

Community Newsletter

Snowdonia Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project



Welcome & project introduction



Steve Ellison
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National Grid

Hello and welcome to the first of our regular community newsletters, which will keep you updated throughout our work to transform the landscape across the Dwyryd Estuary in the Snowdonia National Park.

We've worked closely with local experts and the community over the past five years and taken on board your feedback throughout the planning stage. Local people are excited about the project and it's great to be getting started with work on the ground.

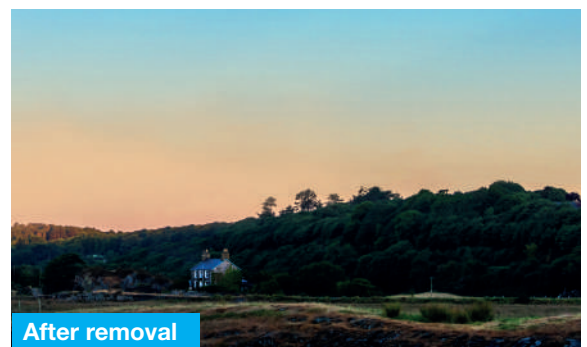
By the time we are finished towards the end of the 2020s, we will have removed ten pylons and roughly 3km of overhead line, reinvigorating the natural beauty of the estuary. It's going to be a significant engineering challenge, but we'll be minimising disruption to local people wherever we can.

In this first edition we'll remind you of the background to going underground in Snowdonia, how the community can benefit from us being here and what's coming next.

We're always keen to hear your views. Hopefully we'll see you at our drop-in event later this year, but in the meantime you can find our contact details on the back page.



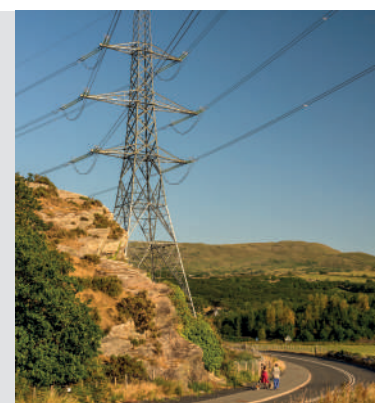
As it is today



After removal

Going Underground – key facts

- Ten pylons and around 3km of overhead electricity line to be removed
- Construction of a tunnel under Dwyryd Estuary for underground cables to replace them
- Two new tunnel headhouses at Garth and Llandecwyn
- Construction of one new sealing end compound and reconfiguration of another
- Site establishment underway, construction set to begin fully in 2023



Going Underground – what’s it all about?

The Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project is a world-first national initiative. It aims to significantly enhance the landscape in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks in England and Wales by reducing the visual impact of National Grid’s existing overhead lines. It also gives us a major opportunity to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and environmental heritage within our most protected landscapes.

There are already two VIP projects nearing the end of construction in the Peak District National Park and Dorset AONB, with others being planned in the North Wessex Downs AONB and Cotswolds National Landscape.

Planning permission for our project here in Snowdonia was granted by the Snowdonia National Park Authority and Gwynedd Council in July 2020. The section of overhead line being removed runs from Garth in the west near Minffordd,

across the Dwyryd Estuary and eastwards to just beyond Llandecwyn.

The electricity cables that replace the overhead line will be installed in a new tunnel being constructed under the estuary. We’ll also need to build two new tunnel head houses which will give access to the tunnel, along with a sealing end compound at the eastern end, which will connect the cables to the overhead line that will remain.

As it is today



After removal



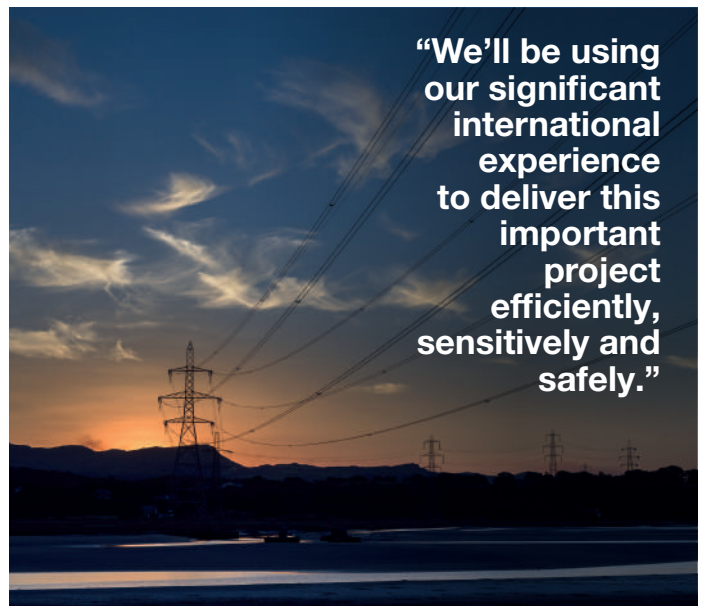
Meet our contractor

National Grid has appointed Hochtief UK as its delivery partner for the Snowdonia VIP project. The teams will work closely together to construct the tunnel underneath the estuary to carry the new electricity cables and then remove the existing overhead line.

Lars Bayer, Hochtief UK, said: “It’s a real honour to have been given the opportunity to work with National Grid on this major engineering scheme in such an incredibly beautiful part of Wales and we’re really looking forward to getting started.

“We’ll be using our significant international experience to deliver this important project efficiently, sensitively and safely, and are committed to engaging with the community throughout. We’ll work with you and do whatever we can to keep disruption to a minimum during the project.”

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National Grid in the community

Tackling de-fence!

In April this year, popular local football club, Penrhyndeudreath FC was awarded a grant of £20,000 from National Grid's Community Grant Programme which will be used to improve player and spectator safety at its Maes y Parc ground.

After submitting a successful application, the funding will be used to erect almost 250m of new double wire panel fence to keep players and children separated from a ditch that runs alongside the pitch to manage water runoff.

Barry Evans of Penrhyndeudreath FC with Steve Ellison of National Grid

Community Grant Programme

The Community Grant Programme is aimed at community organisations and charities in areas where National Grid's work is impacting on local people through our site activities - supporting projects which will benefit communities in the local area.

Could your group benefit?

If you know of a project that meets our criteria we'd love to hear from you.

Check out our website for more information on who can apply and how to do it –

www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme

A clean sweep for Llandudno's beaches

A team of 45 National Grid team members carried out a rigorous beach clean earlier in the spring on Llandudno's West Shore beach.

The work was co-ordinated by North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT). Nearly 50 bags of rubbish along with assorted pieces of wood, plastic

and netting were collected ready for removal by Conwy County Borough Council.

Following the clean up, the equipment used in the litter pick (grabbers and bin hoops) was donated to NWWT and was put to use straight away with a local school group.



The team line up before the beach spring clean

National Grid in the community

Going the extra mile

In June our very own Steve Ellison and Kelsey Beard took part in the annual Llandecwyn 10k race. The team is keen to get involved in community activities as the project progresses, so please let us know if you have any events we could support.



Working together

We'd like to thank everyone who is helping us with our project. Engaging with stakeholders and local communities is really important to us and we will continue to work with you throughout the project.

If you want to find out more about the VIP project and meet the team, we'll be hosting a public drop in event later in the year where you'll be able to learn more about the engineering work involved and what you can expect to see over the next few years. Further details will be announced nearer the time including via our website, so please continue to look out for updates.

The project's Community Liaison Group will meet and provide a forum for discussion throughout construction. It has been set up so that local groups and organisations can hear about the latest on the project, report any problems and provide local feedback.



The Community Liaison Group

Its members include community representatives from local schools, community and town councils, user groups and wildlife organisations as well as Gwynedd Council and the National Park. The first meeting was held at the end of June and provided an opportunity to introduce the project, provide a recap of our story so far, and a look ahead to what we'll be doing in the months ahead as work gets underway. If you'd like any further information please contact us using the details below.

As it is today



After removal



Get in touch

We're committed to providing updates throughout construction and will be sending regular newsletters to keep local people updated about our progress. However, we're always keen to hear from you.

Please get in touch by calling **0330 134 0051**

by writing to **Freepost VISUAL IMPACT PROVISION**

or by sending an email to **visualimpact@nationalgrid.com**

You can find out more about the project on our dedicated website:
www.nationalgrid.com/snowdoniavip

