

Giant load on the road in Suffolk

Massive electricity transformer sets out from Lowestoft to its new home near Sizewell

27 Sep 2016

- Journey planned for Saturday morning to avoid weekday traffic
- Transformer will help deliver clean, renewable electricity to thousands of homes

National Grid is advising motorists that a massive 170 tonne supergrid electricity transformer will be taking to Suffolk's roads this Saturday (1 October).

The size of a small bungalow, it will leave Lowestoft Docks between 8am and 9am on Saturday morning before making its way along the A12 to a new electricity substation at Leiston.

Flanked by police outriders and transported on a 20-axle trailer by a specialist haulage team, the load will have a maximum speed of 12 miles per hour. The 26-mile journey could take up to six hours to complete.

The transformer will be installed at a new National Grid electricity substation near Leiston. It will help take renewable, green electricity generated by the new Galloper offshore windfarm to thousands of homes and businesses.

National Grid and its partners in the move, heavy-load specialists Collet and Sons Ltd, have co-ordinated the huge task with military precision to keep traffic disruption and public inconvenience to a minimum.

National Grid project manager Jim Lewissaid: "We are sorry for any delays and disruption the delivery might cause but it is essential that the journey is trouble free. The transformer is a vital piece of equipment that will allow electricity generated by the new Galloper offshore windfarm to reach homes and business."

Route of the transformer

- Leave South Quay, Lowestoft and join A12 South
- Continue on A12 for 19.2 miles
- Turn left on to B1122 and continue for 4.7 miles
- Turn left into Lovers Lane for 2.1 miles before arriving at destination

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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