



The Great Grid Upgrade

Bramford to Twinstead

Community newsletter

March 2025

As part of the biggest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations, National Grid Electricity Transmission is upgrading the transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex.

The existing electricity network in East Anglia will not be able to reliably transport all the new renewable and low carbon energy we expect to connect to the network by the end of the decade. We therefore need to reinforce the network here with a section of new overhead line and underground cable, permission for which was granted by the Government in September 2024.

In this update, you can read about the background to the project as we prepare to begin full construction later this year.

About the project

Our approved plans for the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement include:



building around 18 km of new 400 kV overhead line



planting in the local area to benefit nature and deliver 10% biodiversity net gain



building a new grid supply point substation at Butler's Wood



placing around 11 km of new 400 kV underground cable, including in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley



removing around 27 km of existing 132 kV and 400 kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee.

The Great Grid Upgrade

Whilst the existing transmission network can accommodate the current levels of energy generated in the east of England, in the future the network between Bramford and Twinstead will start to act as a bottleneck. If we don't reinforce the network, this will restrict the amount of low carbon and renewable energy that can be transported across the country. Upgrading the network in this area is therefore vital to the delivery of cleaner, greener electricity and maintaining a reliable grid.

The Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement is one of 17 major infrastructure projects that form part of The Great Grid Upgrade - scaling up the grid and updating our network so that we can meet future demand, boost energy security and help the nation become more self-sufficient. To find out more, visit nationalgrid.com/tggg.

Upcoming surveys

We undertook a range of detailed environmental surveys as part of our development consent order application, but there are more surveys still to do before we begin full construction.

These surveys, which started last year and will continue throughout 2025, are being carried out by staff working for Balfour Beatty, who we have appointed to build the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement.

When accessing land, our team will always make sure the appropriate agreements are in place and that a risk assessment has been carried out.

For more information about planned ongoing survey works, we share weekly updates on our website. Visit nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead to find out more.



Project timeline



March – May 2021
We consulted on our early plans for the project



January – March 2022
Having considered your feedback and undertaken environmental survey work, we held a further statutory consultation on our detailed plans



April 2022
We applied to Braintree District Council for permission to build the grid supply point substation



September 2022
We held a targeted consultation on several changes to our proposals



October 2022
Braintree District Council approved our planning application for the grid supply point substation



April 2023
We submitted our application for development consent for the whole Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement to the Planning Inspectorate



September 2024
The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero granted Development consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement



2025
Start of full construction



2030
Construction complete and project operational



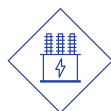
What's happening this year?

We expect to start main construction on the project later this year. You may start to see more construction activity from both National Grid and Balfour Beatty staff, who have been appointed to build the project.

Our work this year will include:



establishing the main construction compound including welfare facilities for staff and areas where materials can be stored



continued work at the grid supply point substation in Twinstead which started in Summer 2023



creating temporary construction roads and accesses to reduce construction traffic on the local road network



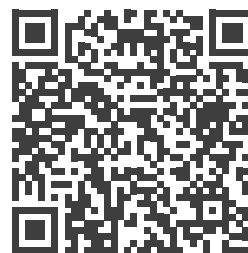
teams will continue to complete environmental and archaeological surveys.

Once the project set up is complete, works will begin on the foundations for the new pylons. We will be in touch with an update before we start this phase of works.

Keep in touch

We'll be sharing regular updates during the construction of the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement through a new e-newsletter. You can sign up to receive these updates at nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead or by scanning the QR code.

We'll continue to engage with local communities throughout the construction of our project. If work is happening in your immediate area, then we will also write to you directly to advise you of our work.



We are committed to ensuring that local communities benefit from the construction and operation of our projects.

Grid for Good

As part of our Grid for Good programme, we have provided work placements to people from deprived backgrounds across the UK, with some placements leading to permanent employment at National Grid.

Here's what Adam Richards, a senior project manager working on the construction of the grid supply point substation, had to say about the programme:

"Early in my career, a lot of people went out of their way to help me develop and learn. I've never forgotten those individuals and, as a consequence, the biggest sense of pride I get now isn't about delivering the assets – it's about helping people develop their careers."

"We've now brought in people who initially joined National Grid on a Grid for Good placement but subsequently decided this is a great place to work. It's not until you're in the industry or have some exposure to it that you see the breadth of opportunity and support available."

Making a difference with Lighthouse Women's Aid

Over the last three years, we've built a partnership with Lighthouse Women's Aid in Ipswich, which provides accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. National Grid volunteers have provided support to develop the facilities and donated refurbished laptops, iPads and iPhones.

Kirsty Sheldrake, children's support worker at Lighthouse Women's Aid, said:

"National Grid's volunteers are a group of amazing, caring and kind people. Its partnership with Lighthouse just keeps growing and has impacted families lives for the better. We couldn't be more thankful."

Community Benefits

This month, the Government published guidance on community benefits for areas where there are new transmission infrastructure projects. We firmly believe that communities should be rewarded for hosting new electricity transmission infrastructure, which is essential to delivering homegrown, cleaner, and more affordable power.

We are committed to working with local residents and stakeholders as we develop our plans, and the introduction of this guidance sets a clear framework for working in partnership with communities and their representatives to deliver meaningful, legacy benefits.

Thank you for your continued engagement. As the new transmission infrastructure has been approved in your local area, we would like to work with you to create lasting positive impacts for local communities.



Contact us

If you have any questions about our project, then you can get in touch by:

contact@bramford-Twinstead.nationalgrid.com

0808 196 1515

(Lines are open 9am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday)

nationalgrid.com/bramford-twinstead

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