

Welcome to the first issue of the IFA2 community newsletter

On behalf of the National Grid project team, I am delighted to introduce our first community newsletter for IFA2 - the proposed electricity interconnector between Great Britain and France.

We want to keep you updated on our progress and answer the questions that are important to you and all local residents. We aim to provide clear, factual and timely information, direct from the project team.

Our proposals are still subject to achieving planning permission. Back in May, we submitted applications for planning permission to Fareham Borough Council and for a Marine Licence to the Marine Management Organisation. The applications are still in the process of being assessed by the consenting authorities, and we hope to hear more in October.

Please take the opportunity to review our proposals, if you have not done so already. You can view all of our project information in the "Project" area of the IFA2 website.

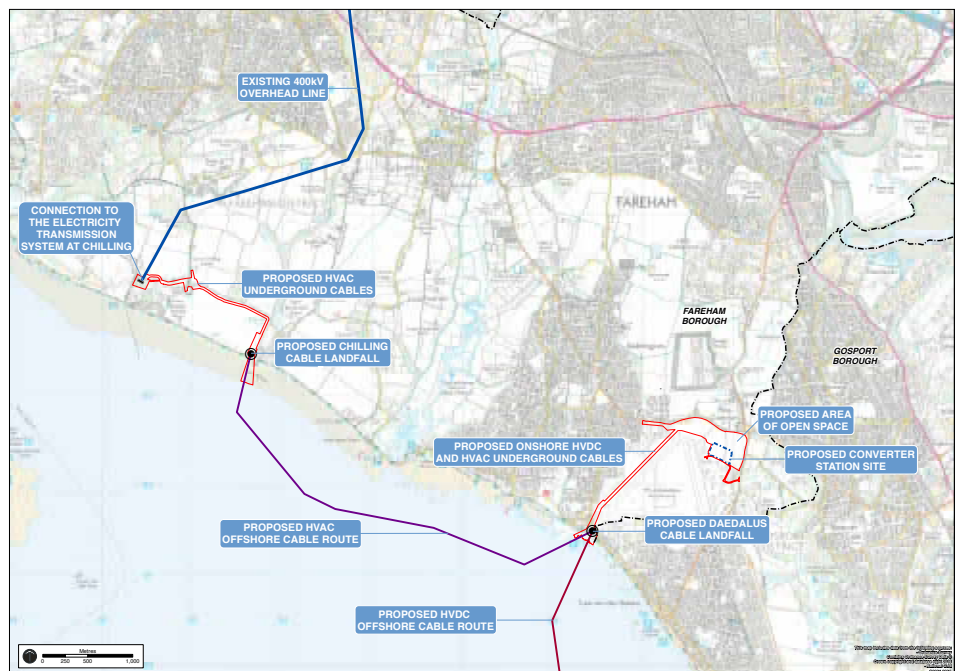
If you have any questions about the project at all, please get in touch using the contact details provided on the back of this newsletter.

Morris Bray, IFA2 Project

Project update

Our planning and marine licence applications are currently being considered by Fareham Borough Council and the Marine Management Organisation. We expect to hear more about these in October.

Onshore, we are seeking outline permission to build a converter station to the north east of Daedalus and to provide community open space at Daedalus North, as well as full permission to install underground cables, both at Daedalus and near Chilling. The redline area in the figure shows what is in the scope of our application. If the Council approves our plans, we would still need to seek further permission from the Council for the detailed design of the converter station and community open space. These would be brought forward in 2017 once we appoint contractors.



Inside this issue

- Answers to commonly asked questions.
- Benefits of greater interconnection and why we need more interconnectors.
- Proposals for new public open space.
- Details of work underway to show proposals are compatible with Solent Airport, Daedalus.
- New project office opened in Gosport.

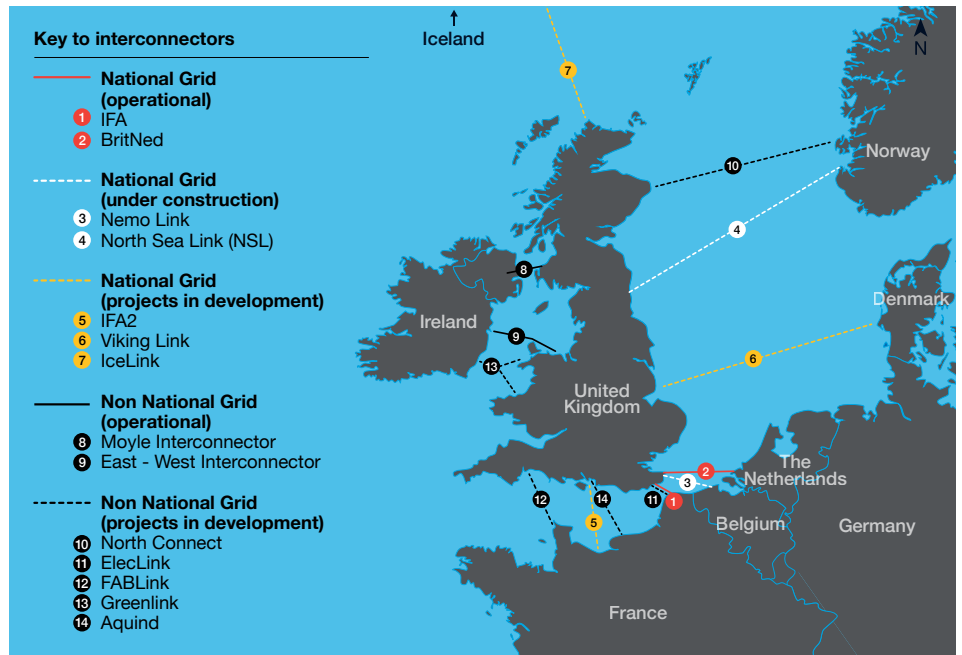
IFA2 quick facts

- Link would be around 240km long.
- Capable of transporting 1,000MW, with potential to power up to 1 million homes.
- Connection goes to Caen, Normandy, France.
- Operational by 2020.

Benefits of greater interconnection

Interconnectors allow Great Britain to link to power networks and markets in other countries. They play an important role in helping to reduce the cost of electricity for homes and businesses, providing opportunities for shared use of more diverse sources of generation, and increasing security of electricity supplies.

National Grid recently published “Future Energy Scenarios 2016” which sets out views about the possible future energy landscape in the UK. It points to an ever increasing role for electricity interconnectors over the next 15 years as traditional sources of energy are either taken offline (all coal-fired power stations are expected to be offline by 2025) or reach the end of their operational life. Although new gas-fired and alternative renewable sources of energy are being developed, interconnectors will help bridge the gap



in capacity by bringing in extra supplies from neighbouring countries when not enough is generated to meet our needs.

Britain is one of the least interconnected countries in Europe with

interconnectors currently representing only 4% of electricity generation. The Government has outlined a clear need for greater interconnection and is looking to increase this to 10% by 2020. IFA2 will play a key role in helping to secure energy supplies for the future.

IFA2 planning application proposes new community open space at Daedalus

IFA2 proposals aim to create an area of publically accessible open space to the north east of Daedalus. If our planning application is successful we are committed to delivering a substantial area of public open space, supporting the delivery of Fareham Borough Council's adopted Daedalus Vision.

Currently, the space allocated in the Local Plan is not publically accessible. In our proposals, there is an opportunity to create new footpaths and cycle ways which could link to other local open spaces, such as the Alver Valley.

The proposals aim to create better habitats to support a more diverse range of wildlife by careful selection of grasses, shrubs and trees, as well as protecting existing trees and hedgerows while fitting in with the requirements of the airfield.

The final design would be determined at a later date in consultation with the Council, landowner, the Airfield operator, Natural England and other key stakeholders. We continue to work with Fareham Borough Council regarding how we can best support the delivery of community open space.

IFA2 timeline

- May 2016: Submitted applications for planning permission and marine licence
- July 2016: Commissioned Daedalus airfield study
- September 2016: Complete Daedalus airfield study
- October 2016: Determination of planning applications with associated conditions
- 2017:
 - Design finalised for final planning
 - Pre-construction studies and surveys
- 2018: Construction scheduled to start
- 2020: Construction due to be completed – IFA2 is operational

Specialist consultants appointed to carry out airfield assessment at Daedalus

Specialist consultants Arcadis are carrying out an independent assessment looking at how the IFA2 electricity interconnector would operate alongside the Solent Airport at Daedalus. The work has been jointly commissioned by National Grid and airfield land owner, Fareham Borough Council, with close involvement from airport manager, Regional and City Airports. National Grid is proposing to lease land from Fareham Borough Council at Daedalus to locate the converter station and install cables.

This assessment will provide independent verification. We hope this will support our view that the interconnector proposals can coexist with the Vision that Fareham Borough Council has for Daedalus, and won't affect operations at the airport. We know that the Council won't allow our proposals to go forward unless we can demonstrate this. We expect the results to be available in early October.



Meet the project team at our new project office

We have opened a new project office at Gosport Basepoint close to the communities around Daedalus. On Tuesday and Thursday of each week, members of the project team will be at the Gosport Basepoint office and you are welcome to contact the team to

arrange a meeting time to discuss the interconnector proposals in person. Please use the contact details provided on the back of the newsletter if you would like to meet.

*Unit 11, Gosport Basepoint,
Aerodrome Road, PO13 0FQ*

Key issues

What is an electrical interconnector?

- Links electricity transmission systems of different countries.
- Allows countries to trade power when needed.
- Electricity is transported using subsea high voltage direct current (HVDC) between Britain and other countries.
- A converter station in each country converts HVDC to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) used in each country's transmission systems.
- The connection to the grid can be made via overhead line or underground cable. For IFA2 all the connections will be underground or subsea.

Noise

We recognise that noise is one of the biggest concerns for local residents. National Grid is experienced in building and operating electrical installations, in both quiet rural, and densely populated metropolitan areas; and we are confident that the location of the converter buildings for IFA2 at the north of Daedalus will not result increased noise for local residents.

We have carried out a noise impact assessment in accordance with best practice. Night-time noise levels that we measured outside the nearest homes are in the range 30-35 decibels (dB). We will therefore design our equipment to make sure that any noise from IFA2 complies with a noise limit of 30dB outside the nearest homes, and we would expect this to be a condition of any planning approval.

Our approach to noise assessment has been agreed by the environmental health department at Fareham Borough Council. If IFA2 becomes operational, and breaches the agreed limits, we would be subject to strict penalties enforced under environmental protection legislation, including possible suspension of operations if agreed limits are not met.

Height of the converter station

Our planning application includes provision for the construction of buildings with a maximum height of 22m. However, we recognise that scale of buildings is of concern to local residents and to address this we are working with equipment suppliers to reduce building sizes and bring them further in line with existing and proposed developments. If we were granted outline planning permission,

we would work with our contractors to submit a further detailed planning application to Fareham Borough Council, which would include final plans about the size, layout and appearance of the buildings. These plans would have to be within the boundaries of the outline planning permission.

Reducing visual impact of the converter station

We will use good design and landscaping to minimise the visual

impact of the converter station buildings. We will do this by:

- Planting additional trees / increasing the hedge-line along parts of Gosport Road and Broom Way near to Peel Common roundabout;
- Constructing mounding immediately around the converter station and planting trees to soften the visual impact of the buildings;
- Ensuring that the external appearance of the buildings, in terms of roof line and colour of the cladding, is well chosen to blend them into the skyline.

An impression of our proposals when viewed from Peel Common roundabout:



(1) Immediately upon completion



(2) 15 years after completion

Employment

If planning permission is granted, the project would result in local economic benefits, both during construction and operation, which would be felt at Daedalus and in the wider local area. The equivalent of over 100 full-time jobs could be stimulated in the locality through National Grid's construction and operation of the interconnector.

We intend to work with our main contractors to give local businesses the best opportunity to promote their services and access the supply chain.

The proposed IFA2 converter station would not use any land that has already been allocated by Fareham Borough Council for creating jobs, so we believe that IFA2 adds to the economic development of Daedalus in support of the vision that the Council has adopted.

Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) and public health

We recognise concerns of people who live, work and socialise close to our proposed interconnector regarding the potential health issues linked to EMFs.

We will comply with limits for public exposure that are set entirely independently of National Grid. This is not negotiable. The limits that are set by the government originate from authoritative international expert bodies such as the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), and they are adopted in the UK by the Minister for Public Health on the basis of recommendations from Public Health England.

Design calculations that we have carried out so far show that EMFs produced by IFA2 would be well below

public exposure limits – even when standing directly above the cables at popular locations such as Monks Hill car park, the beach huts and the public beach where the cables come ashore. Throughout the design phase and once operational, we would carry out further assessments to verify our calculations and to always ensure we comply with the limits for public exposure.

Impact of Brexit on IFA2

The vote to leave the European Union on 23 June has created a level of uncertainty as well as an opportunity for businesses. We can confirm that National Grid and our partners RTE, are strongly committed to increasing electricity interconnection between Britain and France and we remain focused on bringing the IFA2 project online by 2020.