

Coleshill to Bedworth refurbishment of electricity pylons and overhead lines

Frequently Asked Questions



national**grid**

Why are you doing this work?

Our job is to maintain the overhead power line circuit so the electricity network is kept in first class working order.

The power lines from Coleshill to Bedworth were built in the 1960s. We've maintained and repaired the lines for as long as possible, but it's no longer efficient. To keep the network in first-class working order and help meet future electricity demands, we must now complete our refurbishment works to replace the powerlines. This concludes activity we began in 2017.

What work are you doing?

During 2020, we'll work to replace the 20km overhead line running between Hams Hall substation near Coleshill and Coventry substation near Bedworth. The wires have now come to the end of their working life so we need to replace them. All the pylons along the route will get new fittings, new earthwire and a coat of paint. There's a section in the middle of the overhead line route where we only need to replace the earth wire at the top of the pylon, as we changed the fittings during our 2017 work.

Our £20 million investment in this refurbishment work will help to maintain the electricity supply in the area and keep power flowing to homes and businesses.

When will the work happen?

Preparation work to access the pylon locations will start in early December 2019. This includes tree cutting and vegetation clearance. We'll keep clearance to a minimum and will work under the watch of an ecologist. Our refurbishment work will begin in January 2020.

In order to keep disruption to a minimum, we'll work in sections. At times it may appear that nothing is happening, depending on where you live. That's because we're working elsewhere. The pylon route passes through Hams Hall National Distribution Park in Lea Marston, Shustoke, Fillongley, Wood End, Bedworth West, Goodyers End and Exhall.

Our working hours will be from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) and the same on Saturdays and Sundays.

Will you remove any trees or vegetation?

We're committed to minimising the impact of work on local wildlife and environment. We need to clear some trees and bushes from around the bases of some pylons and underneath overhead lines. This is so our contractor has safe access to work sites.

Will the vegetation be replaced?

When the refurbishment works have finished, we'll replant all trees that need to be removed and will work with landowners, the local authorities and conservation groups on the best options for the location and type of trees to be replanted.

Do birds nest on the pylons? What other wildlife could the work affect?

Some bird nests will need to be carefully removed from affected trees, bushes and pylons. All nests will be removed outside of nesting season in accordance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Conservation specialists will survey for bats, badgers, great crested newts and other species. They will put mitigation plans in place to ensure we have minimal impact on the environment. We're respectful of the environment and take steps to make sure natural habitats are maintained as much as possible.

Will you build any new pylons?

No. Our work on the overhead line is a full refurbishment of the existing pylons. This includes inspection of foundations, renovation of pylons and replacement of insulators, fittings and the overhead wire itself. There's a section in the middle of the overhead line route where we changed the fittings during our 2017 work. All we need to do now is replace the earth wire, at the top of the pylon.

Are all the people who work on the scheme National Grid employees?

We use experienced, well-trained and properly qualified contractors to carry out our work. For the refurbishment of the pylons we're using Balfour Beatty. All contractors are managed by National Grid and we monitor their performance closely.

The contractors aren't National Grid employees and so aren't able to answer questions on our behalf. For any questions or feedback, please contact our community relations team on 0800 073 1047. They're available daily from 7am to 7pm or email nationalgridcb@jbp.co.uk.

Will you close any roads and what traffic impacts will there be?

There may be temporary traffic management, as we install scaffolding and netting in specific locations. This will be lane closures and traffic lights rather than full road closures. During this time residents will have access to their driveways however, we may need to restrict parking on some roads while we work. We'll write to residents to keep them informed of any traffic impacts in good time.

Will you close any footpaths?

Our works cross some footpaths, which are Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Permissive Rights of Way. In the interest of safety for all footpath users, we'll enforce either short temporary footpath closures or diversions, while we work with netting, scaffolding and wire pulling. We'll do all we can to minimise our presence while we're in the area. We'll place advance notice and diversion signs at the closure points before we start, to help keep the community informed, and post closure information on our project website.

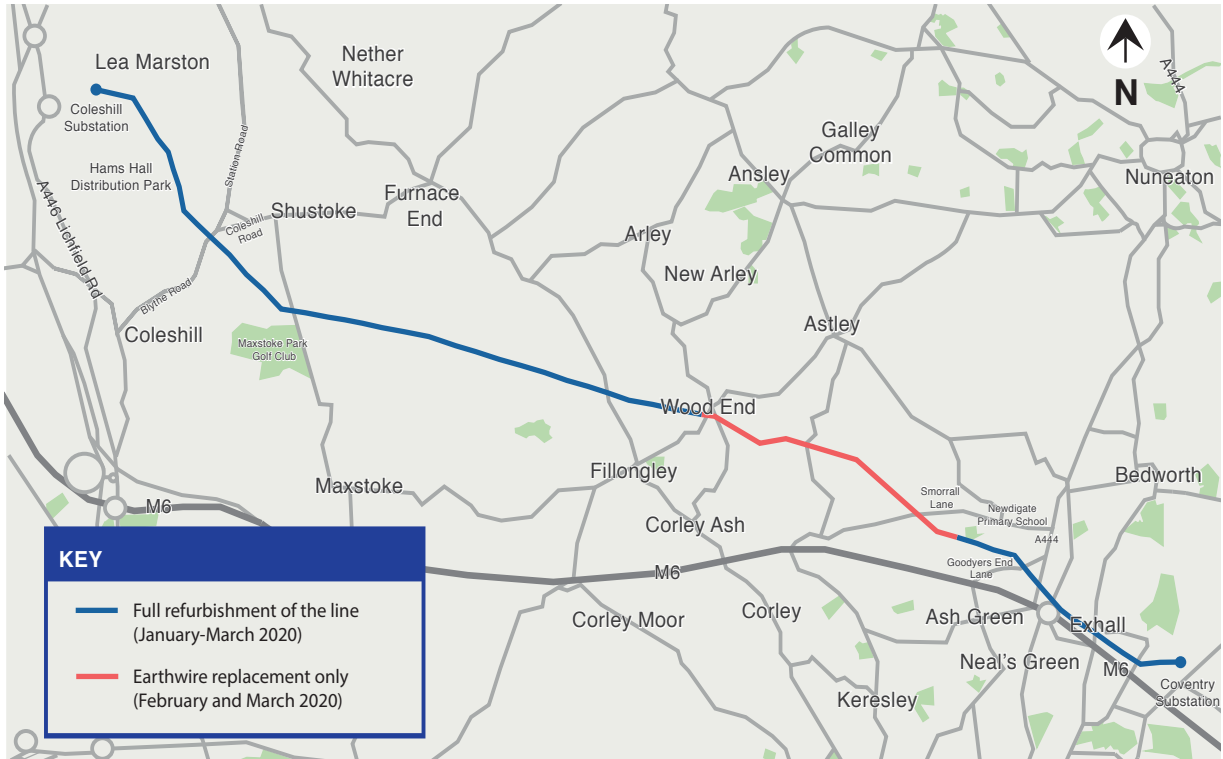
What benefit will the project bring to the local community?

Connecting cleaner, greener, low carbon energy sources benefits us all environmentally and helps meet our energy needs in the future, which is vital to sustain the way of life we all enjoy.

National Grid behaves as a responsible business and is committed to investing in the communities where it works. Charitable and community groups can apply for grant funding for community projects that benefit local people in areas where National Grid is operating, through our Community Grant Programme.

Details are available online at: <http://betl.nationalgrid.com>.





Who is National Grid?

We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. We're also responsible for the operation of the electricity transmission networks in Scotland.

Electricity is carried from power stations through a network of high voltage overhead lines and underground cables owned and operated by National Grid. It's then transmitted into towns and cities where local distributors take over and supply it to homes, schools, offices, factories and other premises.

Keeping you informed

We'll do all we can to minimise disruption while we work. We'll keep you up to date as we work and let you know well in advance of any road closures.

If you'd like any further information or have any questions about what we're doing, please contact our Community Relations team on **0800 073 1047** or email nationalgridcb@jbp.co.uk.

They're available daily from **7am to 7pm**. For the latest project information, visit

www.nationalgridet.com/coleshill-bedworth