



Meeting note

File reference	Richborough Connection Project
Status	Final
Author	Ian Wallis
Date	28 th April 2015
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	The Planning Inspectorate, Bristol
Attendees	Kathryn Powell, Infrastructure Planning Lead (The Planning Inspectorate) Oliver Lowe, Section Manager, Consents Service Unit (The Planning Inspectorate) Will Spencer, EIA Advisor (The Planning Inspectorate) Sheila Twidle, Head of Environmental Services (The Planning Inspectorate) Nicola Mathiason, Lawyer (The Planning Inspectorate) Ian Wallis, Case Officer (The Planning Inspectorate) Ken Guest, Project Engineer (National Grid) Emer McDonnell, Senior Consents Officer (National Grid) Steve Self, Lead Project Manager (National Grid)
Meeting objectives	Update to the Richborough Connection Project
Circulation	Attendees; to be published on the planning portal website

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

After welcome and introductions, National Grid (NG) were reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy: that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under Section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA 2008). Such advice, however, does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely. National Grid was made aware that a note of the meeting would be made available on the 'planning portal' website.

Project and consultation update

NG gave a brief overview of the project and updated the Planning Inspectorate on the progress they had made with the proposed Richborough Connection Project scheme since last year focusing mainly on the statutory consultation they have undertaken over the last couple of months. National Grid provided a presentation to support this

and set out the current position they had reached. This can be seen in the Appendix at the end of this meeting note.

NG said they were proposing standard lattice towers for sections A, B and C of the scheme, and a lower height lattice design for the pylon towers for section D of the scheme. National Grid added that they had consulted on the proposed route which includes the lattice pylon design as part of the formal consultation, and published a pylon design options report as part of this consultation and were assessing feedback responses at present.

NG said they would be adopting the approach used for Hinkley Point C Connection NSIP to include the removal and relocation of overhead lines as a 'work' within the draft DCO. PINS advised NG to also review the DCLG Guidance on Associated Development.

NG said they worked with local authorities on consultation and held "pop up" events at agreed locations near the proposed development because of this. NG provided a dedicated telephone number for the consultation and assisted some members of the public who had difficulty in reading and writing in making representations.

NG outlined the general issues they had been gaining most feedback on so far which included:

The location of project;
The route of overhead line;
Suggestions to underground the line;
and the consultation process itself.

Feedback received specifically relating to sections of the scheme:

Section A – the potential impact on the SSSI, ancient woodland, and strategic sites in the Canterbury Local Plan;

Sections B/C – The socio economic impact on a campsite;

Section D – Natural England and PILS indicate that the new line should be north of the existing 132kV line rather than south of the line; NG said they are considering this.

NG stated that local authority responses (from three district authorities- Thanet, Canterbury and Dover) are generally positive except for concerns over the impact of the line on strategic sites in Canterbury. A Planning Performance Agreement has been signed between the above local authorities and Kent County Council.

Scoping and phasing of development

PINS mentioned that the scoping opinion had raised issues around the phasing of the development and highlighted that this should be assessed as part of the ES.

NG said that the draft DCO will set out the requirements for phasing.

Consultation on TEN-E procedures:

NG said they have had no response from the local authorities on the TEN-E process as part of the consultation.

PINS queried if the project description had altered between the TEN-E notification (December 2014) and the statutory consultation. NG said they would look into this and correct any inconsistencies if necessary.

PINS asked whether issues had been raised over the DCO in relation to the World Heritage Site in Canterbury. NG said no issues had been identified due to the distance of the scheme from the city.

NG added that there are constraints to the north of Canterbury such as a landfill site and a proposed reservoir identified within the Water Management Plan for the area, and an SSSI which is affected where the 400kV and 132kV lines cross.

NG said they have been updating and discussing the project with the 3 local MPs in the area, two of which (Thanet North and Canterbury) are opposed to the scheme and want the line placed underground. NG explained that this has been examined and there is a need to consider the additional cost and environmental impact on ancient woodland for example of underground cable. NG said they have looked at EN-05 guidance and the visual and environmental impacts of an overhead line connection in this location do not justify the need for use of underground cable on this project. National Grid will continue to review its decisions.

Environmental matters update

Environmental impacts of the scheme were discussed. In respect of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), consultation responses have identified the risk of collision with pylons on section D of the route by golden plover which are a designated feature of the Special Protection Area (SPA). SPAs exist to the east, west and north of the Ash Levels. NG explained that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report concludes that the project (alone or in combination) would have no likely significant effects on European sites. NG confirmed that they were in continued liaison with NE.

NG thanked PINS for their Scoping Opinion. They gave updates on how they are responding to this through surveys undertaken last year and on-going surveys which should be completed by June 2015. NG is also developing a mitigation strategy with relevant consultees. RSPB are not involved in this project but are leaving any comment on matters relating to Birds to Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

PINS advised NG to set out in a Table a schedule of the mitigation measures they are relying on in the ES and the means they are delivered through the DCO. This would help to ensure consistency and deliverability.

NG said they would consider how they could include details of where mitigation agreed in the ES might be linked to Statements of Common Ground (SOCGs).

PINS advised that draft versions of documents relied upon as mitigation (e.g. Environmental Management Plan) should be appended to the ES. Other supporting documents/assessments (e.g. arboricultural statement/report) should also be appended.

PINS offered to facilitate at meetings between NG and other bodies where NG are finding it difficult to agree statements of common ground and mitigation.

PINS offered to provide comments on the draft HRA report.

NG asked about the updates due to be made to Advice Note 10 on HRA and PINS stated that it clarifies points in the existing Advice Note but does not change the matrices.

NG said there was currently a problem with resourcing by the Kent Downs AONB Unit to look at the project and liaise with NG but the Kent Downs AONB Unit were content with the photomontage work NG had produced so far and had previously inputted to the project. PINS offered to attend a meeting with Kent Downs AONB Unit if this might help.

NG said they were going to plan and progress their draft licensing as discussed with Natural England.

NG were aware that they would require flood defence consents from the Environment Agency. PINS asked if there were any other EA consents needed. NG said they were exploring this as there were ditches and drains in the Ash Level (by the River Stour).

PINS suggested that CSU would be able to advise on consents required. PINS CSU agreed to send the current rates for consent costs.

TEN-E Regulations: Draft Application File

PINS advised NG that they could submit draft documents to PINS prior to formal submission to comment on, however resourcing issues dictated that PINS is unable to comment on the ES in detail.

NG and PINS discussed their understanding of the requirements for the draft application files under the TEN-E Regulations including the time period for submission and how this tied in with the timescales under the PA2008 for submission of the DCO application and the acceptance period. NG agreed to put their understanding of the position in writing for PINS for consideration.

DCO Documentation/logistics

PINS explained there is 28 days to decide whether or not an application can be accepted under the PA 2008 regime. During this period the Regulations enable PINS to request the responses to the applicant's consultation.

PINS also advised that the period between acceptance of an application and the preliminary meeting is generally around 3.5 months.

NG said they intended to follow the usual process for submitting a DCO application but would refer to the TEN-E Regulations where necessary.

NG said they intended to follow the approach and format they used for the documentation of the DCO as they had with the Hinkley C Connection NSIP application.

PINS requested that the ES should be clearly titled in the electronic version to ensure the document was easily navigated especially by the public.

NG asked if a copy of the DCO application form could be sent to them as the link on the NI website did not seem to work. PINS agreed to do this.

NG asked if PINS had any good examples of funding statements that they could refer them to; PINS agreed to investigate and forward these to NG.

NG said that they did not propose to include a design and access statement as this was not required under the PA 2008 and design issues would be covered as part of the Planning Statement.

NG asked for advice on how PINS would like information redacted in terms of feedback received during the formal consultation that may be sought by PINS. PINS emphasised that they needed to see the full consultation information and don't usually request redaction beforehand. PINS added that attention should be drawn to any sensitive information for redaction e.g. location of badger setts so that these could be redacted by PINS.

NG asked if the application needed to be printed in hard copy to be made available post acceptance during the relevant representation stage, or if it only needed to be made available electronically. PINS advised the applicant to review the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). NG said they would seek their own legal advice on this.

Any other business

NG asked for PINS's checklist for examination hearing/meeting location needs. PINS agreed to send this.

NG offered to share advice on suitable locations for hearings following their research in the Richborough and Canterbury areas. PINS thanked them for this offer and they would let their programme officers know.

NG said they would let PINS know if any joint meetings with local authorities where they thought PINS support may be needed.

NG confirmed that there are no new substations within this application but there may be diversions of services.

The Planning Inspectorate welcomed any further questions that NG may wish to raise following the 28 April 2015 meeting.

Post Meeting Note (1): PINS clarified that the revised DCLG examination guidance (paragraph 40) indicated that there is not a specified timeframe for when the preliminary meeting should be held, but the Secretary of State expected in most cases that it should take place within a period from six weeks to two months from receipt of the relevant representations. PINS advised that this is very much dependant on section 51 advice (under the PA 2008) which PINS may provide to the applicant after acceptance, and when the applicant intends to advertise the acceptance of the application and relevant representations. PINS added that it may also be helpful to factor in any public and school holidays.

Post Meeting Note (2) : Following the meeting NG confirmed that the proposed works have not altered since the TEN-E notification in December 2014 and that consistent wording will be used in future documentation to reflect this.

Appendix

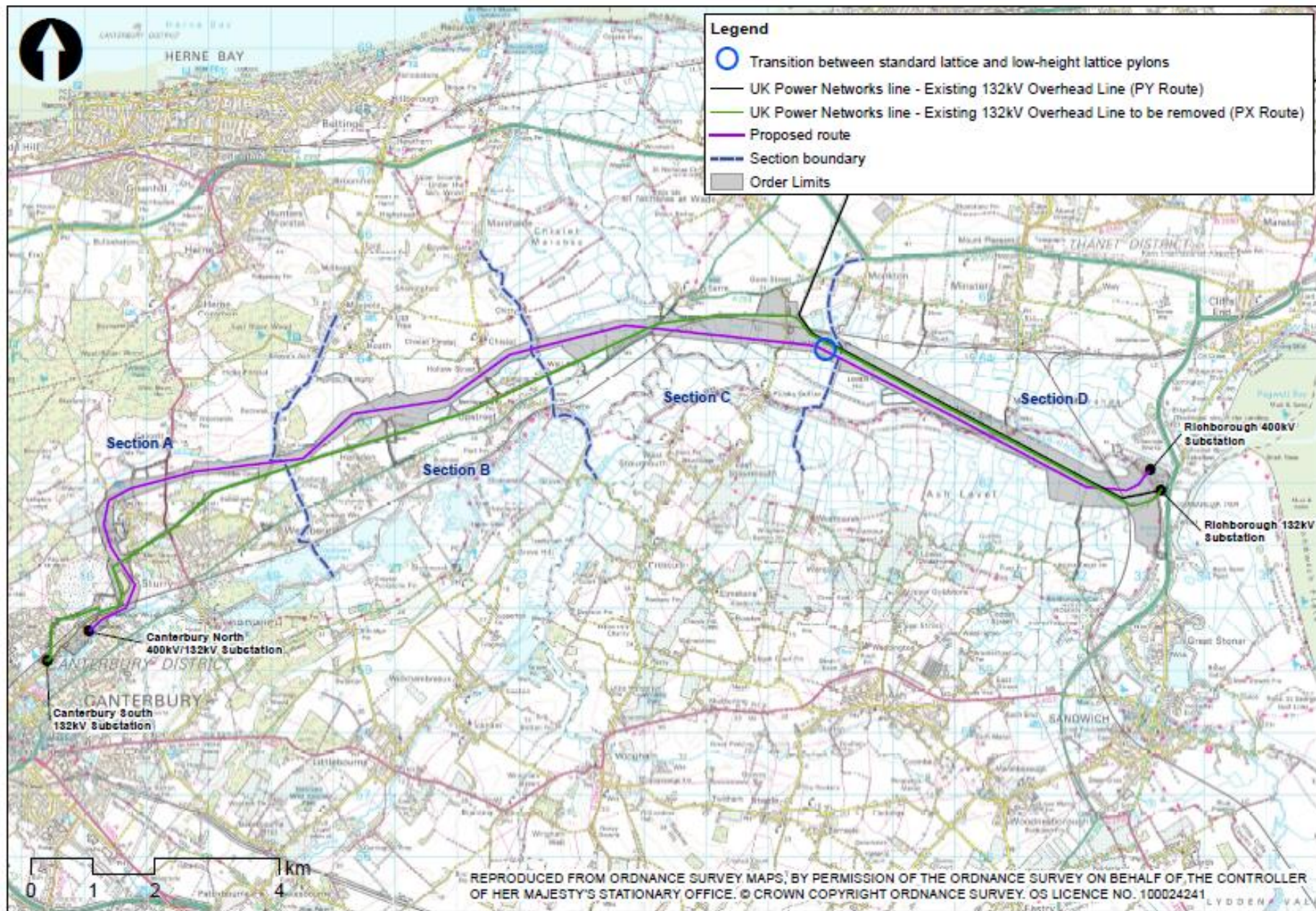
Presentation used by National Grid at the meeting on 28 April 2015

Richborough Connection Project



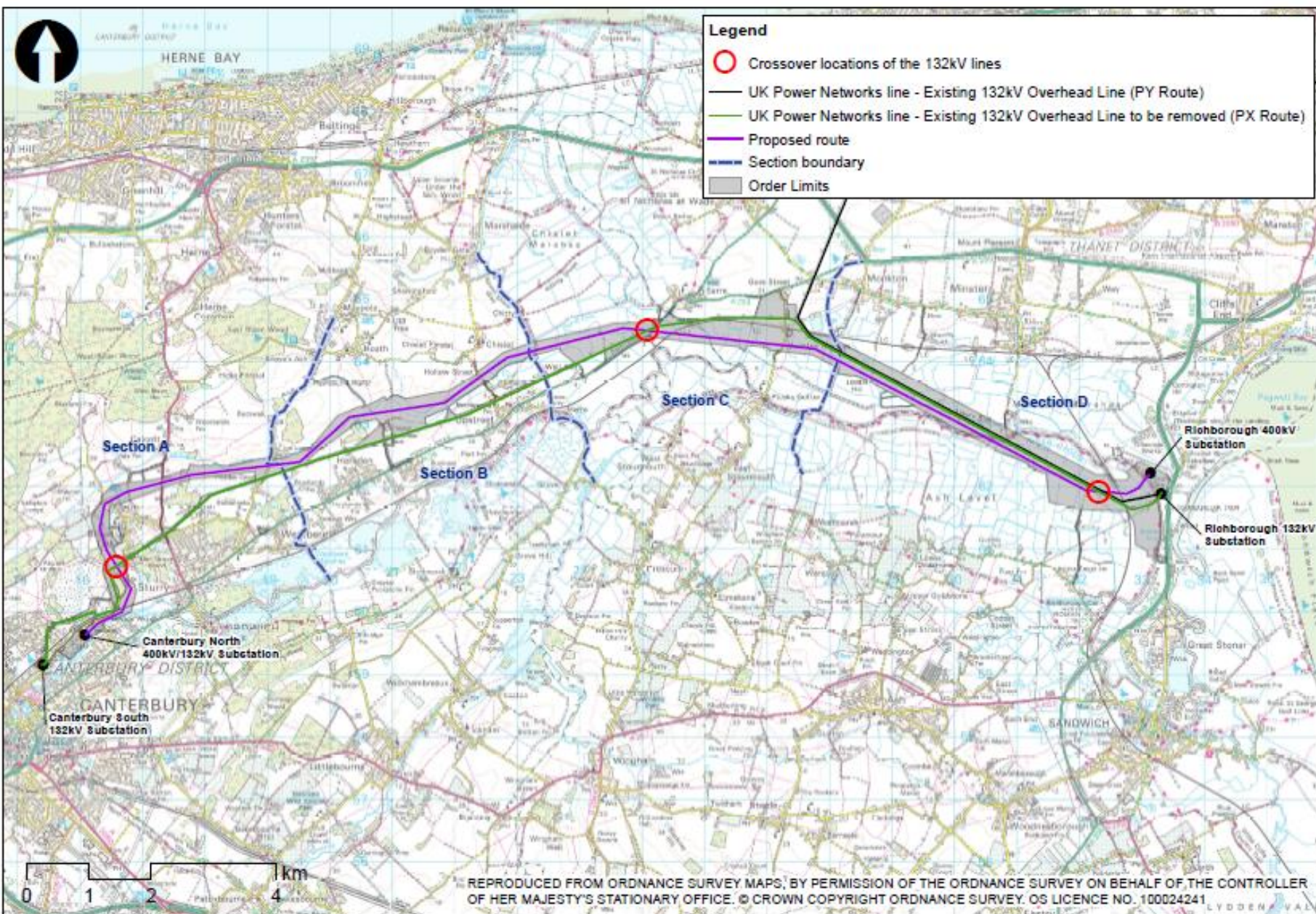
PINS

28 April 2015



Description of the works

- Construction 20.7km 400kV overhead line & pylons
- Removal of existing 132kV overhead line between Richborough and Canterbury (PX route).
- Localised temporary diversion of the PX route onto wooden poles at Broad Oak, Sarre and Ash level.
- Temporary diversion (on wooden poles) then a permanent underground cable diversion of the PY route (at crossings of the 400kV route).
- Ancillary works (example: temporary access roads, highway works, temporary construction compounds, protective scaffold structures).



What we consulted on?

- The proposed works.
- Changes to the 'draft route' as published May 2014.
- Detailed elements of the Project not yet presented, including the locations of pylons, pylon types, proposed access arrangements for construction and maintenance of the connection, location of related infrastructure.
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).
- Draft DCO and explanatory memorandum.

Consultation Material – Volume 1

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 1: A Guide to the Consultation	
1.1 Navigation Document	This is a guide to all of the documents included in our consultation.
1.2 Project News	This is our latest project newsletter which outlines details of the final proposals, the start of the consultation and information on the next steps for the project
1.3 Overview Report	This document is the Overview Report. It gives an overview of all of our plans and proposals to date as well as background information on how we make decisions
1.4 Feedback Form	This is a copy of the feedback form which is being used to gather feedback during the consultation.

Consultation Material – Volume 2

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 2: Preliminary Environmental Information Report	
2.1 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – Non-Technical Summary	A non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which sets out our assessment of the likely effects of the project.
2.2 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The full Preliminary Environmental Information Report
2.3 PEIR: Figures - Preliminary Environmental Information Figures	The maps, plans and drawings which form part of our assessment of the effects of the project
2.4 PEIR: Appendices - Preliminary Environmental Information Appendices.	The further information supporting the PEIR.

Consultation Material – Volume 3

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 3: Plans/Drawings	
3.1 Location Plan	3.7 Design Drawings
3.2 Land Affected Plan	3.8 Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Affected Plans
3.3 Land Plans	3.9 Environmental Features – Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation
3.4 Special Category Land and Crown Land Plans	3.10 Habitats of Protected Species, Important Habitats or Other Diversity Features and Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plans
3.5 Works Plan	3.11 Heritage Designation Plans
3.6 Access, Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plan	

Consultation Material – Volume 4

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 4: Draft DCO	
4.1 Draft Development Consent Order (b)	This details the legal powers we are seeking in order to build and operate the connection. It contains a list of all the work we propose to do and a series of ‘Requirements’, similar to planning conditions which set out our various obligations which will apply, is consent is granted.
4.2 Draft Explanatory Memorandum (c)	This explains the purpose of the Draft Development Consent Order.

Consultation Material – Volume 5

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 5: Other Documents	
5.1 Pylon Design Options Report	A report compares and explains how we balanced our decisions on the different pylon designs available to the project.
5.2 Need Case	A report outlining the reason the new connection is needed.
5.3 Strategic Options Report	A report outlining the options we considered for making the connection from Nemo Link at Richborough and the electricity network at Canterbury.
5.4 Route Corridor Study	This report documents the work undertaken to identify and appraise the potential route corridor options.

Consultation Material – Volume 5 ctd...

TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Volume 5: Other Documents	
5.5 Preferred Connection Option and Route Corridor Report	This sets out why we have chosen to build an overhead connection between Richborough and Canterbury. It sets out how we assessed the two route corridors taking into account the feedback from Summer 2013 consultation.
5.6 Connections Options Report	A report outlining why we have chosen the proposed draft route, and the factors we took into consideration

TEN-E Regulation Update

- NG Notification - 1 December 2014
- PINS Acknowledgement of Notification - 6 January 2015
- Approval Concept for Public Participation - 4 February 2015
- Consultation carried out in accordance with Article 9(4) of TEN-E Regulation – 10 February – 27 March 2015
- Scope of material and level of detail of information and detailed schedule for the permit granting process – 1 April 2015
- Draft Application File – to be discussed.

Consultation Update – Main Activities

Formal Consultation (Section 42-47 of Planning Act 08 and Article 9(4) of TEN-E Reg)

We held our public consultation from 10 February until 27 March 2015. This included:

- ☐ 6 public consultation events
- ☐ 4 pop-up events in supermarkets and shopping centres
- ☐ Set-up 4 information points along the route
- ☐ Made contact with over 30 hard to reach groups
- ☐ Distributed project Newsletters to everyone within 1km of the proposed development (including those that requested to be involved)
- ☐ Sent letters to prescribed consultee's, other bodies and persons with an interest in land providing the consultation information
- ☐ Updated our project website

Consultation Events

What was available at the events?

- ☐ Technical documents and plans
- ☐ Project team members
- ☐ Feedback forms and comment box
- ☐ Exhibition boards x 13
- ☐ Photo impressions3D Model/Samsung TV
- ☐ 2 Nokia Tablets
(for access to website and interactive map)
- ☐ Maps on A1 and A2 laminate
- ☐ Project documents
- ☐ National Grid background documents and factsheets

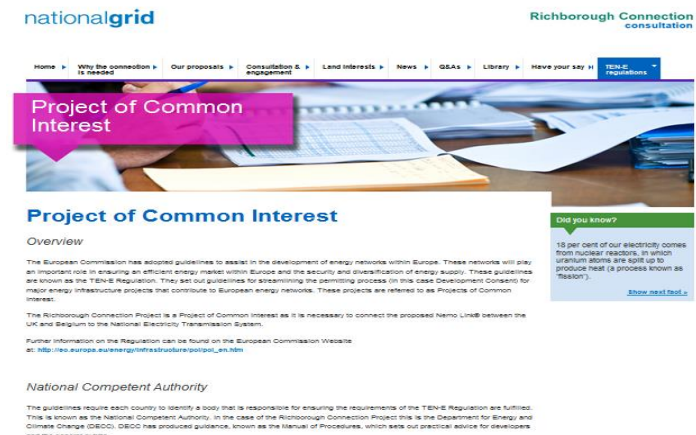
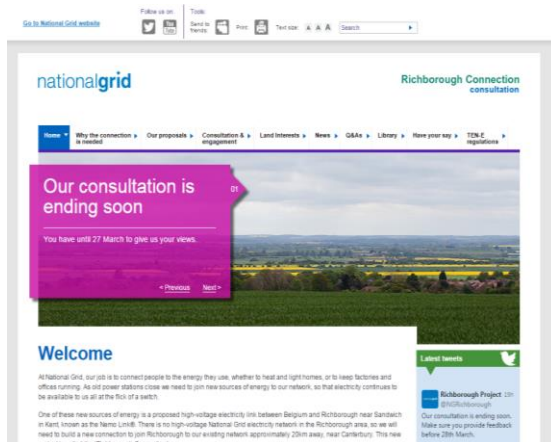


Consultation methods

- ❑ Information points containing project information and feedback forms were set up in local libraries and community centres along the route
- ❑ Project team set up stands in local shopping areas and supermarkets for the pop up events
- ❑ Inspection boxes with all documents and plans were made available at National Grid head office and Council offices
- ❑ Copies of the main technical documents were also available in local libraries
- ❑ Updated Website – including TEN-E regulation page and links
- ❑ PILS sessions prior to public events at Broad Oak and Chislet
- ❑ A feedback form with specific questions was made available
- ❑ The feedback form was available at all events/ information points as well as online. Comments could also be made online, via freephone number or in writing

Raising awareness

- ❑ Project Newsletter was sent to all postcodes within the consultation zone
- ❑ Project website has provided an overview of project and all related documents
- ❑ [@NGRichborough](#) twitter has advertised consultation
- ❑ Media – press release was be sent to local media at the start of consultation and two weeks before the end
- ❑ Advertisements in local newspapers and posters in local noticeboards
- ❑ Continued engagement with local political stakeholders



Event Summaries

Event	Date	Time	Total guests/number of people spoken with
Sainsbury's pop-up event, Canterbury	10 February 2015	10:00 – 18:00	37 people spoken to
Westwood Cross shopping centre pop-up event	13 February 2015	10:00 - 18:00	34 people spoken to
Monkton Village Hall, Consultation Event	17 February 2015	14:00 – 21:00	34 attendees
Asda Pop-up event, Canterbury	18 February 2015	10:00 – 18:00	41 people spoken to
Chislet Centre Consultation Event	19 February 2015	14:00 – 21:00	17 attendees
Chislet Centre Consultation Event	20 February 2015	11:00 – 20:00	41 attendees
Guildhall, Sandwich Consultation Event	27 February 2015	10:00 – 16:00	25 attendees
Co-op Food, Pop-up event	3 March 2015	10:00 – 18:00	47 people spoken to
Broad Oak village Hall, consultation event	4 March 2015	14:00 – 21:00	55 attendees
Broad Oak village Hall, consultation event	5 March 2015	11:00 – 21:00	54 attendees

Feedback

We received a total of **176** responses during our consultation.

Format	Total number received
Email	73
Feedback form	72
Letters	16
Online responses	15

Feedback

We received a total of **176** responses during our consultation.

Category of Respondent	Total number received
Prescribed	22 (of which 5 Local Authority)
Non-prescribed	9
PILS	36
Public	109