



The connections journey

This document has been designed to help you understand every stage of the connections journey, providing guidance and online tools on the initial research needed, through to designing, building and maintaining your connection.

**Electricity
Transmission**

nationalgrid

1. Researching your options

Before you apply to connect to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System, there are many connection requirements you will need to consider, for example:

- connection type
- connection size
- connection date
- location
- planning consents
- cost of the connection.

Research tools

Our digital ambition places our customers at the heart of everything we do, and we've built a research tool to help customers research and manage connections to the Electricity Transmission System in England and Wales.

The research tool combines our popular Network Capacity Map and Cost Estimator tool into a single, intuitive application, with refreshed data.

You can use it to investigate capacity, connection options available to you and see the estimated cost profiles and associated securities. You can also enquire directly to National Grid Electricity Transmission through the portal regarding your chosen connection location.

Learn more at:

<https://customer.nationalgridet.com/s/pre-application>

The screenshot shows the National Grid research tool interface. On the left, there are filters for 'Location' (BN5 9AZ), 'Generation' (50 MW), 'Technology' (Renewable/Non-renewable), and 'Tertiary' (checked). The main area displays a map with a location pin. A pop-up window for 'Bolney 400kV' shows details: Distance 0.2 - 0.5 km, Est. total cost £3.5m - £4.1m, and TNUoS Zone £200 / MW / year. A 'View details' button is at the bottom of the pop-up.

The screenshot shows the National Grid research tool interface with a table view of connection options. The table lists site names, distances, estimated total costs, and TNUoS Generation Rates. A 'Please note' banner at the top states: 'We have made certain design assumptions to provide you with estimated total costs. View site details for a breakdown of user and connection costs, and spend profile, security and charges for available each connection.'

Site name	Distance	Est. total cost	TNUoS Generation Rate	
Lowest cost:				
Bolney 132 kV	5 km	£3.4m - £4.8m	£200 / MW / year	View Details >
Bolney 132 kV	7 km	£3.6m - £5.7m	£300 / MW / year	View Details >
Ninefield 132kV	6 km	£4.1m - £5.8m	£400 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	20 km	£4.4m - £5.8m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	15 km	£7.4m - £9.8m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	11 km	£8.2m - £10.6m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	27 km	£9.2m - £11.2m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	31 km	£9.3m - £12.1m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >
Lovedean 132kV	22 km	£10.8m - £12.5m	£450 / MW / year	View Details >

To discuss the above steps further, please make an enquiry, we're here to help.

Email: etenquiry@nationalgrid.com
Website: [nationalgridet.com](https://customer.nationalgridet.com)

2. Applying to connect

We are working with the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to improve your experience when applying to connect. We have made it easier and quicker for you to fill out your application form; our [Connections Application Guide](#) will guide you through the application form, step by step. We also have user-friendly forms within the customer portal to help you to complete your application.

3. Designing your connection

After you submit your application and pay your application fee, we will begin designing your connection using the standard planning data and programme details you have provided.

You will be assigned an Account Manager who, along with our engineering experts will work with you to design your connection. We'll then conduct studies to understand the work required to find the most economical solution.

Your Account Manager will send you your account details to log in to your connection portal, where you'll be kept informed through every step of your connections journey.

Once designed, you will receive your offer from the NGESO.

4. Building the connection

Once you have signed your offer and before building, we will complete more detailed designs and surveys. We will then organise the contractors and equipment and agree on-site responsibilities with you.

After this, we will start building your connection in line with the construction programme within your contract. You will be able to monitor the progress of your connection online via the portal, as well as through regular progress updates with your Account Manager.

In the event you need to amend your contract, you can submit a modification application to the NGESO.

5. Connecting to and operating the system

Before connecting to the system an operational notification compliance process will need to be undertaken to demonstrate your asset is safe to become operational. Your assigned Compliance Manager will guide you through this process.

Once approved, you will receive operational notification certificates, which will allow you to commission your asset.

A Commissioning meeting will be set up to allocate responsibilities, such as planning outages and registering any settlement metering in accordance with the Balancing and Settlement Code. On completion of commissioning your asset will be operational.

6. Maintaining your connection

When your asset has become operational, you will need to comply with the Grid Code requirements. These include co-ordinated outage planning as well as providing regular technical data updates.

Through the life of your connection you will pay ongoing use of system costs to the NGESO, which cover the costs of maintaining the transmission network and day-to-day costs of balancing the energy system.

Details of these charges can be found on the [NGESO website](#). You may also continue to pay for your connection charges, depending on the payment option you selected.

You might plan to modify or re-plant your connection equipment. The size and nature of this modification may mean it requires a modification application, which you can submit to the NGESO. You will always be able to log in to your connections portal and view useful information through the life of your connection.

7. Concluding your connection

When you wish to end your contract, you will need to give written notice to the NGESO declaring your intention to terminate.

We will work with you to identify if any assets need to be disconnected, and whether you need to reduce your power outputs or intakes in advance of your disconnection.

Once this work is finished, you will receive formal confirmation that your contract is terminated, and where applicable a certificate of disconnection removing you from the balancing mechanism, and a reconciliation of outstanding costs.