area to apply.



### June open surgery event

We are holding our next open surgery at Llanberis Community Centre on 7 June between 4pm and 7pm. This is an event where you can meet our team and ask us questions about our project in person.

To ensure everyone gets to speak with a member of our team, we ask that you please register for a 20-minute timeslot in advance. You can book a slot by calling us on 0330 1340066 or emailing us at [nationalgrid@dinorwig.co.uk](mailto:nationalgrid@dinorwig.co.uk)



### Community Grant Programme

Could your group or good cause benefit?

Our Community Grant Programme is aimed at community organisations and charities in areas where National Grid Electricity Transmission's work is impacting on local people.

If you know of a project that could benefit from our programme, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more about how to apply and eligibility criteria, please visit:

[www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme](http://www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme)

## Get in touch

For further information, you can get in touch with us using the contact details below:

Call our freephone number: **0330 1340066**

Send an email to: **[nationalgrid@dinorwig.co.uk](mailto:nationalgrid@dinorwig.co.uk)**

**[nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/dinorwig-pentir](http://nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/dinorwig-pentir)**

