

National Grid's high wire act over Silk Road, Macclesfield

£8m project to refurbish 18km section of overhead line between Macclesfield and Bredbury

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National Grid's high wire act over Silk Road to keep electricity flowing

- **National Grid carrying out vital work on power lines across the Silk Road**
- **£8m project to keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses across Cheshire and beyond**
- **Road closed from 4th to 13th August but supplies won't be interrupted and businesses will be open as usual**

Engineers working for National Grid will be carrying out a high wire act on lines spanning the Silk Road in Macclesfield as part of a £8m project to keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses across the town, the county and beyond.

The company is carrying out vital work to refurbish an 18km section of high voltage power line which runs between substations in Macclesfield and Bredbury near Stockport. The £8m project will see 55 pylons refurbished and given a special coating of paint to protect them from the elements and the wires they support replaced with new ones.

Work will see the closure of the Silk Road between its junctions with Bollington Road and Hulley Road to allow the engineers to carry out the work as quickly and as safely as possible. Traffic will be diverted via London Road and Manchester Road. Work has been scheduled to take place during the school summer holidays when traffic is lighter.

Ryan Hatcher, National Grid project manager said: "The wires we are replacing are getting on for 50 years old. They have served us well, delivering electricity at a flick of a switch for nearly five decades but the time has come to replace them. By investing in new lines and refurbishing the pylons that support them, we'll be able to maintain National Grid's first class record for reliability of supply.

"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 off 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."

Electricity supplies won't be interrupted during the work and National Grid has written to nearly 6,500 local homes and businesses to give them further information about the closure of Silk Road. The company has set up a Freephone number for enquiries: 0800 8199 071 or people can email nationalgrid@macctobredoverheadline.com

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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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