

£8m investment in keeping lights on in Cheshire

National Grid to replace wires and fittings on 18km stretch of overhead power line

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Work to start on £8m project to help keep the lights on in Cheshire

- National Grid to refurbish 18km section of overhead line from Macclesfield to Bredbury
- Six month project will see new wires and fittings installed on 55 pylons
- Line has been in service for nearly 50 years and work will help keep the lights on for decades to come

National Grid engineers are starting preparation work this week as part of a major six month project to refurbish an 18km long overhead power line running between Macclesfield and Bredbury in Cheshire.

The £8m project will see new wires and fittings installed on the 55 pylons that make up the line which has been in constant service for nearly 50 years.

The company is writing to home and business owners along the route to explain what they will see as work gets underway. Electricity supplies will not be affected by the work and no new pylons will be built. Over the next few weeks work will be done to provide temporary access for workers, machines and materials. Work on replacing the line and its fittings will start in July and is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Ryan Hatcher, National Grid Project Manager said: "People may recall that we worked on this overhead power line around six years ago when we refurbished one side of the line. We usually try and do both sides as part of the same project but this line is a little different. Each side runs at a different voltage and splits to connect to a different part of the grid, meaning we couldn't do both sides together without turning off the electricity supply. We have planned carefully to minimise disruption during this essential maintenance work that will keep power flowing uninterrupted along this line, helping keep the lights on in Cheshire and beyond."

National Grid has applied for permission to close some roads and footpaths during the main works. Any closures will be widely publicised when the main work starts in the summer and signed diversions and advance warning signs will be put in place.

Engineers will work hard to keep noise and disruption to a minimum.

Ecology surveys have been done along the route to make sure the project causes as little disturbance as possible to local wildlife and work will comply with environmental legislation.

People with questions about the work can call National Grid's community relations team on 0800 819 9071 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. There is an answerphone service outside of these hours. People can also get in touch via the web page www2.nationalgrid.com/macclesfield-to-bredbury

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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