**Frequently Asked Questions – Spring 2017**

**Who is National Grid?**

We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales and the gas transmission network in Great Britain.

Electricity is carried from power stations through a network of high voltage overhead lines owned and operated by National Grid. It is then transmitted into towns and cities where local distributors take over and supply it to homes, schools, offices, factories and other premises.

**What work are you doing?**

We’re carrying out essential maintenance on the overhead lines which connect Bredbury Substation to South Manchester Substation in Sale. We’ll refurbish 30 pylons along the 9km route.

Between May and August 2017, we’ll replace equipment in sections along the line, working on both sides of the circuit. Most of the work is set away from residential areas and shouldn’t cause any disturbance. We don’t expect the work will affect anyone’s electricity supply.

**Why are you doing this work?**

Our job is to maintain the overhead power line circuit so the transmission network can be kept in first class working order and help meet future electricity demands. This ensures everyone has the power they require safely and on demand. We’re investing in the maintenance of fixtures and fittings which, after 40 years of service on the line, are due for refurbishment.

**What will I notice?**

With 9km of overhead power line to modernise there will be lots of times when you won’t notice activity taking place in your area. Most of the work is set away from residential areas, following the M60, and should not cause any disturbance.

You may notice more vehicles around both the substations and some noise during the work but we’ll do all we can to keep disruption to an absolute minimum.

**Will you be building any new pylons?**

No. Our work on the overhead line includes renovating the existing pylons and replacement of insulators and fittings.

**What happens next?**

From February, our contractors, Balfour Beatty, will start clearing some vegetation where required, including trees and shrubs, from access routes to pylon bases and underneath overhead lines. This will enable safe access to working areas when the refurbishment work starts in May 2017.

In March 2017, Balfour Beatty will begin work to allow temporary trackway to be laid to specific pylons. This work is the final stage of preparation before the overhead lines are refurbished.

**Do you plan on replacing any lost vegetation?**

When we’ve finished the refurbishment work we’ll discuss replanting areas with landowners, the relevant local authorities and local conservation organisations to make sure any replacement planting will benefit the local environment.

**When will work start?**

We expect the refurbishment to start in May 2017. While we’re in the area, you may see our contractors climbing pylons and working high-up along the wires. Work will take place in sections, so there may be times when it appears that nothing is happening, depending on where you live. This means refurbishment is taking place elsewhere. We’ll keep neighbouring residents informed when we’re in the area.

**What are the working hours?**

To reduce the length of time the circuit is out of service, we’ve kept the duration of the works to a minimum. To make this possible, we may have to work between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday. We’ll also need to work alternate weekends; between 7.30am and 1pm on Saturday and 7.30am and 4pm on Sunday.

We’ll write to you in advance if we need to work outside of these hours. We’ll make sure you’re kept informed of the work as it progresses if it may cause you disruption.

**When will the work be finished?**

We expect the refurbishment work to be completed by August 2017 and any land reinstatement works will be completed by the autumn.

**Will my electricity supply be affected while work is going on?**

We don’t expect the work to affect anyone’s electricity supply.

We operate at high voltages that aren’t fed directly into homes, schools and hospitals. These are supplied at a lower voltage by your local electricity distributor.

**How will our work impact on the area?**

You may notice increased activity in the area while we’re carrying out the work. We have a full traffic management plan in place to ensure that vehicle movements are not disruptive and are kept to a minimum.

We’ll keep residents and local stakeholders regularly informed throughout the project. We’ll also make every effort to minimise disruption to our site neighbours. We will work with residents, the local authority, environmental organisations and the local community to reduce the impact of our work and to protect the environment.

**Will roads and public rights of way be affected?**

There will be an increase in vehicle movements to and from pylon sites. The number of vehicle movements will vary according to the type of work we’re doing at the time.

In the interests of safety, we may need to close some roads for short periods while we work. If we do need to close any roads, we’ll liaise with the local authorities. Road signs will be installed at least seven days before the temporary closure.

Some of the work is in fields so we may need to temporarily close or divert footpaths, particularly in Mersey Vale Nature Park, Kenworthy Woods and beside the River Mersey on the Old Bedians Sports Centre and Rugby Club near Millgate Fields. If our work is going to affect any rights of way, we’ll liaise with the local authorities and ensure changes are clearly signposted in advance.

**Are there any further phases to this work?**

None are planned at this stage.

**What is being done to provide on-site security?**

We take robust measures to make sure that our sites are safe and secure at all times. Each location will be made secure and the main compound will have 24-hour site security, including CCTV. We’d ask anyone who sees any suspected criminal activity taking place on our sites to call the Police immediately.

**Are all the people who work on the line National Grid employees?**

We use experienced, well-trained and properly qualified contractors to carry out our work. For example, for the refurbishment of the Bredbury to South Manchester line we’re using Balfour Beatty. All contractors are managed by National Grid and we monitor their performance closely. Any feedback about our contractors can be made via our Community Relations helpline.

**How can we get in touch if we have any questions while work is underway?**

If you’d like any further information or have any questions about what we’re doing, please contact our Community Relations team on 0800 073 1047. The team is available daily from 7am to 7pm.