



Kearsley to Whitegate

Overhead line refurbishment

March 2019

nationalgrid



Our commitment to you

During the work our primary concerns are ensuring the safety of the public and minimising disruption to the local community. We are committed to working with our neighbours and will keep in regular contact with those directly affected. We will make every effort to ensure we carry out the work as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Refurbishment of an overhead line

An overhead line is constructed using a variety of materials, from concrete and steel for the foundations, to steelwork for the pylon and aluminium and steel for the conductors.

All these materials have an expected lifespan which varies depending on how the overhead line is used and where it is located. Typically, the pylons will last for about 80 years, whereas the conductors, insulators and fittings normally last for about 40 years.

As a result of this each overhead line will usually go through at least one refurbishment during its lifespan. The refurbishment is carried out as two separate periods of work.

This is because overhead lines have two circuits, one on each side of the pylon, so work is carried out on one side only, in order that the other side can be kept 'live'. Once all the work has been completed on one side of the overhead line, the circuit is switched back on, and the opposite side is switched off so that the work can be carried out on that side.

Fittings only

We will be doing a fittings only refurbishment. This involves the replacement of the insulators and all the fittings that hold the conductors and insulators in place. The conductor (the powerline) is in good condition and does not need replacing. During a refurbishment there is a lot of activity near or around pylons. This includes vans carrying workers in and out of site, vehicles and plant for doing the work, and trucks taking new materials and equipment into site and removing the old materials. We'll also be doing access and accommodation works to enable vehicle and plant access to site, and opening site yards to house the staff, equipment and materials for the works.

What you will see when we are doing this work

You will see people working on the pylons, along with a range of machinery and other vehicles in the areas that we are working in. You will also see our traffic management signs on the roads where, for safety reasons, we need to control the flow of vehicles or close roads. These signs will warn road users of our work in the area and will remain in place throughout the project. We will also need to close some footpaths and roads – diversion routes will be signposted where diversions are possible. We will need to use some residents and businesses land to work from. We have already been in contact with and met with those affected.

We will do everything we can to minimise disruption but safety will be our highest priority.



Some of your questions answered

What will your working hours be?

Our team will be working during daylight hours with some weekend working when required. We will do everything possible to keep disturbance to the local community to a minimum.

Will the work mean additional traffic in the area?

Yes, you may notice more vehicles in the area but to ensure that we minimise disruption to the local community, we will provide clear signs and ensure vehicle movements are kept to a minimum where possible.

We will emphasise to our staff and contractors the special care that they need to take when driving in the area.

What will the impact be on the local roads and public rights of way?

Some local roads will have closures or traffic management during our work. Residents and businesses in these areas will be written to with details of our plans before we start work. We will put up signs well before we close roads to warn people and during any closures diversion routes will be in place and sign posted.

We will agree a traffic management plan with the local authority and look to minimise the impact as much as possible.

When we are working we may have to close some footpaths and cycle paths. This is for the safety of the public and our teams. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. These closures are in place for your safety so please make sure you follow them.

Will there be local power cuts during the proposed work?

No. This work will have no impact on your electricity supply. The overhead line we will be working on is part of the national transmission system and has no direct effect on homes, businesses, schools and other premises in the local area.

Do you need access to other people's land?

Wherever we need to work in or above private land a member of our Land and Acquisitions Team will contact the landowner to discuss this in advance of any work taking place. Following the work we will fully reinstate the area as agreed with the landowner.

Improving the Kearsley to Whitegate Overhead Line

National Grid is undertaking planned refurbishment of the 15km overhead electricity line that runs between our substations at Kearsley and Whitegate.

We will be replacing fixtures and fittings and painting pylons – there will be no new pylons.

What work is being done?

The main refurbishment work will involve replacing fixtures and fittings on the 45 pylons along the route. We will also be painting the pylons. In order for our teams to do the work safely we need to work separately on each of the two electrical circuits.

We will work on the first circuit in the summer of 2019 and the second in the spring of 2020.

To create safe working areas around the pylons we will be cutting back some trees and other vegetation.

Where required we will also be making some improvements to drainage channels and to path edges by laying stone on access paths to allow us to get our vehicles and machinery into the working areas.

Working with the environment

At the beginning of each project we consider carefully the environmental effects of our work to ensure that any potential impacts to the environment are minimised. We have undertaken ecology surveys in all the areas that we will be working in.





About us

National Grid is an international electricity company and one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We play a vital role in delivering electricity to millions of people across Great Britain in an efficient, reliable and safe manner. We are committed to safeguarding our global environment for future generations, tackling the effects of climate change, and to providing all of our customers with the highest standards of service.

National Grid owns the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operates the system across Great Britain.

Contact us



You can find out more information by



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