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1. National infrastructure projects in England and Wales are considered by the Planning [Inspectorate](#) based in Bristol, which works under the Planning Act 2008 process as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A separate national [infrastructure page](#) leads to reports on projects. These arrangements replaced the old [IPC](#) which closed in 2012.

2. The Triton Knoll connection is again under [examination](#) from 3<sup>rd</sup> September. This project, now called the Triton Knoll Electrical System, is to connect the offshore Triton Knoll wind farm to the national grid in Lincolnshire. Earlier versions went to IPC procedures in 2011-2012 amid strong local objection to implied new 400 kV overhead lines on the national grid. Developers RWE later changed their plans in favour of longer underground AC cables, totalling some 100 km, linking the wind farm to (near) the existing National Grid Bicker Fen substation via an intermediate compound near Skegness (revolt [news364](#)).

3. The earlier proposals for connecting Triton Knoll announced an RWE substation near Skegness but were much more coy about a mooted National Grid 400 kV substation called Mumby together with a new 400 kV overhead line from Grimsby to beyond Boston. That 'phantom' Mumby substation is briefly (historically) mentioned in NG's current document Interface Selection Assessment Report ([ISAR](#)), which concludes in favour of the new connection directly at Bicker Fen.

4. National Grid's other [projects](#) include upgrading works at [Spalding](#) and the nearby tee at Moulton Seas End, presently on hold. This looks like the site of another new 'phantom' 400 kV substation, Weston Marsh, listed in [ETYS](#) 2014 with code WMAR but otherwise hard to find mention or detail. The new substation is to have new 400 kV double circuit overhead lines to Bicker Fen, to Spalding North and to Walpole by 2020.

5. Lincolnshire County Council has continued its opposition to the Triton Knoll connection, raising a formal complaint last year, objecting to the splitting of the project into offshore and onshore and National Grid elements. Local MPs Matt Warman (Boston & Skegness) and Victoria Atkins (Louth & Horncastle) have this September submitted concerns about the cumulative impact and non-disclosure of information about Triton Knoll and the [Viking Link](#) HVDC interconnector project also earmarked for Bicker Fen.

6. The Viking Link project is one of four interconnectors given a "[cap and floor regime](#)" by Ofgem. This is not planning consent, but a form of Ofgem regulatory go-ahead for near-term projects, which may give them a foot in the door. It's part of Ofgem's Integrated Transmission Planning and Regulation ([ITPR](#)) project. Since Ofgem [opened up](#) this route last year, five projects have been considered and four granted initial cap-and-floor regime (subject to conditions):

- FAB Link (1.4 GW Exeter to France): granted July 2015
- Greenlink (500 MW Pembroke to Ireland): not yet granted July 2015

- IFA 2 (1 GW Chilling (Solent) to France): granted July 2015
- NSN (1.4 GW Blyth to Norway): granted March 2015
- Viking Link (1.4 GW Bicker Fen to Denmark): granted July 2015

7. Ofgem operates another scheme, [Strategic Wider Works](#) (SWW), to progress new grid developments coming up outside the agreed 8-year pricing package to 2021. Again, Ofgem's role is setting price controls, not giving planning consent. Projects already listed include several onshore and offshore 400 kV lines and HVDC cables in Scotland's Northern Isles, Western Isles, West Coast, East Coast, Highlands and South West.

8. A [news item](#) 8<sup>th</sup> September from National Grid's Mid Wales Project reports: "In September, DECC announced the outcome of the inquiry into five proposed wind farms in Mid Wales – four of them would have used our proposed connection. DECC has refused planning consent for all four. There are other wind farms looking to connect in Mid Wales. Now that the decision on the wind farm inquiry is known, we will work with SP Manweb to take a look at all of the proposed wind generation in Mid Wales and the work that is needed to deliver the energy from the wind farms to homes and businesses. If it's established National Grid's connection is not needed, we would not progress with our plans."

9. Andrew Hope writes that the fifth mid-Wales wind farm, which DECC approved, has no approved connection, as the 35 km 132 kV Llandinam wind farm connection to Welshpool was [rejected](#) by Amber Rudd on 7<sup>th</sup> September, over-ruling the planning inspector's recommendation, as a likely better route alternative had been identified. The inspector had recommended approval in part, allowing for partial undergrounding. The Secretary of State's decision escapes partial undergrounding in favour of a possible revised route which would require a new application.

10. US blogger [Keryn Newman](#), highly successful opponent of inappropriate powerline proposals, has ended off a blog September 9 with Queen's "*We are the champions*". Keryn was in touch with our pylons songs compilation last year. The objectors had famously defeated a 765 kV giant development in 2012 but the battle rumbles on over costs. It seems the power company had claimed (and received) costs in its regulated residential electricity prices ("rates") for advertising and lobbying to influence public officials. Keryn, with Alison Haverty, complained. After 5 years of difficult procedures and a 15-day hearing they have a result. A judge has given an [Initial Decision](#) on September 14 (subject to confirmation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) that the company should repay some \$6 million. Keryn says "It's highly unusual for residential ratepayers like us to ever engage in this process. In fact, I'm pretty sure it's never been done before."

11. The EU Bestgrid project's [final conference](#) was September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The project aimed "to improve local and public acceptance for grid development processes". That does sound like a PR exercise, to suppress and defeat public objection, especially with 'findings' like "Current EU legislation is beneficial for reducing environmental impacts". Yet it also promotes "early and meaningful participation by affected communities and other stakeholders". The project has the delicate task of persuading both industry and public stakeholders. The project produced two reports, issued September 23<sup>rd</sup>, one on [public participation](#) and one on [protecting nature](#). In the light

of some of the above examples in this newsletter, we are still a very long way from “early and meaningful” public participation.

12. And finally, hats off to [Yogi Berra](#) who died this week aged 90. Without thinking about it, I supposed he got his nick-name from [Yogi Bear](#). I only heard of Berra many years after I first watched Yogi Bear. But it seems it’s the other way round! Yogi Berra had been a household name in America before Yogi Bear’s debut. Beware the many pitfalls of attributing cause! “If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be.”

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