

Community Relations Team:  
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Mr David Morris MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

21 December 2016

Dear David,

Thank you for taking the time to meet David Clayton, Stephen Radford-Hancock and me on 2 December. As discussed, I wanted to put down in writing some of the main points for your reference.

### **Tunnel under Morecambe Bay**

As you are aware, a key element of our proposals for exporting the electricity produced by the proposed new nuclear power station in west Cumbria is the tunnel under Morecambe Bay. One end of this proposed tunnel would be at Roosecote Power Station, near Barrow, and the other would be at the existing substation in Middleton, near to Heysham.

As recently discussed, we are proposing two potential construction sites near Heysham, with only the Middleton substation site being a permanent feature. The work that will take place at the existing Middleton substation includes the construction of the tunnel, which involves the processing of the spoil removed and the construction of the substation equipment. Also included in this work is the removal of four existing pylons and the construction of one cable sealing end platform in order that we can place the existing 132kV connection permanently underground. We are subsequently reducing the wirescape for some in Windermere Park.

The proposed works can be seen clearly on the works plans on our website, [www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/documents.asp](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/documents.asp). To view the relevant Works Plans visit Volume 3 – Plans and Drawings > Volume 3.1 Works Plans > NWCC WORKS PLANS H3. Alternatively you can see the works on our interactive map at [www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/map.asp](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/map.asp).

Our proposals also include a temporary tunnel shaft and associated compound, closer to the shore near Heysham Port. This would only be used to enable any maintenance that was required on the tunnel boring machine, and would be returned to its previous state once the work is completed. The location of this shaft is visible on sheet 146 of the works plans.

### **Minimising disruption**

Tunnelling works and associated above ground activity at the Middleton site would precede the installation of the associated low height infrastructure. While the tunnelling works are being undertaken there may be a small number of tall silos, up to 20m in height. However, if we need to use these silos, they will not be there for the entire duration of the construction work.

The potential impact of construction work at the site of the tunnel head at Middleton has been considered as part of our ongoing assessments. Our proposals, including environmental measures put in place to reduce any potential impacts of the project, such as tree planting, are not expected to have any significant effects on the majority of nearby residential properties. We will consider measures such as restricted working hours on site and less intrusive methods of construction to limit the disruption to local communities.

We are also currently working with a series of stakeholders, including Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council and rail, highways and port operators, to develop appropriate solutions for moving materials and workers to and from construction sites, in order to minimise the disruption to residents. These methods include the use of road, rail, sea and helicopters. Our initial studies are included in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report and form part of our current consultation.

When completed, the scale of the site will be significantly reduced to only include the permanent infrastructure required for the operation of the tunnel and the connection to the transmission network. The completed site plans for the permanent infrastructure at the Middleton substation can also be found on our website at [Volume 3 > Volume 3.7 Site Layout Plans > Site Layout Plans](#).

You can watch a series of films to learn more about the different technologies that we are proposing to use to make our connection. This includes a tunnelling video, which gives people an idea of the anticipated works at the head house sites. These are all available to view on our website: [www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/projectfilms.asp](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/bgo/projectfilms.asp).

### **Associated benefits**

We are keen to deliver as much economic benefit as possible for communities by providing supply chain opportunities and jobs.

We have a CompeteFor portal on the project website and encourage local businesses to register their details to be notified of upcoming opportunities to support the project. More details are available online at: [www.competefor.com/nationalgrid](http://www.competefor.com/nationalgrid).

If we are granted consent to build the project by the Planning Inspectorate, the construction phase of the project could create many jobs and we hope to source a significant proportion from people living in Cumbria and Lancashire.

### **Next steps**

As this is an ongoing consultation, we would welcome any feedback or comments your constituents have on the proposals we're currently consulting on. The deadline for receipt of feedback to this consultation is 5pm on Friday 6 January 2017.

Members of the public can supply feedback online on our website, [www.northwestcoastconnections.com](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com). They can also reply using a feedback form, which can be collected at a consultation event or from information points (details on these are available on our website), or on request from the project team. These can then be posted to **FREEPOST NG NWCC**. Any written submissions sent to our freepost address, or emails sent to [nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com](mailto:nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com), will also be accepted as feedback.

Should your constituents have any questions they can also contact the project team directly by Freephone: **0800 876 6990**, or by sending an email or letter to the addresses set out above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

**Robert Powell**  
**National Grid**  
**Project Manager – North West Coast Connections**