

News Release

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

18 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

For any other enquiries, please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

- Freephone: 0800 876 6990
- Email: nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com
- Freepost: Freepost NG NWCC

-Ends-

Contact for media information only:

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Photos:

Caption - Jack up barges carrying drill rigs are being used to dig boreholes.

Notes to Editors:

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National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored)

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