

## National Grid

Better practices in engagement with environmental NGO's and permitting bodies – Marine Environment.

**BEST  
GRID**



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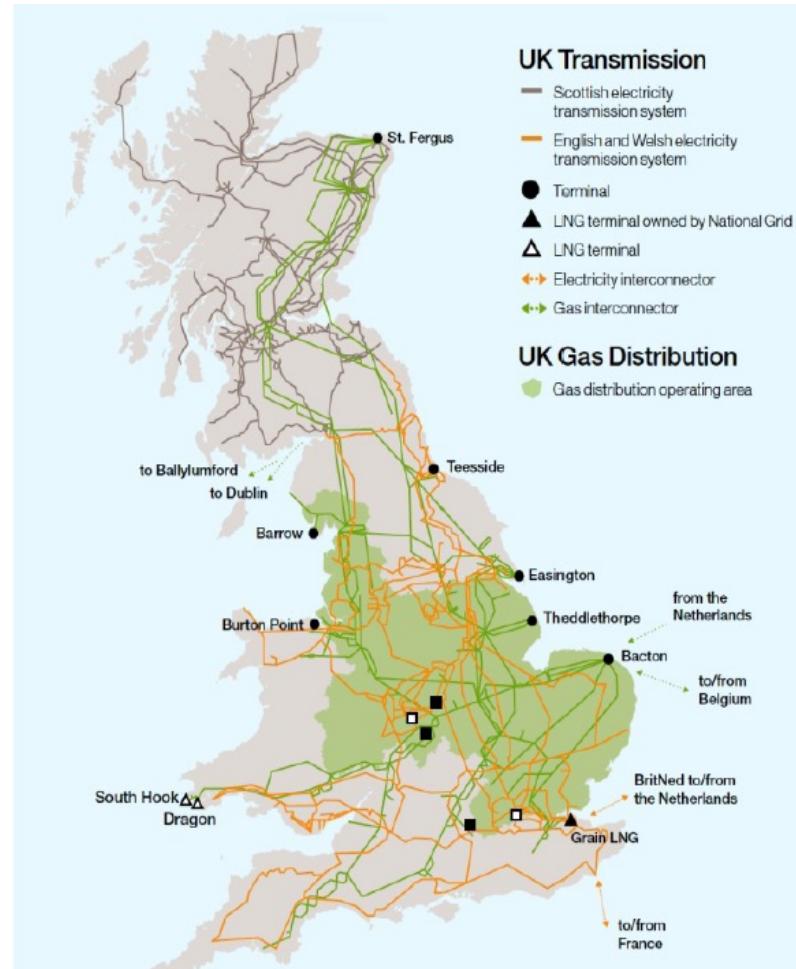
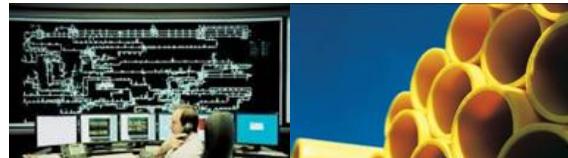
## UK & US



## Electricity & Gas

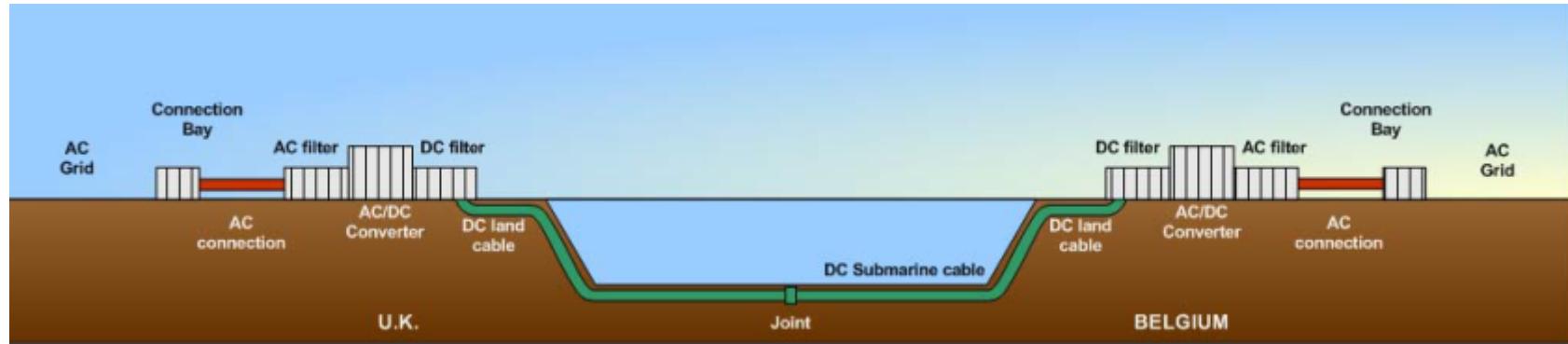


## Transmission & Distribution



- Develop recommendations on how to apply better practices in marine-focussed/interconnector projects:
  - Public Acceptance
  - Permitting
  - Engage in an exchange of experiences and dissemination activities.

- National Grid has focussed on the evaluation of the Nemo Link® project.
- We have drawn from our, and our partners', experiences with multiple other marine grid development projects.





- NGO's AND Developers have resource constraints
- Better education is needed between developers and stakeholders/ NGO's – 'Understanding the bigger energy picture'
- Face to face engagement is crucial in conjunction with meeting discipline and management of expectations.

- At strategic development stage create the opportunity to discuss the challenges of a project in structured meetings with stakeholders (groups)
- Information on past projects (issues/successes) is difficult to find – Current projects are not benefiting from the learning.
- Early, open, high quality stakeholder engagement is an investment not a cost.

- Develop non-project specific *relationships* with stakeholders
- Employ a dedicated stakeholder engagement team
  - Establish resourcing needs and constraints
  - Comprehensive mapping and risk register
  - Relationship management
  - Phased engagement

- Consider attendees carefully, relative to
  - Objectives
  - Experience
  - Authority

Ensure *only* the right people attend.
- Document and circulate the outcomes of meetings
  - Decisions
  - Actions
  - Information
- Deliver what you promise!

- Scope and document availability of (other similar project) data.
- Design and document effective handovers to ensure project knowledge is maintained, think ahead.
- Undertake regular, informal and formal, lessons learned exercises - at least each project 'stage'.
- Recognising and sharing good practice can be embedded in organisational culture.



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BirdLife is a global partnership of nature conservation NGOs.

- Own and manage nature reserves
- Push for good nature legislation and full implementation
- Seek to improve (or if that fails, resist) projects that would harm nature, through the planning process

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is BirdLife's UK Partner. RSPB reviewed its 'casework' experience engaging with UK grid developments over the last 15 years.



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First reaction to projects: “How will this affect my (organisation’s) interests?”

“Will it reduce the value of my property?”

“Will it be developed without unnecessary or unacceptable impacts on birds and nature?”

But attitudes to specific grid projects are also shaped by a ‘bigger picture’:

“Can we trust this organisation to listen and carry out their promises?”

“Is this project really needed?”



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Climate change is starting to bite: expected to have huge impacts for nature conservation.

‘Bigger picture’ for many environmental NGOs = ‘Is this development needed for renewables and the energy transition’?

Being able to answer these contextual questions positively (and honestly) will make a big difference to acceptability.



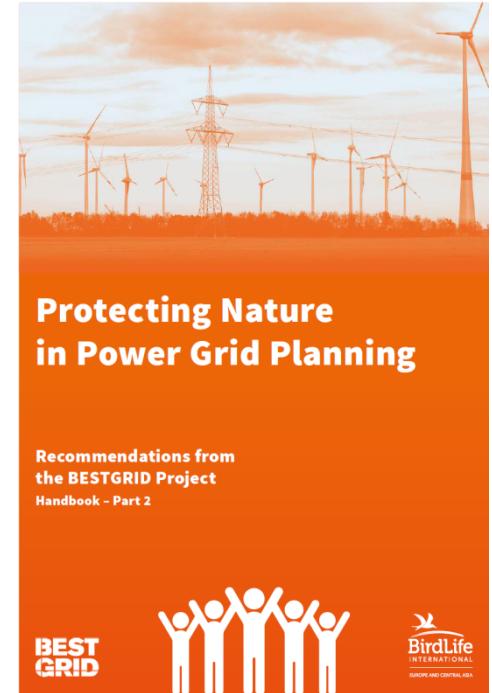
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Developers need to do more to understand nature protection stakeholders.

Environmental stakeholders have much to learn about the role of grid in the bigger climate and energy picture.

Projects like BESTGRID are very valuable to create and communicate mutual understanding.



# Questions?



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