

National Grid surveys shed light on 300 million year history of Morecambe Bay

News Release

13 July 2016

- **Samples dating back 300 million years being analysed following first major survey work in Morecambe Bay for five decades**
- **Findings will give a new insight into the geological make-up of the bay through the ages**
- **Information and samples will be shared with British Geological Survey**
- **The surveys were carried out as part of investigations for the North West Coast Connections Project**

National Grid is currently analysing the results of surveys which will give geologists and historians an insight into the history of Morecambe Bay dating back 300 million years.

Over the past two months, engineering firm Fugro has been drilling boreholes in Morecambe Bay as part of information gathering for National Grid's North West Coast Connections project.

The results have given an insight into the conditions which make the bay hospitable to wildlife, showing how habitats renew to allow small crustaceans to survive.

They have also produced layers from different eras – ranging from the last Ice Age to as far back as 300 million years ago.

These were the first major surveys carried out in Morecambe Bay since 1968 and the first to ever be carried out in this area of the bay.

Some of the samples have been sent for microscopic analysis and carbon dating and National Grid has offered to share the samples and information with the British Geological Survey.

Robert Powell, National Grid project manager, said: "As well as providing valuable analysis for the NWCC project, these surveys have given us the opportunity to uncover fascinating information about Morecambe Bay.

"We're also delighted to be able to share our findings with the British Geological Survey. We hope that they provide an interesting and valuable insight into the bay."

The surveys were carried out to help determine the route of a proposed tunnel to carry electricity cables under Morecambe Bay as part of the North West Coast Connections project.

The project is being carried out to connect the proposed nuclear power station at Moorside, West Cumbria, to the electricity network.

Details of the latest proposals will be made publicly available throughout a consultation later this year.

The proposals National Grid will be consulting on will provide details on where and how to build a new connection going:

- north from Moorside to a point on the existing network at Harker, near Carlisle; and
- south from Moorside across the Barrow Peninsula, through a tunnel which goes under Morecambe Bay and surfaces at an existing substation in Middleton, near Heysham in Lancashire, where it can connect into the existing network.

In advance of this people wishing to receive information about the consultation and the proposed connection design are encouraged to register their details on the North West Coast Connections project website: www.northwestcoastconnections.com.

People can also register for text alerts by texting 'NWCC' to **80800** to receive notification when information about the project becomes available.

For any other enquiries, please contact the project team direct using any of the following methods:

- Freephone: 0800 876 6990
- Email: nationalgrid@northwestcoastconnections.com
- Freepost: Freepost NG NWCC

End

Contact for media information only:

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Photos:

Image One caption – National Grid and Fugro staff analysing samples taken from Morecambe Bay

Image Two caption – Fugro staff analysing samples taken from Morecambe Bay

Image Three caption – Seismic survey chart showing the different layers of Morecambe Bay

Notes to Editors:

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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 11 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 and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.
- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.



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