

21 February 2025

Dear resident

Essential work to upgrade our Melksham substation

We're writing to let you know about work we need to do to upgrade our Melksham substation.

This is so we can safely connect new sources of low carbon energy generation and energy storage to our network, whilst also maintaining secure electricity supplies for homes and businesses in the local area and beyond.

We're starting work from 24 February to create a safe working area and install worker welfare facilities. Works to build the extension will then take place during 2025 and 2026.

These works will have no impact on power supplies to you or the local area.

We are carrying out most of this work under permitted development on National Grid owned land, which means we do not require planning permission. However, we must meet environmental licences as we carry out our activity, and we'll make sure all our work is done carefully and considerately.

We are working with Morrison Energy Services to deliver this project. This means you may see their vehicles and equipment in the area and at our substation. They will be following agreed suitable routes to minimise disruption in the local area. They are acting on behalf of National Grid and we are responsible for the work, so please contact us directly if you have any questions about this project.

Please find some Frequently Asked Questions enclosed, with more details about our work.

We will write to you again soon with details of our dedicated project email address and website. In the meantime, if you have any further questions you can contact National Grid Community Relations at communityrelations@nationalgrid.com. You can also call the project for free on 0800 138 5541 and leave a message.

We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

Yours faithfully



Mark Fox

External Affairs Advisor

National Grid

Melksham substation upgrade

Frequently asked questions

What is National Grid's role?

We don't generate electricity ourselves. We own and maintain the high voltage network in England and Wales. It consists of over 7,000 kilometres (km) of overhead line, 22,000 pylons, over 700 km of underground cable and 300 substations.

We transport large amounts of electricity at high voltage from where it's generated to areas where it is needed. The local network operator then delivers it at lower voltages to individual homes and businesses. As a business regulated by Ofgem, we have a legal obligation to connect new sources of energy generation to our transmission network when requested.

What will your work involve?

This work will install what is known as a supergrid transformer, as part of an innovative approach called a 'grid park'. It enables us to connect multiple generation sources to the network at the same point, saving time and money all of which bring benefits to energy users locally and nationally.

The design is efficient and cost-effective, reducing the overall work we need to do. Longer term, it also has the potential to help speed up low carbon power connections to the transmission network.

The work will create a new small compound of (750m²), next to the existing substation's northern boundary and south of Westlands Lane.

While doing our work, we'll aim to minimise disruption to people locally and the environment by using considerate construction methods. We will, for instance, regularly monitor noise to ensure it is kept to a minimum.

How will you manage traffic and road safety?

Vehicles will bring people and materials to site and take away spoil. We have developed a detailed traffic management plan to carefully control our vehicle movements locally.

This dictates that all our vehicles should arrive and leave along Westlands Lane to the west via the B3353, avoiding Beanacre and the railway bridge. Vehicle movements will also be restricted to between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

We have applied for a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TRRO) on the full length of Westlands Lane to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph. This will help keep residents and other road users safe, and ensure our vehicles can safely enter and exit the site.

To provide permanent access to the new substation area, we will need to widen the bellmouth of the gated entrance next to the existing National Grid site entrance on Westlands Lane. We are applying for planning permission for this and anticipate that, if granted, this will take place in late 2025.

Will wildlife be affected by this work?

We have carried out ecological surveys to understand what we need to do to protect local flora and fauna. We'll ensure any vegetation clearance is kept to an absolute minimum. All this work will be carried out under the supervision of a licenced ecologist.

We are also committed to replacing any of the natural environment that we effect on our own land with an additional 10% improvement, as measured by Defra.

Is this related to other National Grid work at the Melksham substation?

There are several National Grid projects planning to carry out work in and around Melksham substation in the coming years, as part of the biggest upgrade of the national transmission network in a generation. We're working closely with them to co-ordinate our work.

We are currently upgrading a section of our existing overhead line that runs between our substations at Melksham and Bramley in Hampshire. This work near to, and into, our Melksham substation is planned to take place between June and November this year. The project team will contact any residents that may potentially be impacted by this activity with more details nearer the time.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about this work, you can visit the project website at: www.nationalgrid.com/bramley-melksham or contact the team directly at Bramley-Melksham@nationalgrid.com for more details.

Separately, National Grid has submitted a planning application to Wiltshire Council for an extension to the west of the existing substation site for the installation of a new shunt reactor. A shunt reactor helps efficiently manage and regulate the complex movement of reactive power and voltage levels on the network. It is currently expected that this work will take place towards the end of 2026 or early 2027. We will keep you updated as these proposals progress.

How can people stay up to date with what you are doing?

We'll make sure to keep people up-to-date as we progress our project, through letters such as this. We are also creating a dedicated website page where you'll be able to find the very latest information as our work progresses. We'll share the website address when it goes live, along with a dedicated project email address.

We will also keep important organisations and groups up to date as well, including Melksham Without Parish Council.

If you have any immediate queries, please contact the National Grid Community Relations team at communityrelations@nationalgrid.com. Alternatively, you can call the project for free on 0800 138 5541 and leave a message, and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible between 9am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday.