

[Home / Press Releases /](#)

£12m project to keep electricity flowing in Greater Manchester

National Grid is investing £12m in keeping the lights on in Greater Manchester with a project to install new cables on an overhead line between Whitegate and Rochdale

10 May 2016

- National Grid to refurbish 11km section of overhead line from Whitegate to Rochdale
- Six month project will see new wires and fittings installed on 36 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 11km long overhead power line running between electricity substations in Whitegate, near Chadderton and Rochdale.

The £12m project will see new wires and fittings installed on the 36 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 three months, some trees and vegetation will be cut back and trackways will be laid to provide temporary access for workers, machines and materials. Work on replacing the line and its fittings will start in August and is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Ryan Hatcher, National Grid Project Manager said: "The line between our substations in Whitegate and Rochdale was commissioned just under 50 years ago and has given us excellent service ever since. However, the wires and the fittings on the pylons are now reaching the end of their lifespan and so we are going to install new ones. This will ensure that power continues to flow uninterrupted along this line, helping keep the lights on in this part of Greater Manchester and beyond."

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

Ecology surveys have been done in 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.

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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

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- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

United States

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)