

## **Hinkley Connection Project COVID-19 update**

As an owner and operator of critical national infrastructure, we at National Grid know that millions of people are relying on us, now more than ever, to keep the lights on and the gas flowing. We have engineers working hard to ensure energy can be supplied safely and efficiently to hospitals, schools, businesses and homes across the country.

Many roles across our business have been designated as 'key worker' roles by the government and, at a time when everyone is being asked to stay at home wherever possible, some of our people are out there working to ensure our NHS can care for the sick, businesses and schools can continue to operate, and that people can work from home in these unusual circumstances.

The Hinkley Connection Project is a critical national infrastructure project. These are works that have been given government approval to continue to ensure the future running of the network.

Following robust risk assessments and a comprehensive review of our programme of works, we are now, together with our contractors, continuing to progress with the critical elements of the project, in line with current Government guidance on construction activity.

We have significantly reduced our workforce and those on site are working under stringent site operating procedures to safeguard the remaining workforce, their colleagues, their families and the UK population. We have, for example, restricted travel between our sites and removed skin contact entry systems, such as fingerprint scanners.

Work this week is focused on installation of additional hand washing facilities, deep cleaning of offices, installation of extra welfare cabins and additional parking provision at the compounds, so that guidelines around social distancing can be met. Next week, activity is set to resume with work in the west end of Nailsea and on the bellmouths at Clevedon Road, Church Lane and Washing Pound Lane.

After Easter we anticipate that work will start on the bellmouths at Whitehouse Lane. We're pleased to confirm that we won't need to close Whitehouse Lane as originally proposed, the work will be done using two way temporary lights.

To meet seasonal working restrictions, we must also restart works in Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve. Activity will continue as per the agreed programme of works, though progress will undoubtedly be slower.

We take our responsibilities to our employees and the communities in which we are working very seriously. In this challenging and fast-moving situation, we are endeavouring to keep local communities informed via our project website and parish and town councils.

We are placing additional signs at our sites to inform the public of the continuation of critical works during the COVID-19 outbreak and direct people to contact our community relations helpline if they have any questions or concerns.