

Public Consultation 4 September – 28 November 2014

Events taking place in Cumbria and Lancashire

Get involved

National Grid owns and manages the electricity transmission network in England and Wales to which different energy sources are connected. We link people to the energy they use.

Our North West Coast Connections Project (NWCC) is about connecting the electricity generated by new energy projects being built in Cumbria and Lancashire to homes and businesses.

We've been asked to connect Moorside, the proposed new nuclear power station that will be built near Sellafield in West Cumbria, as well as an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, into our existing electricity network. Your views will be important in helping us shape the Project.

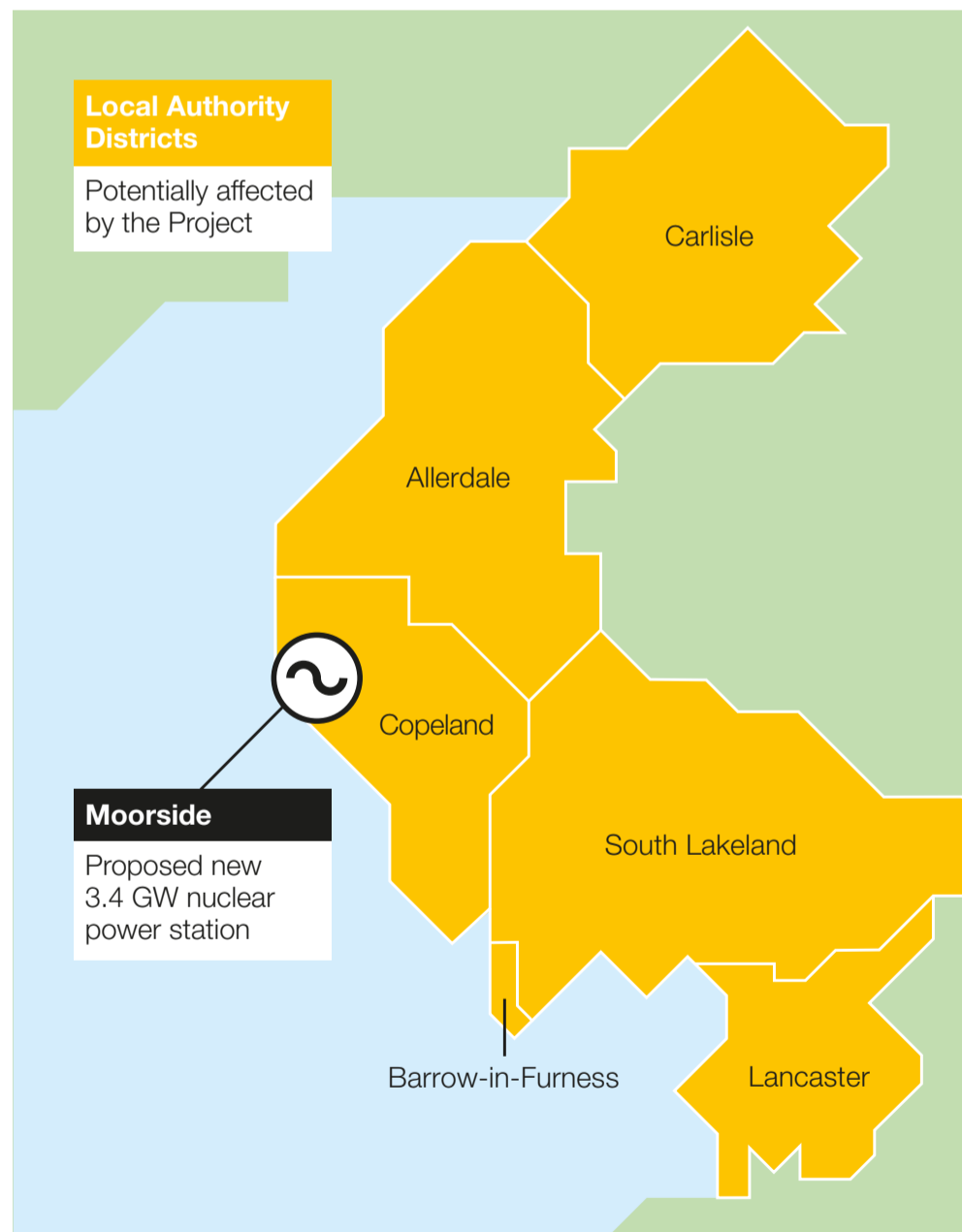
This consultation

You are invited to take part in our consultation which will run for 12 weeks from 4 September until 28 November 2014.

The feedback you provide us with will help us decide how and where we build the connection in the North West.

To learn more about the NWCC Project, what we're consulting on and how you can take part, come to one of our events, go to the website or contact the Project team.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 28 November 2014.



There will be further opportunities for you to comment on our proposals as they evolve and before we submit an application for consent to the Planning Inspectorate.

For information about the Project call us on freephone **0800 876 6990**. Alternatively you can register for all the latest news and updates on our Project website www.northwestcoastconnections.com

Inside this newsletter you will find:

- an overview of the NWCC Project
- a fold-out map showing you;
 - what we are consulting on
 - the dates and addresses of our events
- details of the different ways you can comment on the Project
- details of how you can contact us directly



Page 2

- **About the NWCC Project**
- **Have your say**

Page 3

- **Our proposed connection**

Page 4

- **Project timeline**
- **Project documents**
- **How to contact us**

If you would like a large text or alternative version of this document please contact us on **0800 876 6990** or go to our website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

About North West Coast Connections

Since 2009 we have been considering the different ways we could connect Moorside and an offshore wind farm into the national electricity network.

There are already lines of pylons running round the west coast of Cumbria and Lancashire. Owned and operated by Electricity North West (ENW) these are used to distribute electricity to homes and businesses in the region. However, they do not have enough capacity to accommodate the amount of electricity a power station the size of Moorside will generate.

We have established that we need to build a new high voltage connection to Moorside from the existing National Grid electricity network. The closest places on this network where we could connect to are over 50 kilometres (31 miles) away from the site.



Our work so far...

For over five years we have been working with local authorities from across the region, and organisations such as Natural England and English Heritage, to explore how we could connect the new electricity generators.

This work helped us identify a number of different options, which were the subject of a consultation in 2012. Feedback from this informed our decision to look more closely at developing a solution that involves taking a connection north and a separate connection south from Moorside.

Our next step was to study the different paths, or route corridors, going north and south where the new connection could be built.

To do this we took into account a wide range of technical, environmental, socio-economic and cost considerations.

For route corridors to the north and south of Moorside we looked at the opportunity to follow the path of existing ENW pylon lines and replace them with our higher voltage equipment.

As well as routeing the southern part of the connection onshore around the South Lakes, we have also looked at the possibility of it going offshore through the Irish Sea or across Morecambe Bay.

It is the findings from these studies which we are now asking you to comment on in this consultation.

Our **Information Booklet** provides a more detailed summary of the NWCC Project, the work we have undertaken to date and the findings from our recent studies that are the focus of the current consultation. This is available on our website or you can contact us to request a copy (see page 4 for details).



This consultation...

Our studies have helped us understand the challenges we will face building a new connection for Moorside.

As a result, the different route corridors we have identified going Onshore North and Onshore South with a Tunnel under Morecambe Bay, have been grouped and prioritised for this consultation as we believe they are more likely to be taken forward to provide a complete connection.

Alternative route corridors going south have not been prioritised as we think that specific environmental and technical challenges associated with both make them less likely to be taken forward.

Prioritised groups of corridors include:

■ **Onshore North:** groups of corridors that go onshore north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle; and

■ **Onshore South with a Tunnel under Morecambe Bay:** groups of corridors that go onshore south from Moorside across the Furness peninsula then under Morecambe Bay through a tunnel which comes up near Heysham in Lancashire to connect into the existing network.

Alternative groups of corridors going south include:

■ **Offshore South:** an offshore connection would reduce the visual and environmental impact of a connection routed over land, but significant practical challenges include:

- avoiding Eskmeals, the Ministry of Defence live firing range;
- limited availability of land for cables to come onshore to connect into the existing network;
- limited availability of routes at sea due to existing offshore wind farms, oil and gas pipelines, and cables; and
- shifting sands at sea may expose high voltage cables and increase the risk of them being damaged.

■ **Onshore South:** building a connection going south from Moorside, around the South Lakes and the Lake District National Park would be the most economical, but our studies show that there are many specific environmental challenges associated with this approach.

The findings from all of our studies are included in the consultation documents. We welcome receiving your comments on the prioritised groups of corridors, and the alternative groups of corridors going south.

Have your say

Our consultation is open from 4 September until 28 November 2014. To find out more about the Project and provide us with your comments you can...

Go to our website

Our Project website can be found at www.northwestcoastconnections.com

By registering your details on the website you will be able to respond to the consultation online. It also means we can update you with the latest Project news.



Come along to an event

We are holding 33 events at venues across Cumbria and Lancashire throughout the consultation period.

Members of the Project team will be on hand at these events, and copies of the Project documents will be available to view. Details for all these events are listed on the foldout map in this newsletter.



If you are unable to attend the events, copies of the information on display are available on the Project website or on request from us.

Our proposed connection



We welcome your feedback on all the route corridors we have identified and whether you think we are correct not to prioritise the Offshore South and Onshore South groups of corridors. The findings from all our work are included in our **Route Corridor Studies and Outline Siting Studies for Associated Infrastructure** (see page 4 for details).

What are we asking you to comment on?

- The overall Project
- Prioritised groups of corridors and local sensitivities associated with Onshore North and Onshore South with Tunnel under Morecambe Bay
- The alternative groups of corridors we believe are less likely to be taken forward and why we consider this to be the case

All of your feedback will be used to help us make our decision on which route corridor to take forward.

At the next stage of consultation we will invite you to comment on the technologies we propose using to build the connection, and the specific locations where our equipment will go.



To respond to this consultation you can either:

Submit comments online

Just register your details on our Project website, then log in with your username and password to access the online feedback form where you can leave your comments. Comments submitted online can be updated at any point during the consultation period until it closes on **28 November 2014**.

Fill in a feedback form

Pick up a copy of our Feedback Form from one of our events, or ask us to send one to you direct. Then just fill in your details on the front page, respond to as many questions as you wish, and post your form back to us at **FREEPOST NG NWCC**. Any letters sent to our FREEPOST address will also be considered as feedback.

The deadline for responding to the consultation is 28 November 2014

Consultation findings

If you would like to be notified about the outcome of this consultation please register your contact details with us. You can do this on the Project website or by contacting us (see back page for details).



Project timeline

There will be a number of opportunities to contribute to the North West Coast Connections Project as we are still at an early stage in the process. Key milestones in the Project timeline will include:

2014

- Consultation taking place from 4 September to 28 November 2014
- 33 events across Cumbria and Lancashire taking place from 18 September to 8 November 2014
- People invited to comment on the different route corridors a new connection for Moorside could take
- Our land representatives will start to make contact with landowners

2015

- Review and consider all the comments received during our public consultation
- Announce which route corridor is being taken forward to the next stage of consultation
- Ongoing studies to assess the potential effects of our proposals
- Work with local organisations and people to refine the details of the Project

Future activity

- Formal public consultation giving people the chance to comment on the technologies we will use to build the connection and where equipment will be located
- Submit an application for consent to the Planning Inspectorate
- Decision on the application made by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
- If consent is granted we will start construction to connect Moorside to the electricity network



Key project documents

www.northwestcoastconnections.com



Project documents providing more information about the North West Coast Connections Project include:

- **Public Consultation 2014 – Information Booklet** – background information on who National Grid is, why the North West Coast Connections Project is needed, work undertaken to date and how you can help shape our proposals. It also includes further details on our emerging preference and information on what happens next.
- **Route Corridor Studies and Outline Siting Studies for Associated Infrastructure** – a full report of the studies undertaken by us to identify the potential route corridors which form the basis of this consultation.
- **Project Need Case** – explains why the North West Coast Connections Project, and the work National Grid proposes to undertake, is needed.
- **Strategic Options Report** – shows the different technically feasible connection options identified to meet the needs of the Project. It also sets out how the responses to the 2012 consultation shaped our views, and influenced National Grid's decision on which options we brought forward to the current stage.
- **Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report** – sets out how we undertook our initial consultation in 2012 and summarises the feedback received. It also sets out the themes and issues raised, our response to them and how they were taken into account by the Project team when it came to choosing the two options brought forward to the current stage.

Copies of these documents are available to view and download from our Project website.

Visit an information point

Copies of the Project documents have been placed at a number of public locations such as council offices and libraries across Cumbria and Lancashire. For a full list please go to our Project website or contact us directly.

Contact us, register your interest and find out more information:



Scan our quick response code to visit our Project website at: www.northwestcoastconnections.com

Send an email to: nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com

Call our freephone number: 0800 876 6990. Lines are open 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday

Write to our freepost address at: **FREEPOST NG NWCC**

Register for text alerts: Text NWCC to 80800

Follow us on Twitter @ngnwcc

FSC LOGO