

North Sea Link Connecting for the future

Summer 2020



North Sea Link keeping students connected with laptop donation

To assist with home learning during the UK-wide lockdown, the team behind the UK's longest subsea interconnector donated 51 laptops to a Northumberland primary school.

The move was part of a nationwide drive by National Grid, which has seen 1000 laptops, equipped with the latest software, donated to several schools across the country including Cambois Primary School.


The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a nationwide lockdown, meaning schools were forced to close. Teachers delivered work online throughout and many students are still being home schooled today.

Unfortunately, some pupils lack access to laptops and computers due to households having multiple children and shared technology.

[Read more on page 2](#)

Contact us

If you have any questions please contact our community relations team:

 0800 298 0405
(Monday to Friday between 9.00am – 5.00pm)

 nsinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk

Site update

The interconnectors in development are a key part of the critical infrastructure. The joint venture partners, National Grid and Statnett, will, together with our contractors, maintain priority work on the NSL Interconnector project whilst



ensuring our work and activities are within current government guidelines.

[Read more on page 2](#)



Project update

The welfare of our employees, contractors and the community remain our priority. All our people who need to continue working on site and travel through the community are doing so under appropriate health and safety measures to protect themselves and others.

Works in East Sleekburn converter site:

- All building structures on site have now been constructed. Internal works in all buildings are ongoing (including the installation of all high voltage equipment).
- All seven transformers have now been installed.
- Commissioning of the high voltage equipment will start within the next few months.

Cable installations – Part A (near Brock Lane):

- Excavation work is currently underway through the fields adjacent to Brock Lane, in order to install the cable connecting the converter station to the existing National Grid substation.

Cable installations – Part B (near Cambois):

- All cable installation works have now been completed.
- There are plans to carry out additional light planting works later this year.
- The resurfacing of The Bucca will be completed by Northumberland County Council later this year.

We would like to thank you once again for your patience and understanding during our cable installations. If you have any questions about our ongoing work or would like to discuss the project in more detail, please see the contact us information on the front page.



North Sea Link keeping students connected with laptop donation

Staff from North Sea Link, a joint venture between National Grid and Statnett Norway, which will allow sharing of green energy, previously donated 30 laptops to assist with online work last year.

The existing 30 and additional 51 laptops, accompanied by 'Griddles' the teddy bear, were safely delivered to pupils who needed them. Many of the laptops are now in the process of being returned to the school for continued use once it fully reopens in September.

North Sea Link project director, Nigel Williams said: "This has been such a challenging time for all households. Many parents are still working from home whilst juggling home schooling.

"Having to share laptops, tablets and computers can really impact productivity and can be frustrating to all involved. We wanted to ensure that the pupils who needed an additional laptop or access to the latest technology had this."

Headteacher Marianne Allan added: "We're very grateful to everyone from North Sea Link for their continued support and to National Grid for making this possible. Our teachers, pupils and their parents are working extremely hard to ensure minimal disruption to education.

"Cambois is a small community and North Sea Link have really helped us stay connected now more than ever and it's greatly appreciated."

News in brief



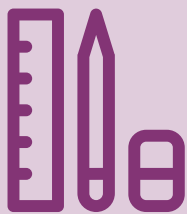
Covid-19 update

The Covid-19 lockdown caused minimal disruption to the Interconnector project and the project remains on schedule. Staff who can work from home are doing so and those who cannot are social distancing, with handwashing measures in place across all sites. All safety precautions are in line with government guidelines.



Care home assistance

The North Sea Link project team has been busy reaching out to the wider community, providing several care homes, including Wansbeck Care Home, with face masks and more than 600 bottles of hand sanitiser. The team is still helping care homes across Northumberland.



Donation to Cambois Primary

To support students and staff who've returned to the school premises, we have donated PPE material, new pencil cases and writing material.

No boat? No problem!

National Grid powers ahead achieving a major engineering feat to enable Norway's zero carbon hydro energy to be shared with the UK.

North Sea Link, a joint venture project between National Grid and Norwegian system operator Statnett, is a subsea electricity cable that will connect the UK and Norwegian electricity grids.

Before being able to lay the cable in Norway, the team first had to tackle manoeuvring the cable through a beautiful lake, which cannot be accessed by the size of the vessel, usually required for cable laying.

Instead, the team have transported materials piece by piece to build their own custom-made floating platform.



The operation is the first of its kind in this scale in Norway, and the construction of the platform had an average of 25 people working on it daily over the course of 11 days. This unique operation in Suldalsvatnet, marks the start of the cable laying on the Norwegian side.

Working at depths of up to 210 metres, the laying of the 2.8km parallel subsea cables was executed from a 43 x 15 metre platform – equivalent to the size of two tennis courts.

The equipment required to lay the cable was then installed on the platform, and within 12 hours, 150 tonnes of cable were loaded on board. The platform held all the necessary equipment that is usually found on offshore cable laying vessels.

Nigel Williams, Construction Director for National Grid North Sea link said, "The engineering that has taken place to lay high-voltage cables below the seabed is remarkable. The difficult terrain, the depth of the waters, and all in amidst of operating during a pandemic has made it extremely challenging. Nevertheless, we have powered through and remained on track with our project timelines."

Following this major feat of engineering, the next milestone is to lay the cable out from the fjords in Suldal, to the North Sea this summer. This work will be carried out throughout the remainder of the year, and by 2021 the two parallel 720km cables between Cambois, Northumberland in the UK and Kviteseid, in Norway will have been completed to make North Sea Link the longest subsea power cable interconnector in the world.

By 2021, North Sea Link will be operational and the 1.4-gigawatt electricity interconnector will allow the UK to import enough clean energy to power up to 1.4 million homes.

North Sea Link



Memorial garden

The NSL team was delighted to donate two wooden cable reels to a group of local residents in East Sleekburn West, who have created a wonderful memorial garden in memory of their neighbour who sadly passed away as a result of Covid-19. The efforts were led by Mrs Heather Proudlock and her neighbours.

Sally Barson, communications and stakeholder manager at NSL, said:

“It was a pleasure to play a very small role in supporting the creation of such a special space. The creation of the garden shows how strong the community is and it’s truly a project to be proud of.”

