

National Grid applies to build new substation for Network Rail electrification project

National Grid applies for planning consent for a new substation near Market Harborough to help Network Rail power Midland Main Line electrification

10 Oct 2017

National Grid has submitted two planning applications for a new electricity substation and access road in Braybrooke parish near Market Harborough in Leicestershire.

The substation will provide electricity supplies to a proposed new trackside feeder station. Network Rail will build the trackside feeder station as part of its plans to upgrade the Midland Main Line.

National Grid has now submitted two separate planning applications for the electricity substation off Harborough Road and a permanent 1.6km long access road from Kettering Road, off the A6.

One of the planning applications is to Kettering Borough Council for the electricity substation and part of the new access road.

The other is to Harborough District Council for the remainder of the access road.

The new access road will keep construction and operational traffic away from Braybrooke and Market Harborough.

Andrea Robertson, project manager at National Grid, said: "The submission of the planning applications follows on from our successful community consultation last month which was attended by more than 60 people.

"Our planning application is for a substation compound which is approximately the size of one and a half football pitches. The substation will provide supplies to the proposed new trackside feeder station which Network Rail will build as part of its Midland Main Line upgrade and electrification programme. It's a low-profile site and we intend to follow the topography of the land to keep the equipment height as low as possible. This will minimise what people will be able to see."

The permanent 1.2km long access road to the north of the site, off Kettering Road will keep construction and operational traffic away from Braybrooke and Market Harborough where people live and where the roads are narrow."

Construction is due to start towards the end of the year, subject to planning approval. The work is expected to take up to two years to complete.

The Midland Main Line railway is undergoing the largest upgrade since it was completed in 1870.

Upgrades to the line include track realignment, station remodelling, capacity works, bridge reconstructions and signalling improvements.

In addition, the line from Bedford via Kettering to Corby will be electrified by December 2019 – enabling faster, more efficient trains to operate on the network and a quieter, cleaner environment for lineside neighbours.

The new substation is one of four new supply points along the railway. The first at Charlton in London is underway. The second at Braybrooke is needed for October 2020.

Anyone who'd like to receive a copy of the planning application should contact National Grid's Community Relations team on 0800 073 1047. They're available daily from 7am and 7pm. Alternatively they can email braybrookequery@jbp.co.uk

Contact for media information only

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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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