



Welcome to our event


This summer, National Grid will begin constructing a small extension at Cellarhead substation, while also carrying out essential maintenance of existing equipment on site.

Electrical substations play a key part in transmitting electricity through the national network – keeping the lights on in people’s homes. One of the main roles of substations is to convert electricity into different voltages. The voltage is stepped up or down through equipment called transformers, which sit within the substation site.

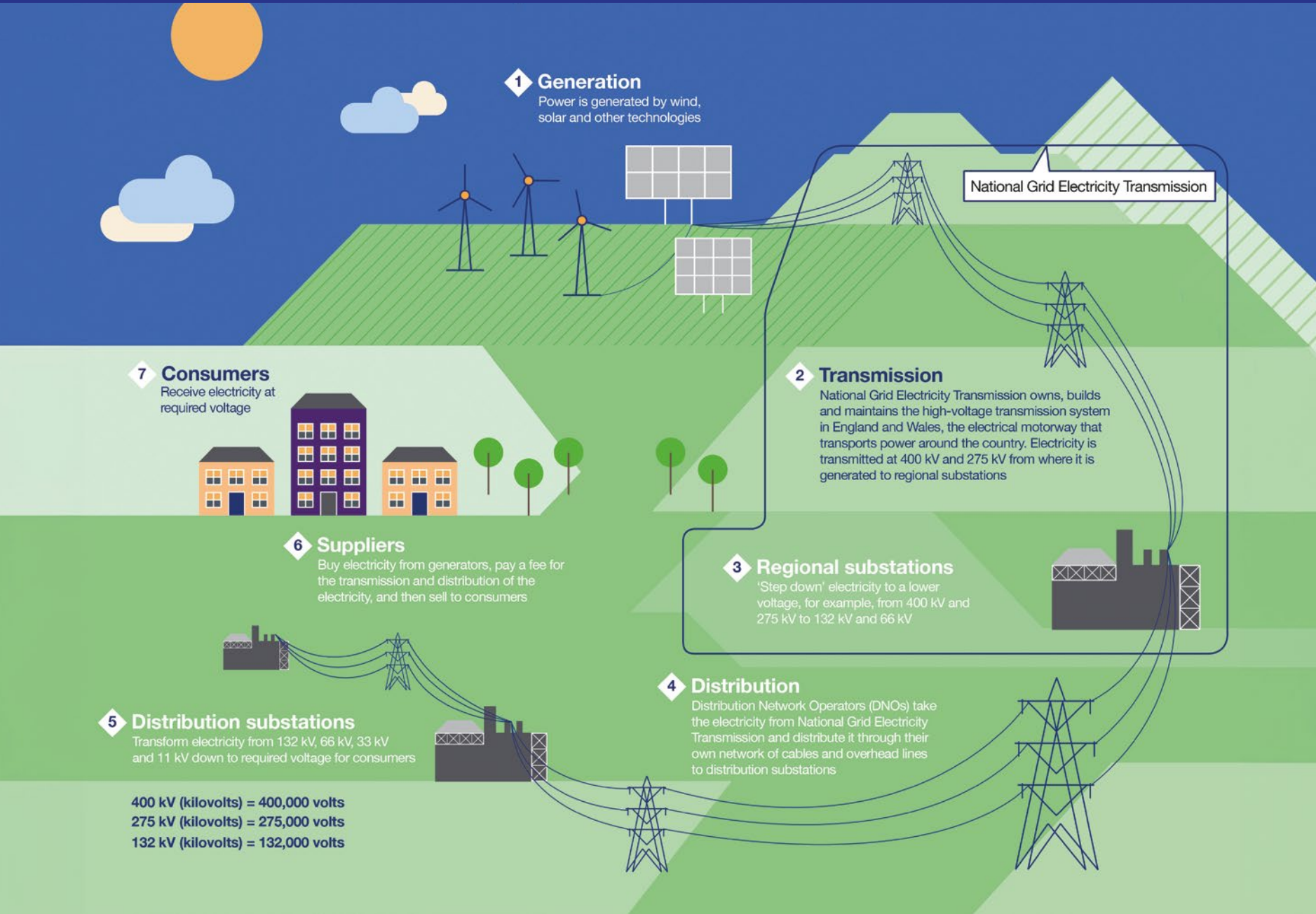
The substation at Cellarhead was built in the 1960s and has been in operation for over 50 years. It is essential equipment which plays a critical role in providing electricity to homes and businesses. At this event you can find out more information about the construction work that will soon be starting on the extension, as well as other important upgrades that will take place.

Why do we need to upgrade Cellarhead substation?

- Our existing substation and infrastructure at Cellarhead does not have the capacity to connect new renewable energy generation projects coming forward in the local area.
- The essential upgrades will help to reinforce the network and will enable future new connections to support the UK’s mission to achieve net zero by 2050.
- As a regulated business, we have a legal obligation to connect customers to our network when a connection is requested.
- As well as meeting the needs of the projects we are connecting, the substation is a key part of our nation-wide upgrade of the grid network to meet future electricity demand.







About National Grid

The way electricity is generated in the UK is changing rapidly, as the country transitions to cheaper, cleaner and more secure forms of energy.

We need to make changes to the network of overhead lines, pylons, cables and other infrastructure that transports electricity around the country, so that everyone has access to the clean electricity from new renewable sources.

Known as The Great Grid Upgrade, these changes represent the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.

The electricity transmission network transports electricity in bulk around the country, from wind and solar farms, power stations and other sources of generation, or from interconnectors that are connected

to the network, and takes it on to the regional distribution companies or large electricity users.

In England and Wales, the electricity transmission network operates at high voltage – 400,000 volts (400 kV) or 275,000 volts (275 kV) – and is owned and maintained by National Grid Electricity Transmission.

At regional substations, the voltage is ‘stepped down’ and electricity is carried onward from there to individual homes and businesses by the lower voltage regional electricity distribution networks. Those are owned and operated by separate companies.



Construction work at Cellarhead

We need to build a small extension to create a new bay to the north of the existing site at Cellarhead to allow us to install some new equipment.

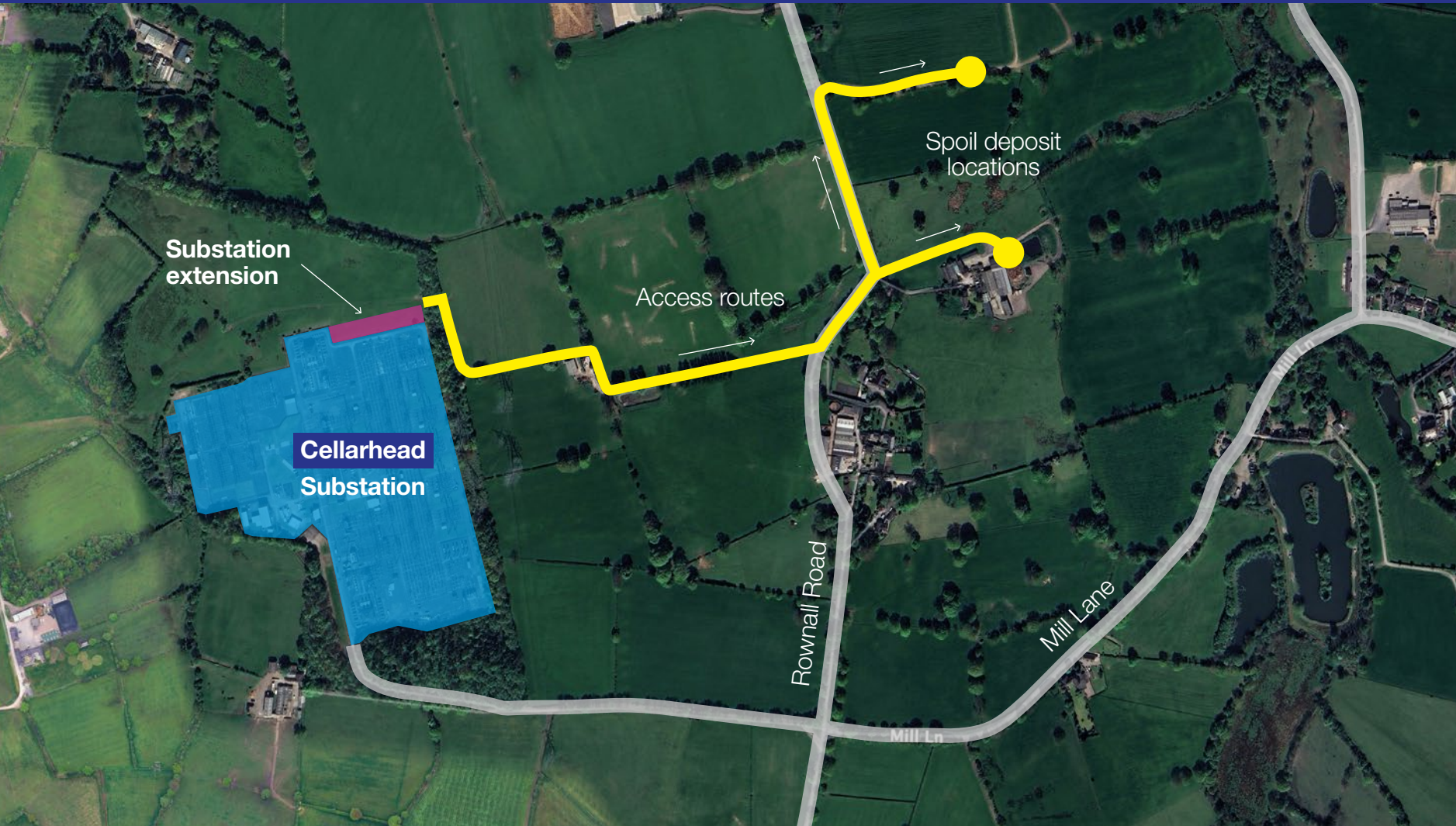
This equipment is needed to connect renewable energy generation projects coming forward in the local area to the electricity transmission network. The new bay we’re building is approximately 125m wide by 25m long, representing a 3% increase in the overall footprint of the developed site. The extension is being designed so that the new infrastructure does not extend above the height of the existing infrastructure and treeline.

The extension works are due to start in the coming weeks and will take approximately two years. Once complete, the site will be screened by the existing, mature vegetation and woodland surrounding the site. We are not proposing to remove any more woodland than we need to and we are committed to ensuring the project leaves the surrounding wildlife habitats in a better state than they were before the work began.

We have carried out extensive surveys, including heritage and ecology, to help inform our work and minimise our impact on the local area.

We are committed to providing a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in areas where it is bringing forward infrastructure projects. At Cellarhead we’ll be delivering this on site in a section of land that we own to the south west of the substation.





Site traffic and access

The first phase of activity will involve a programme of earthworks which is anticipated to take around four months. This is the period that will see the most vehicle movements around the substation.

We will need to dig out the area where the new equipment will be installed. The spoil from this activity will be transported mainly by tractor and trailers a short distance to two other fields near the site, which we’ve agreed with local landowners. This agreement will minimise the project’s carbon emissions and any potential congestion resulting from our work.

The map above shows how our vehicles will be accessing the site from the road and where the spoil will be transported to.

We will be installing temporary traffic signage on the approach to the site to provide advanced warning and our contractors will be considerate to other road users at all times.





Public Rights of Way

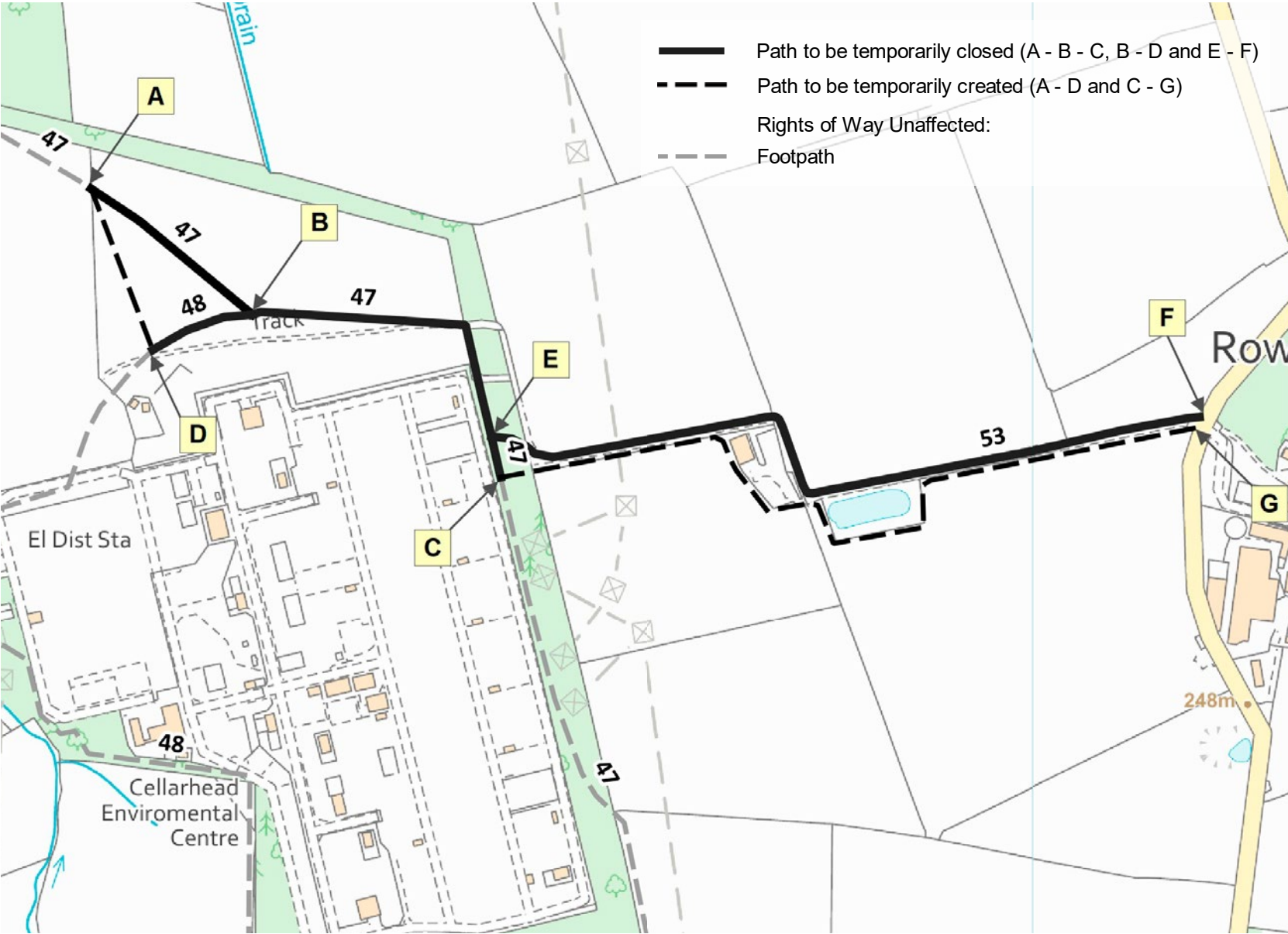
During our construction work we will need to temporarily close and divert some of the Public Rights of Way which lead to and cross the site.

These diversions will help to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our contractors and members of the public while the work takes place.

We’ve secured permission from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to temporarily close a section of Public Footpath No.47 to the north and east of the substation in the area where construction work will be taking place. This section of the footpath will reopen once the construction work is completed.

We will also be creating a temporary diversion immediately to the south of Public Footpath No.53 between Mill Lane and the east of the substation, which is being used as our main site access.

Members of the public are advised to use the existing Public Rights of Way around the south of the substation site while the temporary closures are in place. Signage has been installed in the area to show this alternative route.



Installing a new transformer

Alongside our work to install new infrastructure at Cellarhead, we also need to maintain and upgrade the essential equipment that forms part of the existing substation.

As part of our ongoing and routine operation of the site, we will shortly be replacing a supergrid transformer (SGT) at Cellarhead.

SGTs are vital high voltage devices which boost substations' capacity and resilience, stepping voltage up or down so electricity can be efficiently transmitted from power generators and safely distributed to homes and businesses via regional networks.

The SGT is scheduled to be transported to Cellarhead from Sundon, near Luton, on Monday 2 June. It will travel through Werrington and will arrive on a specialist trailer as an Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL). This will require a full police escort and other private escort vehicles to manage traffic and ensure safety.

We have been working closely with local authorities, relevant organisations and our specialist haulage contractor, to carefully plan the route and timings to minimise disruption to local people and traffic where possible.

Local residents and businesses – who may be impacted by the transportation of the SGT – will be notified of any action they need to take to enable the delivery to take place safely.

Once on site, the SGT will be moved into position, installed and commissioned. The redundant equipment will be dismantled and removed in smaller sections which will be fully recycled.



Email: cellarhead@nationalgrid.com

Tel: **0800 138 5408** (Monday–Friday, 9am–5:30pm)

Web: nationalgrid.com/cellarhead

Community Grant Programme

Throughout construction we are committed to supporting local groups, communities and organisations that may be impacted by our work.

The Community Grant Programme is aimed at community organisations and charities in areas where our work is impacting local people through our operations and construction.

This supports groups and initiatives across a range of areas, from those that provide social, economic and educational benefits, to environmental and conservation projects.

Communities impacted by maintenance and the construction of new infrastructure can apply for grants of up to £20,000.

Our other schemes have helped to support a wide range of local projects, from renovating village halls and funding interpretation boards, to helping football and cricket clubs upgrade their facilities.

For further information including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit our website: nationalgrid.com/communitygrantprogramme



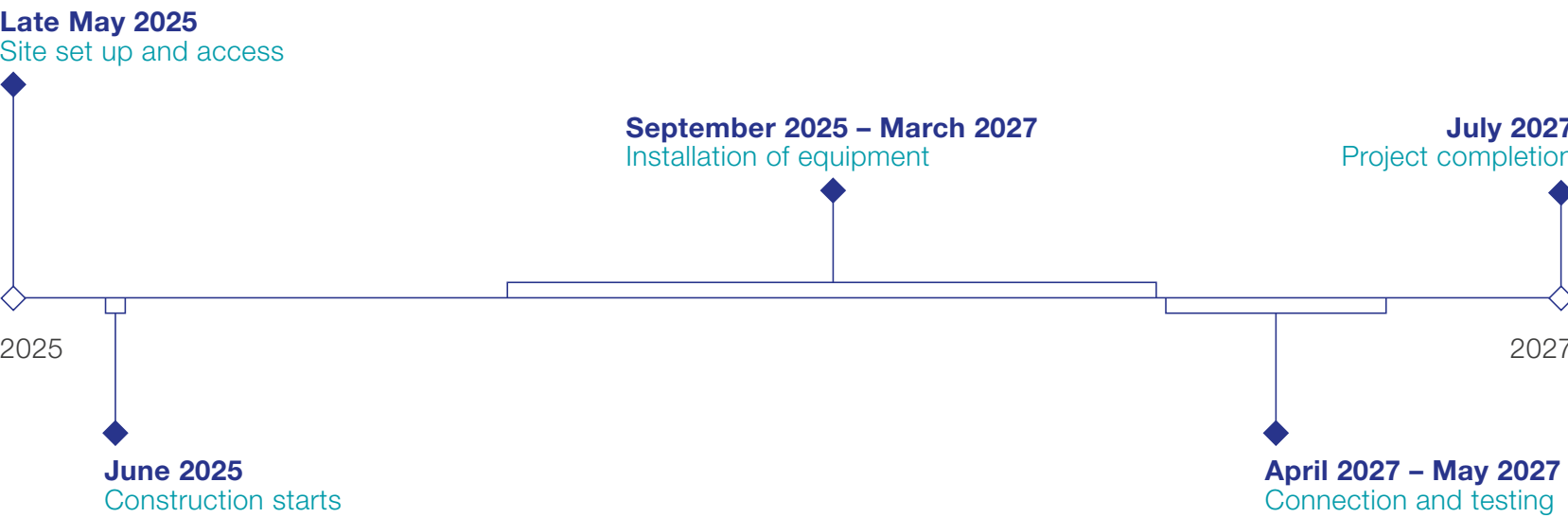
Next steps and getting in touch

As part of our commitment to engaging with communities at every stage of the work, we’ll be updating residents and stakeholders during the project.

More information about the project is available on our website, which we’ll keep regularly updated throughout the construction works: nationalgrid.com/cellarhead

Project timeline

We currently expect construction to start in June 2025.



Contact us

If you have any other questions, comments or concerns about our work at Cellarhead, please get in touch with our community relations team:

- Email: cellarhead@nationalgrid.com
- Phone: **0800 138 5408**
(between Monday–Friday, 9am–5:30pm)
- Freepost: **Freepost RTBU-HAYY-LCUX**,
7 Bayley Street, London WC1B 3HB
(no stamp needed)

