

South Shields

Newsletter 1

August 2025

Welcome to our first South Shields substation newsletter. This update aims to provide the latest news from the site and answer any questions you have about the project to install Power Flow Control (PFC) equipment at South Shields substation.



Over recent weeks you may have noticed more activity taking place on site as the first stage of the project has started. This involves ground remediation works.

In this issue we will provide details of the work we've completed so far and our plans for the coming months, including how we are supporting the local community whilst we are on site.

The project

Work to install new Power Flow Control (PFC) equipment at South Shields substation has begun. This technology will boost the volume of clean energy that National Grid's circuits can carry by rerouting power from overloaded circuits to unlock unused capacity on the existing network.

It forms part of National Grid's continued investment in its network across the North East, with £8.6bn of investment planned between 2026 and 2031 to maintain, upgrade and develop our network. The new technology at South Shields substation will ensure it continues to play a key role in supplying electricity to homes and businesses in the area.

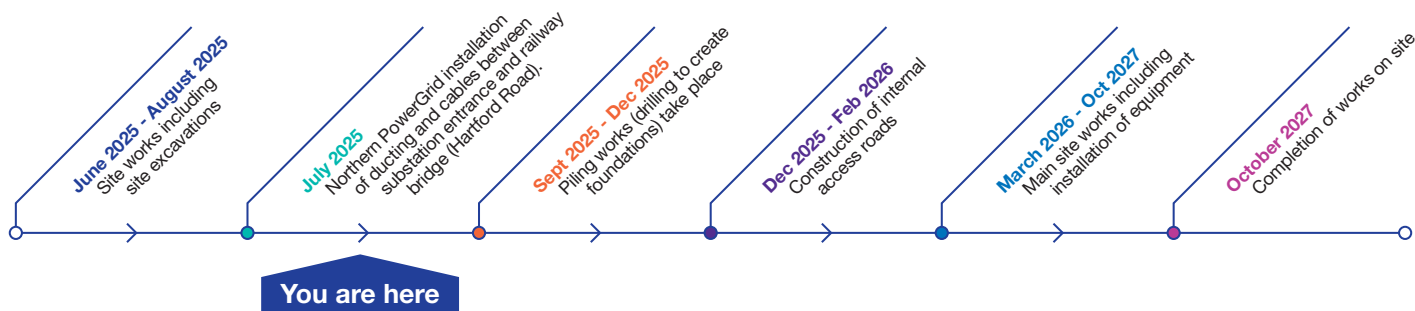
Construction work at the substation over the coming months will include building two new compounds on land already owned by National Grid, for the PFC equipment to be installed.

Since we started the preliminary works on site last Autumn, our efforts have been focused on preparing the site for the installation of the new equipment. Work to date has included the installation of two new areas of fencing around the substation entrance.

We have also been undertaking the ground remediation works on site. This work will prepare the ground for the new equipment and will involve the delivery of heavy plant and equipment, and the removal of unwanted materials. Most of this work is now complete and there will be a reduction in truck movements to and from site once this phase is completed.



Timeline



Coming up

In the coming months, work on site will focus on preparing for the installation of the PFC from Spring 2026. This work will include the completion of the ground excavation works, Prior to these works taking place, the roads have been surveyed to understand the condition, and this has been shared with South Tyneside Council. The condition of the road will be monitored continuously and if monitoring shows a significant dilapidation due to the truck movements, these movements would be paused whilst further assessments were carried out.

From September piling works will take place to prepare the foundations of the site. We will be using the Screw pile method which is less disruptive than other piling methods as this creates a hole through twisting a pole rather than pounding the pole into the ground. There will be a reduction in truck movements to and from site from this point in the project.

Once piling works are completed, civils work will take place on site, including the construction of new internal roads within the new part of the substation compound and ducting works ahead of the equipment installation beginning in March 2026.

We'll continue to update you as the project progresses.



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:

Steven J Reynolds

Role in the project? Lead Project Manager – Ensuring the construction activities are carried out safely and the works are completed to the relevant regulations, specifications and standards. Also to manage the time and budget aspect of the programme.

How did you become a Project manager? With 40+ years' experience in the civil engineering and oil and gas industries, my profession developed from college graduation as a Junior Site Engineer through to Senior Project Manager roles. My career path took me

throughout the UK and International wide projects including Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

What are your hobbies? The 3M's: Motorhomes / Motorcycles / Middlesbrough FC

What have you done to become greener? Wherever reasonably practicable, promoted environmentally sustainable activities on the site to include EV cars, hydrogen powered generators and carbon neutral construction.



Community news

In April we opened the gates of the substation to welcome a special guest.

Seven-year-old pylon-enthusiast Ted Elliott from South Shields was invited to visit the substations after the project team were informed of his love for National Grid's pylons.

Ted was shown where the new Power Flow Control equipment will be installed at the South Shields site on Hartford Road this summer by contractor Omexon, before being taken on a tour of the West Boldon substation. Ted was shown spare pylon parts and the site team explained how the pylons worked.

Stevie Elliott, Ted's mum, contacted the South Shields team about her son's love of pylons. She said: "Ted became obsessed with knowing everything about pylons when he was younger. We spend hours driving around the local area going 'pylon hunting', taking him to see his favourite pylons and he loves learning more about them whilst watching videos of linesmen working on the overhead lines. When we saw work was taking place at South Shields substation, I got in touch with the team to see if there was any way we could have get a closer look at the substation and pylons.

"The team were so accommodating, putting together a full afternoon of tours. Ted was thrilled to meet the engineers and learn more about the pylons. He absolutely loved it from start to finish, and the team were so good with him. He doesn't show a lot of emotion in front of new people, but he thoroughly enjoyed himself. Even me and his dad enjoyed it!"

Lee Stansfield, National Grid project manager, said: "We were delighted to welcome Ted and his family to our sites and show him behind the scenes. It was wonderful to see a young boy with so much enthusiasm for and knowledge of pylons. We're always keen to engage with the local community whilst we carry out work at South Shields substation, helping to deliver wider benefits to the community through our projects and inspiring the next generation."

James Mason, Operations Manager for National Grid, oversaw the West Boldon tour. He added: "It was great to welcome Ted for a tour inside our West Boldon substation and seeing his interest in the electricity network. Whilst he was on site, we were able to take him behind the scenes and show him how a substation works, get a closer look at the parts which make up the pylons and see the vehicles we use to access the pylons. We're certainly looking forward to Ted joining the National Grid team when he's older!"



Community Grant Programme

Our Community Grant Programme is aimed at organisations and charities in areas where National Grid's work impacts local people through our operations and site activities.

We provide grants for community-based initiatives run by charities and community groups that meet local community needs by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

If your project meets our criteria, you can apply for a grant of up to £10,000.

To find out more about how to apply please visit our website:

www.nationalgrid.com/south-shields-substation

Your questions answered

What are your working hours?

Our normal working hours will be between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Essential activities that require continuous working will take place occasionally outside of these hours. In this instance, 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 2027. We'll then be on site until 2028 undertaking the connection work.

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 6183
(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

email southshields@nationalgrid.com
website: www.nationalgrid.com/south-shields-substation

You can also write to us using our freepost address:

Freepost GIVEYOURVIEW
(no stamp or further address required)

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