

Harker Energy Enablement

Newsletter 3

June 2025

Welcome to our third Harker Energy Enablement newsletter. The project continues to progress with the construction of the substation structure almost complete and work to the overhead lines continuing throughout the summer. In this issue we'll provide details of the work we've completed so far and our plans for the coming months, including how we're supporting the local community whilst we're on site.

Our progress so far

Substation extension

Site works are progressing with construction of the main substation structures taking place over recent months.

Work has taken place at the boundary of the substation and this has included widening the site entrance and preparing cable ducts. Cables will be installed under the road that will connect the existing substation to the new extension. This required the road to be closed for a short period of time and whilst we tried to minimise the disruption this may have caused; we appreciate your support whilst these necessary works took place.

We have also been building the areas for new transformers (large pieces of electrical equipment) to be installed. Delivery of the transformers has started, with the first delivery taking place in April, and further deliveries expected over the summer and

into early 2026. Due to the size of these parts, we will be using a slow-moving transporter vehicle to make the deliveries. This will mean there will be some rolling road closures in the area as the vehicles carry the equipment to the substation. We'll continue to notify you once the details of the deliveries, including dates and routes, are confirmed and updates will be included on the project website - nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation.



The transformer being delivered to site in April

Electricity North West (ENW) is also working in the North West corner of the site to relocate the existing pylons required to connect into the substation extension. Following the completion of this work later this year, the pylon which is no longer required will be dismantled.



Aerial view of the current site

Our progress so far

Overhead lines

The work to add new wires to the existing pylons between Harker substation and the Scottish Border is taking place. This will also involve replacing the existing wires and painting the pylons along the route.

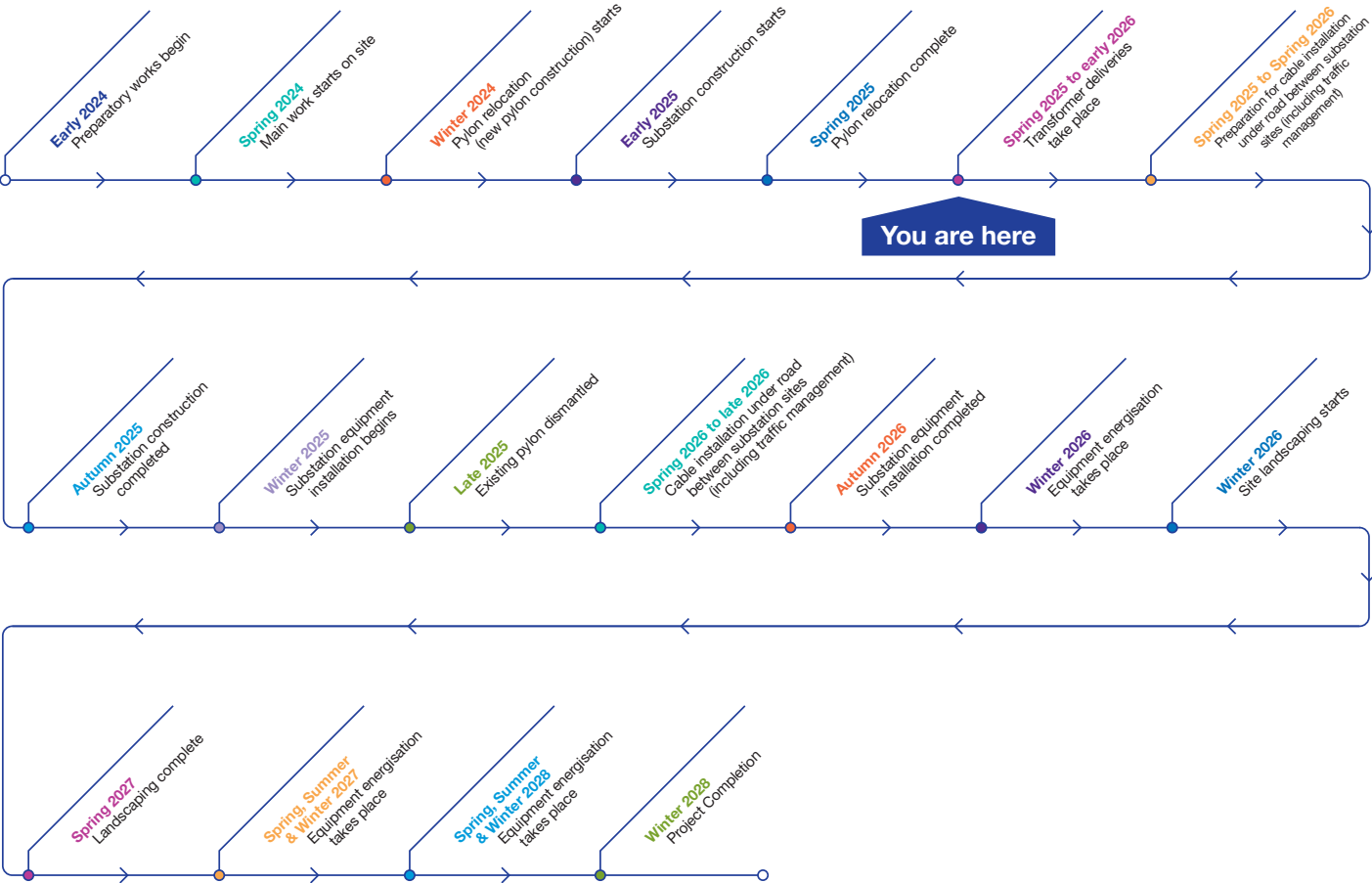
The main construction work will take place this year, between April and October 2025, with most works taking place between Harker and Gretna from April to June, and between Harker and the Border (via Longtown) from June to October. Further related work will take place in 2027.

These works will include some footpath and partial road closures to ensure the work to remove existing wires and to install new wires can take place safely. This map shows the details of the footpath closures and diversions and signs have been placed along the route to highlight these closures. We apologise for any inconvenience this work may cause. The footpaths are expected to be closed between 29 July 2025 and 22 August 2025. Further information can be found on the project website nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation.



Footpath diversion routes

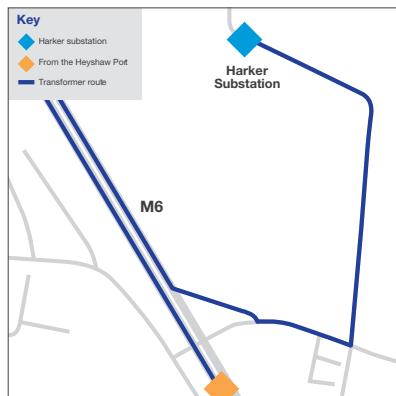
Timeline



Coming up

Substation extension

In the second half of 2025 we will be completing the construction of the substation extension, including installing the cables under the road which will connect the substation to the extension. To carry out this work, the road between the substation and extension has been closed and we expect will fully reopen by mid-November. The closure will be in place 24 hours a day for the duration of this work. Signage is in place to redirect vehicles and pedestrians, and residential access will be maintained.



The transformer delivery route

Further deliveries of transformers will also take place, and these will begin to be installed on site. We'll continue to notify you regarding the deliveries and updates will be included on the project website - nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation.

We have agreed with the Council to extend our working days slightly, with working now permitted on Sundays. We'll aim to keep any disruption to our neighbours to a minimum.

Overhead lines

Work to add new wires to the existing pylons between Harker substation and the Scottish Border and refurbishing these pylons by renewing the existing wires will continue until later this year, with further works taking place in 2027.

Our usual working hours for this project are 7.30am – 7.30pm Monday to Friday, but due to the nature of the work, and to maintain progress by taking advantage of the lighter evenings, work may continue until slightly later. We will also be working most weekends; however, our work is unlikely to be noisy or cause disruption to our neighbours.

Community news

Over recent months, our team has been supporting local schools and community groups. This includes Blackford Primary School, where we held an art competition for pupils to create safety posters for the site compound.

Judged by the project team, the winners were presented with their prizes in a special assembly. Alex Bil was chosen as the overall winner, and their poster will have pride of place on site. The winners of each category will also have their posters displayed in the site cabins, and a welcome sign has been designed using a montage of the entries.

Project Manager Kevin Harper said: "We were really impressed by the quality of the artwork the children entered, with many showing a real understanding for health and safety whilst on site and creating impressive designs. It was really difficult to choose the winners!"

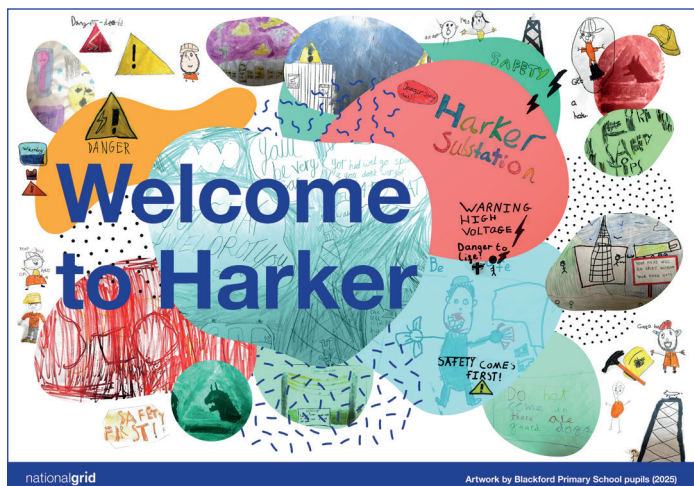
Overhead lines Project Manager Kat Woods also visited Blackford Primary School as part of the careers week to host a series of sessions with all pupils about the role of a National

Grid Project Manager. She spoke to pupils about National Grid and her role and ran workshops where the children pretend to be an engineer and tackled different issues to find the solutions.

Blackford Primary School headteacher, Lindsey Slater, said: "We've been thrilled at the amount of support National Grid has provided to the school recently, including the brilliant careers workshops Kat ran and the children loved getting involved in the art competition too!"

The substation site team has also worked with Headway North Cumbria to source local artwork to help decorate the site wellness room. Find out more here. <https://tinyurl.com/HarkerHeadway>

We are aiming to further support local charities and community groups with volunteering opportunities or via our Community Grant Programme. If you would like to get involved, please contact our Community Relations team for further details. Contact information is included at the bottom of this newsletter.



Art competition entries and the winning poster



Careers workshop at Blackford Primary school

Profile

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

Kat Woods

What is your role in the project?

Associate Project Manager – I am supporting the Lead Project Manager on the Overhead Line part of the project. I have gained insight into the stakeholder management involved a project that is so geographically widespread; I have particularly enjoyed the engagement with the local primary school.

How did you become an Associate Project Manager?

I completed a two-year apprenticeship programme with National Grid in Project Controls, learning about project governance and data management whilst completing a qualification in Project Management. I aspired to become a project manager

as I find the practical experience more engaging!

What are your hobbies? I like to exercise with my friends, especially by getting outside when the sun is shining (not very often). Other than this, I come from a very musical family so I play my guitar or keyboard a few times a week.

What have you done to become greener? I have been vegetarian for 11 years and try to incorporate veganism when cooking at home too. I also have recently tried to stop buying new clothes or toys for my daughter and I now buy these second-hand.



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 and signage;
- **Volunteering** – our project team would like 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 - 6pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am - 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Essential activities that require continuous working will take place occasionally outside of these hours. In this incidence, we will inform the local community 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. The overhead lines work is due to be completed later in 2025, with some works also planned for 2027.

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 Omexom will make sure any disturbances from noise are kept to a mini.

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 to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

email **harker@nationalgrid.com**
website: **nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation**

You can also write to us using
our freepost address:

Freepost GIVEYOURVIEW
(no stamp or further address required)