

## Community Update

Hinkley Point C Connection Project

February/March

Further details about how you can continue to get involved will be available when we announce the preferred connection. At this stage we will publish a newsletter with more detailed information about the project and the ongoing consultation.

It is our intention to provide clear and concise information about the project to help you provide feedback and enable constructive debate. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our community relations team, using the details below.



*Dear Resident*

*This news sheet is intended to give you a short update on developments with the Hinkley Point C connection project and to provide a look ahead to our plans for this year.*

*We have been working very hard since our first stage of consultation closed in the summer, reviewing all of the feedback received. We have had an enormous response, receiving over 8,000 individual pieces of feedback and, as we are committed to ensuring that we choose the most appropriate method for the connection, our analysis of the feedback has taken longer than we expected. We now hope to announce our preferred connection in spring 2011 and this announcement will be accompanied by a Preferred Connection Report and a Feedback Report. These explain how we made our decision and will both be published on the project website.*

*We would like to thank you for your continuing involvement, and we look forward to seeing you during the next phase of consultation.*

**National Grid Community Relations Team**

### Project Contact Details:

National Grid Community Relations Team

Tel: 0800 377 7347

Email: [hinkleyconnection@uk.ngrid.com](mailto:hinkleyconnection@uk.ngrid.com)

Address: Freepost NATIONAL GRID CONNECTIONS

Information can be supplied on request in alternative formats – for example Braille, audio, large print, community languages – by calling 0800 377 7347.



## Community Update

### Hinkley Point C Connection Project

#### Undergrounding Consultation

We are often asked to consider building underground cables rather than overhead lines to protect views of local landscapes. However, with undergrounding there is much to think about, such as cost, the engineering and the environmental impacts.

There are two studies currently being carried out into undergrounding electricity cables.

The first, by National Grid, is reviewing our approach to undergrounding, which was last considered in the 1990s. As part of this review National Grid has decided to carry out a national public consultation. With a significant amount of new power generation needing to connect to our network in the coming years we believe now is a good time to review our approach.



Therefore we are asking for your opinions as to how we build new connections in the future. You have until 16 March 2011 to contribute and can do so in the following ways:

Phone on **0800 319 6175**

Or in writing at: **National Grid Undergrounding Consultation, Freepost NAT3717, London SE1 2BR**

Or complete the questionnaire at [www.nationalgridundergrounding.com](http://www.nationalgridundergrounding.com).

**Please do not send contributions to the Hinkley community relations team as we are unable to deal with them.**

Our revised approach to undergrounding will be published in April.

The second study is an independent review being carried out by KEMA and IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology) into the costs of undergrounding. This study is looking at the alternative and comparative costs of placing high voltage electricity lines underground or in the seabed. We are expecting it to be published shortly on the IET website: [www.theiet.org](http://www.theiet.org).

Both studies will be taken into account when we make our decision on the connection to Hinkley Point C.

#### What to Expect in Stage 2

The next phase will begin with the announcement of the preferred connection, which will be followed by a period of detailed public consultation. The aim of this stage is to agree the most appropriate method for the connection and the route it will take.

This phase is expected to run for 12 months and will include a detailed programme of public consultation and information events. Members of the public will be invited to attend and your feedback will be taken into account when developing the proposals further.

We are also setting up a number of Community Forums. Groups and organisations which represent local communities are being invited to join and these independently-chaired forums will allow people to have their say on how we develop our proposals to connect the planned Hinkley Point C nuclear power station to the electricity transmission network.

'Thematic Groups' will also be set up to discuss the approach to the environmental impact assessment



(how we evaluate the effects of our proposals on the environment). Experts from statutory organisations such as the Environment Agency and Natural England will look to agree the process for identifying and evaluating environmental information such as cultural heritage, biodiversity, ecology and landscape.

The latest Community Forum and public consultation information will be available on the project website. Consultees will also be able to use the website to submit feedback on both issue-specific consultations and the consultation in general. The website address is [www.nationalgrid.com/hinkleyconnection](http://www.nationalgrid.com/hinkleyconnection)