

# North Sea Link Connecting for the future

Spring 2020



The project team behind the North Sea Link Interconnector is teaching local school pupils about renewable energy from its state-of-the-art Energy Education Centre in Northumberland.


Staff from the company's interconnector project in Cambois, home to the world's longest subsea electricity cable, are encouraging schools and teachers to visit the free Energy Education Centre, open to schools in the area.

The Centre, a joint venture between National Grid and Norwegian system operator, Statnett, will enable children from across the county to learn more about the technologies used to produce green energy.

Pupils will also learn about the exciting opportunities a career in engineering can offer, particularly in the North East where latest research by National Grid\* reveals 21,000 new recruits will be needed in the future. [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](mailto:nsinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk)

## Project update

Statnett and National Grid North Sea Link Limited are working together to construct an electricity interconnector between Norway and the UK.

[Read more on page 2](#)



# Project update

North Sea Link will connect the electricity systems of the two countries via high voltage subsea cables from Kvitlidal in Norway to Blyth in the UK. Passing through Norwegian and British waters, North Sea Link will be operational in 2021 and will be the longest subsea interconnector in the world. NSL consists of two key components, the cable system and the converter stations. One converter site is being built in Blyth, Northumberland and the other in Kvitlidal, Norway.



The converter stations transport and convert energy via a cable known as an interconnector. Construction of both converter sites is well underway. They are being built by ABB and use high-voltage direct current (HVDC) technology, which has been specially designed to transmit power underground, underwater and over a long distance.

The cable is being manufactured and installed by two different contractors; Prysmian and Nexans. Nexans is responsible for 500km of cable, which runs from Norway. Prysmian is supplying approximately 950km to the UK and Norwegian North Sea sections of the route.

Prysmian have completed five lengths of cabling so far with the remaining lengths scheduled for installation this year. Nexans are due to start their cable works in May with completion anticipated in 2021.

Looking ahead, in order to meet domestic and international renewable and climate change targets, the UK and Norway will continue to generate more power from renewable sources, including offshore and onshore wind, alongside large and small-scale hydropower plants. Interconnectors provide an effective way to manage fluctuations in energy supply and demand. North Sea Link is working to help increase opportunities for shared use of renewable energy, including wind power from the UK and hydropower from Norway.

## Energy Education Centre helps spark interest in renewable energy careers



The number of recruits estimated to deliver projects such as offshore wind and the interconnector off the coast of Blyth in Northumberland is part of the 'Net Zero Energy Workforce' report. The report shows the UK will need to fill 400,000 jobs into its energy sector if it is to meet its target to deliver net zero emissions by 2050.

Blyth Academy is the latest school to visit the Energy Education Centre. 75 pupils aged between 11-14 enjoyed a fully interactive day using equipment including VR headsets and energy generating bikes.

North Sea Link communications manager, Sallyanne Barson, said: "Over the coming years, we're hoping to welcome over 2,000 pupils to the Energy Education Centre. Through interactive activities we can give pupils an inside look into the world of renewable energy, interconnectors and the partnership between the UK and Norway.

"It's important that we are able to give this insight to students as many will go on to work towards the 2050 net zero target. With 400,000 energy sector workers needed over the next 30 years, we're pleased we can offer free access to the Energy Education Centre as one visit could help influence the future career goals of several students."

Richard Kirkby, assistant principal at the Academy added: "The students had a great afternoon. The future of our planet and green energy is important to us all, and the students going through the education system now will play a huge part in sustainability for years to come.

"Pupils are already very aware of the impacts of climate change and the visit to the Education Centre helped give them a further understanding of clean energy, the planet's future, construction and careers in STEM subjects.

I'd advise that other local schools take advantage of this free facility as it's highly informative."

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**The North Sea Link Energy Education Centre is open for prearranged visits. To arrange a visit call freephone: 0800 298 0405 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday UK hours (an answer phone is available outside of core hours) or email: [nslinkinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:nslinkinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk).**



## News in brief



The upcoming launch of a new pen pal partnership set up by North Sea Link will see pupils from a primary school in Kvilldal, Norway and Cambois learning more about each other's countries and school days.



Transformers weighing approximately 220 tonnes completed their international road trip at the end of February this year. The transformers travelled from Ludvika in Sweden by a combination of rail and sea to the Port of Blyth. They have now reached their final destination; the North Sea Link Converter Site in Cambois.



Pupils at Cambois Primary School celebrated British Science Week (6-15 March) with a bespoke Mad Science event. The session, which took place at the school, included experiments and interactive activities which helped students understand how energy is generated and the importance of renewable energy.

## North Sea Link delivers road safety awareness workshop

The team behind the world's longest subsea electricity cable, North Sea Link, hosted a fun-packed activity day for Cambois Primary School pupils to encourage greater understanding of road safety.

North Sea Link staff were keen to help educate local youngsters and prevent further accidents in the area. In 2019 Northumberland saw over 300 collisions, including 40 involving children. The specially organised event actively engaged 70 pupils aged from 3 to 11 years, and promoted the importance of staying alert and showing caution when walking or playing next to roads.



Following the school assembly, the North Sea Link team, joined by contractors APS and ABB, brought a variety of diggers and small construction vehicles for the children to explore. APS also kindly donated items to the school including scooters, footballs and other sporting equipment.

Staff were then joined by West Hartford Community Fire Station who, as well as exploring the dangers of all types of road vehicles, brought along a fire truck.

North Sea Link Communications Manager, Sallyanne Barson, said: "As Cambois is a small village, many of the children aren't used to busy main roads or seeing larger construction vehicles so often. That's why it's important for us to host regular events for the pupils and make them fully aware of the dangers.

"This is the second year we've arranged an event like this. The day was highly interactive with games, competitions, prizes and physical activities for all age groups. Having the involvement of the local community, firefighters from West Hartford and our contractors was hugely beneficial to the youngsters, so we're looking to build on this."

Marianne Allan, Headteacher at Cambois Primary School, added, "We're really grateful to North Sea Link for once again running a road safety awareness day. The children loved it, especially when they were given the opportunity to ask firefighters and construction workers questions whilst exploring their vehicles."

# North Sea Link

A look back at 2019



## Engaging communities

We are a responsible neighbour, working closely with local communities and key stakeholders in the UK and Norway.

