

11 August 2015

News Release

Drivers urged to take care during cable laying work on A540

- **National Grid urges drivers and cyclists to take special care as work starts on the A540**
- **Company laying high voltage underground cable along 2 km of the dual carriageway through Ness**
- **One lane will be closed and work expected to take three months to complete**

Drivers are being asked to take special care on the A540 Chester High Road when work gets underway to lay an underground electricity cable as part of the Western Link project.

The cable is being laid in the inside lane of the Chester-bound dual carriageway between the junctions with Damhead Lane and Mudhouse Lane. Rolling roadworks will see one short section of the inside lane closed at a time as the work progresses, but there will be a period where the lane is closed along the whole 2 km stretch toward the end of the three months. This will allow the cable to be pulled through special ducts being laid in trenches in the road surface to receive it.

A 40mph speed limit will be introduced during the work for the safety of motorists, cyclists and engineers.

Peter Roper, Senior Project Manager said: "Safety has been at the forefront of our minds during the planning of this part of the Western Link project. The A540 is a vital link between communities on the Wirral and the main motorway network and we will carry out our work in a way which will keep traffic moving and keep people safe at the same time."

He added: "One of our concerns is for the safety of cyclists. We'll only be closing 250 to 300 metre sections of the inside lane at a time while we dig a trench to take the cable duct. When we do need to close the whole two kilometres to pull the cable through the ducts, we'll allow cyclists to use the inside lane, within the safety of our coned-off area."

People will still be able to reach homes and businesses along the A540 and bus stops and bus services won't be affected. There will be short periods of time when access to Hadlow Road, and making U-turns at the traffic lights by Gordale Garden and Home Centre, won't be

possible. Signs will be in place and the Western Link website (www.westernhvdclink.co.uk) will be updated to let people know when these parts of the work are planned.

Peter added: "We've worked closely with Cheshire West and Chester Council to agree our working arrangements. We appreciate that the A540 is a main route across the south of the Wirral peninsula, and so we're working seven days a week to complete this phase of our work as quickly as we can. We apologise for any inconvenience caused in the meantime.

"We would ask everyone using this section of road over the next few months to have patience, and to take particular care around cyclists and when approaching bus stops."

Notice of the work on the A540, and any road closures needed for cable installation across the Wirral peninsula, are posted on the Western Link website www.westernhvdclink.co.uk. If people have any queries about the project, they can contact the Community Relations Team by emailing westernlink@communityrelations.co.uk or calling 0800 021 7878.

The £1 billion Western Link project is a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. When complete, it will bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales and help the UK meet its carbon reduction targets.

Contact for media information only:

Jane Taylor

National Grid Media Relations

+44 (0) 7785 220647

jane.e.taylor@nationalgrid.com

Out of hours: 0845 366 6769.

Photos:

For photos relating to National Grid please visit <http://media.nationalgrid.com/>

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Notes to Editors:

The Western Link project

The Western Link is a £1 billion construction project being delivered through a joint venture between National Grid and ScottishPower Transmission. A new high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable will run more than 400km, mostly under the sea, to bring renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales. A contract for the construction of the Western Link has been let to the Siemens/Prysmian consortium. Prysmian Group is responsible for the cable installation work, including all preparations and reinstatement. Siemens is responsible for building and commissioning converter stations at each end of the cable, at Hunterston in Scotland and Deeside in Wales, where the electricity will be converted between direct current and alternating current for onward transmission.

National Grid

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and was named Responsible Business of the Year 2014 by Business in the Community. This accolade acknowledges all of our efforts in getting involved with the things that really matter to us and to society. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 10.9 million homes and businesses
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid. It undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.5 million customers in New England and upstate New York
- We own 3.8 gigawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers
- We are the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.6 million customers in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at www.nationalgridconnecting.com.

About ScottishPower Transmission

ScottishPower Transmission is part of SP Energy Networks, the company that's responsible for delivering electricity to 3.5 million homes and businesses across Central and Southern Scotland, Cheshire, Merseyside, North Shropshire and North Wales.

We work around the clock every day of the year to make sure you have power by taking the electricity generated from power stations, wind farms and various other utilities, and transporting it through our transmission network. This network consists of over 4,000 km of overhead lines, 320 km of underground cables and 129 substations, which take the high-voltage supply and reduce it to the low voltage needed for use in the home.

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.
