

## Overview

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# National Grid EAOW Connection Project

### **Current Position**

East Anglia Offshore Wind Limited, a joint venture between Scottish Power Renewables and Vattenfall, has a contract with National Grid to connect 7,200 megawatts of wind generation off the coast of East Anglia to the existing national transmission network.

The offshore windfarm zone covers over 6000 square kilometres and is situated between 14km and 130km offshore.

Under its licence, National Grid is obliged to offer potential connection points to the national transmission network within 90 days of receiving an application. National Grid's analysis of onshore connection points considered the impact to the onshore transmission system, and an initial judgment was made from those results, based on the requirements to provide a compliant connection offer.

Due to the time constraints National Grid's offer included three very high level potential connection points at Bramford, Lowestoft and Norwich. After a connection offer is made, the connection options are subject to more detailed technical and environmental studies to look at potential connection points and all the technological options. These are jointly reviewed by the developer and National Grid to ensure they remain the most appropriate options.

### **What further studies are you doing?**

National Grid is looking at onshore works and EAOW at the offshore and we are co-ordinating our efforts. This assessment takes place over a period of time and takes account of more detailed considerations to enable an overall offshore and onshore transmission solution to be developed.

The strategic options for connecting the East Anglia Zone to the onshore network are currently being jointly appraised by National Grid and EAOW and will be reported in a Strategic Options Report. Following the publication of that report an engagement programme will be undertaken with stakeholders to discuss the joint findings.

Complex studies, requiring information from both National Grid and EAOW, are underway to determine a number of potential connection options. National Grid will

investigate all reasonable alternative options and we are currently working together with EAOW to identify, appraise and review each of the options.

### **How will you consult on the Strategic Options?**

Under our 'Approach to the development and routeing of new electricity transmission lines' we are committed to consult on our proposals for new electricity transmission connections at a formative stage and we will develop proposals working with core stakeholders including statutory consultees and local authorities. More details of this Approach is available on our website at <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/UndergroundingConsultation/ApproachToDesignAndRouteingOfNewLines/>

We have no inherent preference for either overhead or underground technologies and will always seek to deliver the best balance and which meets our statutory duties, including the requirement under the Electricity Act (1989) to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electricity transmission system, but with due regard to the environment.

Once we have developed our proposals we will share information with statutory and non-statutory consultees as soon as we are able to, and ask for their views and feedback through both statutory and non-statutory consultation.

### **What environmental constraints will you consider?**

The appraisal of options will consider potential effects on landscape and views; biodiversity; cultural heritage; soils and water, noise and vibration and other issues.

We consider these in relation to the area in which each project is proposed and will consult with planning authorities at appropriate stages about constraints.

These issues are considered along with the environmental issues related to sustainability, socio-economic factors; technical and safety issues and cost.