

Gearing up: National Grid preps for power line refurbishment

National Grid prepping for essential power line renovation

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- Overhead power line between Dungeness and Sellindge to be refurbished
- Work has started to prepare access to the overhead line
- Essential work will help maintain safe and reliable electricity supplies

National Grid has started preparations for the refurbishment of its 25km overhead electricity line between its substations in Dungeness and Sellindge.

Work to prepare access to the line recently started. Refurbishment work, which includes maintenance of the pylons and replacing the wires between the 85 towers, will start in March 2016.

All work is due to be complete by the end of the year. Some road and footpath closures will be needed to ensure the work can be carried out safely. These will be agreed with Kent County Council beforehand.

Local people will be informed of these closures nearer the time and signs will also be put up.

Project Manager Graham Livings said: "The UK faces a challenge in ensuring its future energy needs are met. As well as building new energy infrastructure we also need to upgrade and maintain what we already have.

"This project will help make sure the region keeps on enjoying the safe and reliable energy supplies which help make modern life possible."

He added: "We'll signpost any road and footpath closures and diversions we need to implement and put things back to normal as soon as possible.

"We'll do everything possible to carry out this vital work with minimal disruption."

Local people wishing to find out more about the refurbishment work can contact the project's Community Relations Team on 0800 731 1231 or info@communityrelations.co.uk

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Notes for editors

The Dungeness to Sellindge overhead line runs through the parishes of Smeeth, Sellindge, Aldington, Bonnington, Bilsington, Newchurch, St. Mary in the Marsh, Ivychurch and Old Romney. It also passes through Lydd. The parish and town councils representing these areas have all been contacted and given information about the project. A briefing meeting was held at Lydd Guild Hall and a further meeting is planned for Sellindge in February.

A start of work letter and project leaflet has been sent to properties near the line. The documents include contact details for National Grid's Community Relations Team, whose members can provide more information and answer any questions.

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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