

Middleton substation proposals community update

Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with our team on our proposals to extend the existing 400 kilovolt (kV) substation at Middleton.

We have now finalised and submitted a planning application to Lancaster City Council. The application can be found on Lancaster City Council's planning portal using this reference number: 25/01055/FUL.

Officers at the council will now assess our application, and work with the project team to review the reports and assessments that have been submitted.

Following these steps, the council will then determine the application. This is either done by officers, under delegated powers or at a meeting of the planning committee.

Community engagement

In March 2025, we carried out a programme of community engagement to inform the local community of our proposals to extend the existing substation at Middleton, Heysham. This included engagement with residents and local representatives, an online webinar and an in-person event at Heysham Jubilee Institute.

Following our events and a review of our plans, we have proposed some changes to our application, which we have outlined below.

The design changes have been made to reduce the environmental impact of the extended substation, by allowing us to use improved equipment at the substation, in turn avoiding the need to use greenhouse gases for insulation. To facilitate this, rather than an extension to the existing gas insulated switchgear (GIS) building, we are proposing:

- a new standalone GIS building 10 metres (m) to the west of the existing GIS hall, slightly larger than originally proposed (46.2 m x 20.2 m)

- small changes to the redline boundary to accommodate the construction equipment needed to build the GIS hall and a temporary access road
- an extended access road to the western boundary of the site to allow easier access into the site once the temporary access road is removed.

We are proposing that the GIS hall, which would be 2.2 m taller than the existing building, would be built using the same material as the existing hall, to minimise its visual impact. Existing landscaping around the site boundary will also continue to provide visual screening.



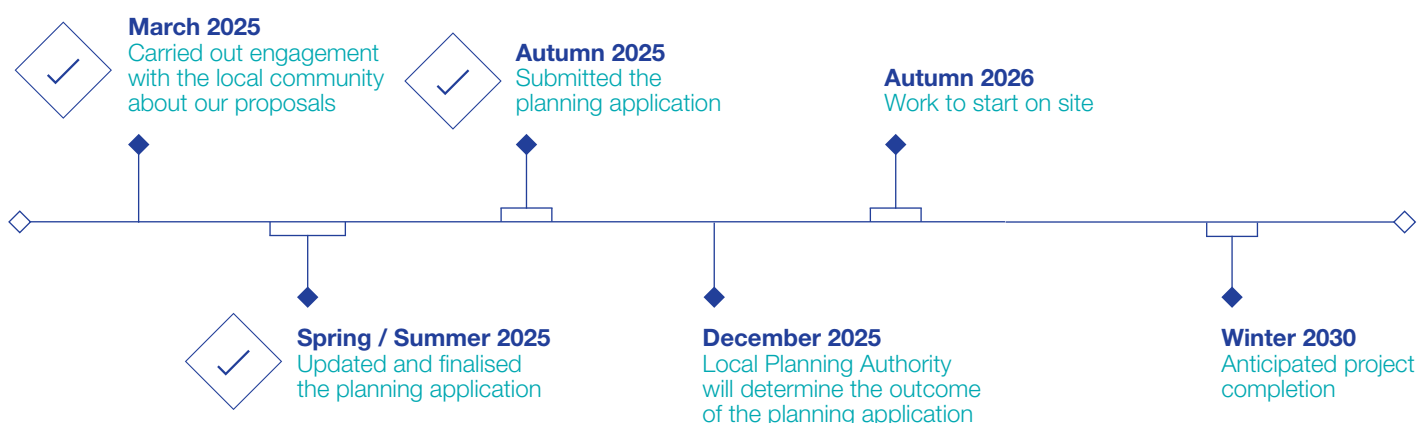
Community benefits

In March 2025, the Government published new guidance setting out how communities hosting new or upgraded electricity transmission infrastructure should be rewarded for doing so.

We're pleased to confirm that the work we are proposing at Middleton Substation qualifies under this new guidance. This means that if our application for Middleton Substation is approved, £530,000 will be available to invest in projects that benefit local people.

This funding replaces – and offers a significantly increased level of investment than – the Community Grant Programme that we introduced at our public information events in March 2025.

We look forward to working with local residents, charities and community groups and elected representatives to understand your priorities and how such funding could be best spent to deliver long lasting benefits.



Visit our website for more information about our proposals. You can do this using the camera app on your smart phone to scan the QR code or visit:
nationalgrid.com/middleton-substation

You can contact us at:

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