

# Harker Energy Enablement

Newsletter 1

July 2024

**Welcome to our first Harker Energy Enablement newsletter. This newsletter aims to keep you up to date and answer any questions you have about the project to extend Harker substation and other works around the existing site.**



**Our substation at Harker has been in service in the 1960s. As the equipment on site gets older, technology advances and demand on the electricity network increases, we need to replace infrastructure at the substation and increase its capacity.**

The project consists of three main elements:

- replace and rebuild the existing substation by extending onto an adjacent field and reconfigure the short sections of the overhead lines into the extended substation;
- add 12km of new conductors (the wires between the pylons) onto existing pylons between Harker substation and the Scottish Border; and
- refurbish existing pylons between Harker substation and the Scottish Border by renewing the existing wires and carrying out associated works.

The project allows us to provide the improvements required to maintain the existing electricity transmission system. This project will also ensure the substation is prepared for future demand so it can continue to serve as a critical point of intersection on the UK energy network, connecting supplies between Scotland and England.

**Out of around 330 substations National Grid owns and operates, just under 5% (4.6%) of the total country's power flow flows through Harker.**

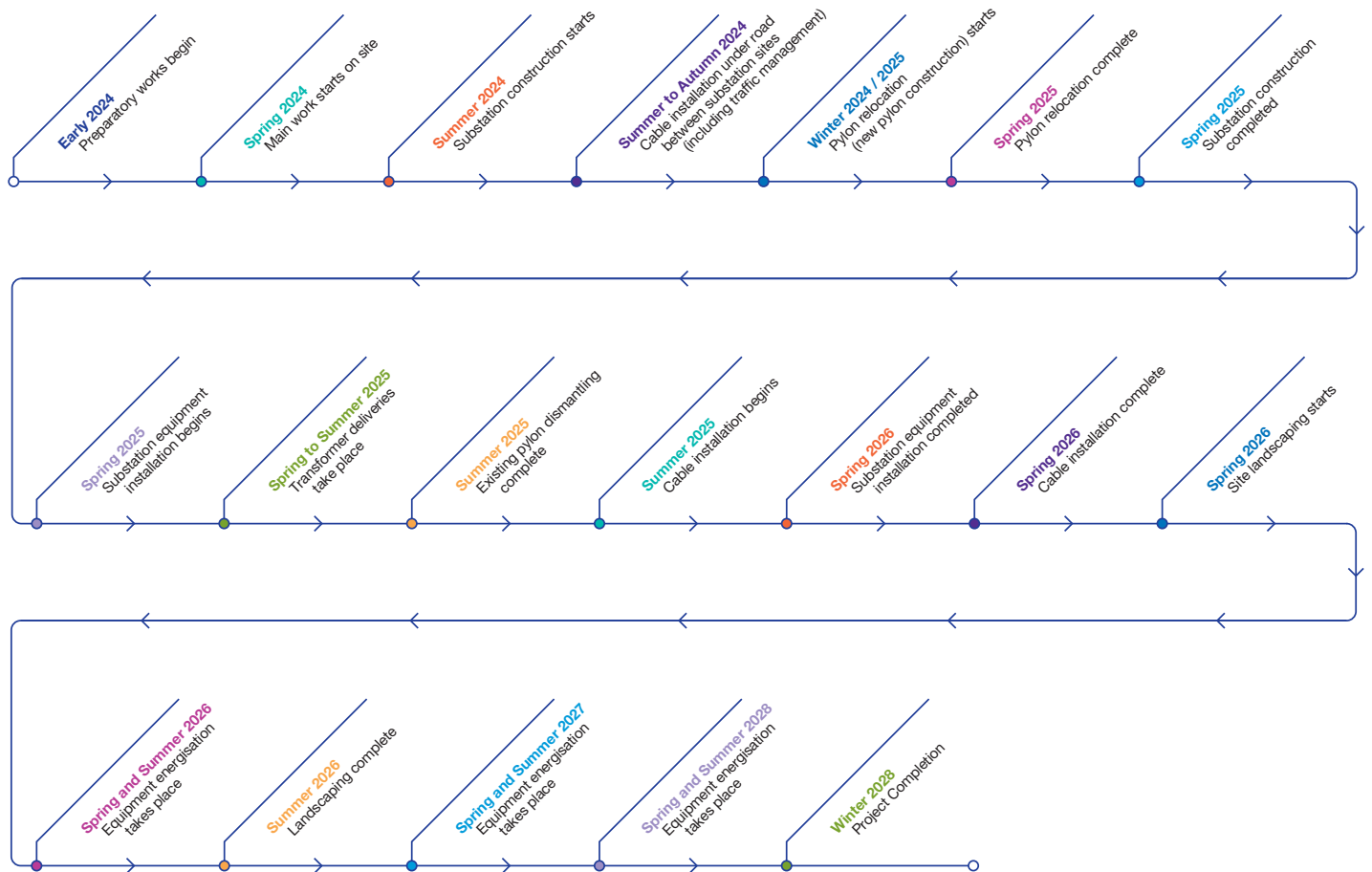
**This includes:**

- 30% (1580MW) of power flow between England and Scotland, where more green energy is produced; and
- over 4000MW of green energy generated in the North West of England, including both wind and nuclear.

The Harker Energy Enablement project focuses on upgrading equipment to ensure that our future energy supplies are maintained, and sustainable connections can be made into the system to provide the country with greener energy, also helping us meet our net zero targets.



# Timeline



## Our progress so far

In 2023 our application to extend Harker substation to the north of the existing substation was approved by Carlisle City Council (now Cumberland Council). Throughout 2023 we undertook surveys of the site and since the start of this year (2024) we have been preparing the site for the construction works to start. Our site set up is now complete and we have begun our work to build the substation foundations.

We are also preparing for our work to the overhead lines between Harker and the Scottish Border to take place in 2025. This work has included negotiations with landowners regarding access arrangements and legal requirements (compulsory purchase order) being undertaken.

## Coming up

In the coming months we'll be continuing the construction of the substation extension.

Later in the year and early in 2025 we'll also be installing cables to connect the existing substation to the extension. These cables will be installed under the road between the sites. To carry out this work, we will need to close the road during this time. Further details regarding this road closure will be shared, via these updates and on our website, once they are confirmed.





# Profile

Each issue we'll introduce you to a member of our project team, so you can get to know the people behind the site works:

## Martin Bretherton

**Role in the project?** Senior Project Manager – I look after the National Grid team at Harker

**How did you become a Senior Project manager?** I've always been involved in site works for National Grid, I became a project manager a few years ago and the senior PM role was the next step in my career development.

**What are your hobbies?** I am a very keen road cyclist having taken part in some ultra endurance bikes rides. I also enjoy watching my two daughters playing football

**What have you done to become greener?** I've embraced the EV revolution and I've also spent a lot of time and money insulating my current property along with installing other energy saving kit.



## Community news

In March we held a Community Forum at Rockcliffe Centre to provide an update regarding the project, thank you to those who were able to attend. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the team about the project, please contact our Community Relations Team using the details at the back of this newsletter.

We've also signed up to be a supporter of the Mates in Mind charity. Established in 2016 by the Health in Construction Leadership Group (HCLG) with the support of the British Safety Council, Mates in Mind charity exists to improve the mental health and wellbeing of workplaces across the UK. The charity aims to provide clear information to employers about the available support and guidance on mental health and wellbeing and how to address this within their organisations.

As a supporter, Harker Energy Enablement welcomed Martin Lockham from Mates in Mind who delivered a presentation to the project team regarding the importance of taking a proactive approach to mental health. Mental health awareness, how to think and talk about mental health in the workplace and the role management play in creating a safe place for people to talk.

As the project continues, we're aiming to further support local charities and community groups with volunteering opportunities or via our Community Grant Programme. Please contact our Community Relations team for further details.





# Community engagement

**National Grid is committed to engaging with communities at every stage of the project. This will be achieved through various channels:**

- **Community Grant Programme** – local community organisations and charities in the area can apply for funding, further details can be found on our website;
- **regular communication** – we will continue to keep you updated on the project through various means including letters, signage, and WhatsApp updates;
- **volunteering** – our project team are keen to deliver hands-on support via volunteer days conducted in the community, and we are actively identifying opportunities to do so; and
- **Outreach Programme** – we will liaise with local schools and groups to identify opportunities for community engagement.

# Your questions answered

## What are your working hours?

Our normal working hours will be between 7am - 5pm Monday to Friday, and on some on Saturdays and Sundays, if any necessary work needs to be completed during the weekend. Essential activities that require continuous working will take place occasionally outside of these hours. In this incidence, we will inform affected stakeholders accordingly.

## How long will the work take?

The main construction work has now started, and it is due to be completed in 2026. We'll then be on site until 2028 undertaking the connection work and dismantling some of the older equipment on the existing substation site.

## How will these works affect me?

You may see additional traffic in and around the substation site. We don't expect any of our work to cause disruption and our contractor will make sure any disturbances from noise are kept to a minimum.



## Contact us

Our dedicated community relations team works with local residents, businesses and community groups to ensure our work causes as little disruption as possible. They are also on hand to answer any questions you may have about past, current or future activity. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team on:

**0800 319 6165**  
**(Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5.30pm)**

email [harker@nationalgrid.com](mailto:harker@nationalgrid.com)  
website: [www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/infrastructure-projects/harker-substation](http://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/infrastructure-projects/harker-substation)

If you would like to sign-up to our WhatsApp updates, please contact us via email, or use the QR code:

You can also write to us using our freepost address:

**Freepost Plus**  
**RUAT-REXU-HXBX**  
**Local Dialogue,**  
**Piano House,**  
**9 Brighton Terrace,**  
**London**  
**SW9 8DJ**

