

Bramley to Melksham

Overhead line upgrade

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is carrying out essential upgrades to the overhead electricity line from Bramley in Hampshire to Melksham in Wiltshire.

NGET is upgrading this 82km section of high voltage overhead electricity lines from Bramley to Melksham to increase capacity and enable more clean energy projects in South West England and Wales to be connected onto the UK electricity network.

The programme involves both the replacement of pylon fittings and replacing and upgrading the conductors – these are the wires strung between the 229 pylons on the route, along which the electricity is transmitted.

This leaflet provides a high-level summary of what you can expect to see and when. If you have any questions about how the works may affect you, please contact us using the details provided below.

Timeline

Following environmental and technical surveys of the areas in 2023 and vegetation clearance and site set up in early 2024, the main work on the Bramley to Melksham upgrade project will be take place in two key phases between Spring 2024 and Autumn 2025:

- **Phase 1: April 2024-October 2024 – between Bramley and Beechingstoke, to the west of Pewsey**
- **Phase 2: July 2025-October 2025 – between Beechingstoke and Melksham**



Key facts

- The upgrading scheme will increase the flow of electricity out of South West England on the high voltage network and help to move more clean energy from where it's generated to where it's needed.
- Most of our activity will be taking place on private land and away from residential areas and will not require significant numbers of vehicle movements.
- Upgrade work like this will not affect electricity supplies in the area.
- Our working hours will be between 7:30am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday. We will also be working every other weekend.



Frequently asked questions

Will the work affect access to my property?

Access will be maintained to all properties along route during the works. If we anticipate that the work is likely to cause any disruption around someone's property, we will contact them in advance to provide relevant details.

Will you be installing new pylons?

No. We are just replacing and upgrading the line (and fittings) with a newer line that can carry more electricity.

Will my electricity supply be interrupted?

No. There will be no interruption to the local supply of electricity.

Will there be any road closures?

There will be approximately five instances in 2024 where we will need to temporarily close local roads for short periods. Before of each closure in these locations, we will provide full information including details of the agreed official diversion routes to the communities and residents affected. We may at other times need to install some temporary traffic management measures near our works.

Will you need to close public footpaths?

Our work will cross some Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Permissive Rights of Way, and during this time we will need to enforce short, temporary footpath closures or diversions. In the case of a footpath closure or diversion, we will keep the community informed and place advanced notice signs at any closure points before the work starts.

What can people expect to see during the work?

- The main work for the Bramley to Melksham overhead line upgrade will be carried out by small teams of our experienced engineers, working from one pylon to the next along the route.
- Before we start work on each pylon, we need to set up each site which can involve clearing vegetation, installing temporary trackway to access the working area, as well as installing on-site security.
- In some locations, for example where the route crosses a public footpath or road, we will also erect temporary scaffolding and netting. The scaffolding will be visible and helps to keep everyone safe when we're carrying out the work.
- The refurbishment on each pylon is carried out in two separate periods of work. This is because

overhead lines have two circuits, one on each side of the pylon. Work is carried out on one side only first, so that the other side can be kept 'live'.

Once all the work has been completed on one side of the overhead line, the circuit is re-energised, and the opposite side is switched off so that the work can be carried out on that side. This ensures no disruption to local electricity supplies.

- The activity involved depends on whether it is one of two different types of pylon – a 'suspension' or 'angle' pylon – which is explained in more detail opposite.
- Once the wiring is completed, we will clear away our materials and reinstate each working area, including replanting any vegetation we've had to remove.



Suspension pylon

- On suspension pylons, the conductors – or wires – hang below the pylon's arms and less equipment is needed fit to the new conductors.
- We don't normally need to install temporary trackways near these pylons.
- The main work is usually carried out by a tractor which is fitted with a winch to raise and lower the equipment, and the pylon's arms are fitted with pulleys to pull the new conductors into place.
- Our working area around the pylon will be safely cordoned off, and the tractor will stand out approximately 20m from the pylon, in the direction of the overhead line.



Angle pylon

- On an angle pylon, the conductors and insulators are under tension and at an angle to the arms. This means our teams need to work from a platform that is raised and attached to the tip of each arm.
- We will need to lay temporary trackway to access each angle pylon and the work involves more equipment and vehicle movements than at suspension pylons.
- We will also install a small welfare cabin for workers and there will be more site security, as well as space for the cables to be delivered on large drums and skips for the old equipment.



- The main work is carried out by a telehandler (a type of forklift) and a tractor which is fitted with a winch to raise and lower the equipment, and the pylon's arms are also fitted with pulleys to pull the new conductors into place.
- Our working area around the pylon will also be safely fenced off. The tractor and winch will stand away at a distance that is approximately 1.5 times the height of the pylon. This allows the winch operator to raise the platform into the correct position, keeping it clear from the pylon and the conductors to avoid any damage.
- Some angle pylons will be used as a 'pulling' pylon. This is where the new conductor is connected to the old one before it is pulled through into place. A number of these locations may have additional trackway set back from the towers to aid in this process.

Community Grant Programme

The National Grid Community Grant Programme is for organisations and charities in communities where our work is impacting local people through our operations and on-site activities.

This grant helps to fund projects which are run by charities and community groups that meet local needs, by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

Communities that are impacted by the maintenance of existing infrastructure, such as the refurbishment of overhead lines resulting in road closures and other impacts can apply for grants of up to £10,000.



Contact us

If you have any questions about the project or would like any more information, please contact our community relations team. You can get in touch with us by:

Website: nationalgrid.com/bramley-melksham

Email: Bramley-Melksham@nationalgrid.com

Telephone: **0330 134 0061** (available from 9.00am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday)