

The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

Weston Marsh targeted consultation document

November 2025

national**grid**

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Foreword

Thank you for your interest in our proposals for upgrading the electricity grid in your local area.

Grimsby to Walpole is a proposed 140 km overhead line with substations between Northeast Lincolnshire and North Norfolk. It is needed to reinforce the network, and to connect new sources of electricity planned in the area, including offshore wind, solar, gas-fired generation, interconnectors, battery storage and subsea links from Scotland.

Between 11 June and 6 August 2025, we carried out a Stage 2 consultation on our proposals and are grateful for all of the feedback received. At the time we were still considering whether one or two new substations would be needed at Weston Marsh and committed to undertaking further consultation once more detail was available.

Following consideration of feedback on our proposals at Weston Marsh, along with further technical work and continued engagement with generators,

we are now seeking feedback on our proposals for two new substations - Weston Marsh Substation A and Weston Marsh Substation B - which will be included in our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

This is a targeted consultation, focused only on the proposals for Weston Marsh (Route section 5 of Grimsby to Walpole). It is open to anyone with an interest in our proposals for the Weston Marsh substations and the wider Grimsby to Walpole project.

We encourage everyone to take time to review our proposals, get in touch with any questions, and respond by **11:59pm on Friday 19 December 2025**. Your feedback will help shape the final design for both phases of development.



Ben Ridgeon
Project Director
Grimsby to Walpole


About National Grid and The Great Grid Upgrade

National Grid delivers electricity safely, reliably and efficiently to the customers and communities we serve – all while working towards building a cleaner, fairer and more affordable energy system for the future.

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) sits at the heart of Britain’s energy system, connecting millions of people and businesses to the energy they use every day. Every time a phone is plugged in, or a switch is turned on, we have played a part, connecting you to the electricity you need.

Our Strategic Infrastructure delivery unit, which is part of NGET, is developing the proposals set out in this document. It must, under the Electricity Act 1989, do so in an efficient, coordinated, and economical way which also considers people, places and the environment. We have published 10 commitments to how we go about doing this in our stakeholder, community and amenity policy¹.

To find out more about how we develop our proposals, please see our video² explaining how we work.



Scan this QR code for more information on The Great Grid Upgrade, or visit our website at <https://nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade>

What is The Great Grid Upgrade?





The existing transmission system - the infrastructure including pylons, overhead lines and underground cables which transports electricity around the country - was largely built in the 1960s. It was not designed to transport electricity from where it is increasingly being generated today - offshore and from solar.

Electricity demand in Britain is forecast to at least double by 2050, increasing the amount of energy we need to transport to homes and businesses. Alongside this there has been huge growth in offshore wind, interconnectors and nuclear power which means that more electricity will be generated in the years ahead than the current network is able to transport securely and reliably.

New power lines are needed to meet the Government’s target of connecting 50 Gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind, enough to power every home in the country with clean, green and more affordable energy. The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the grid in generations and will future proof the Grid for years to come, facilitating the transition to a clean and affordable energy future.

Co-ordinating The Great Grid Upgrade locally

Several Great Grid Upgrade Projects are located in the region, with each serving a unique purpose in reinforcing the network, connecting clean energy from where it is generated to where it is needed.

	Brief Project description	Delivery timescales	Visit Project website
Grimsby to Walpole	Grimsby to Walpole is a 140 km overhead line between Northeast Lincolnshire and North Norfolk, needed to reinforce the network, and to connect new sources of electricity planned in the area, including offshore wind, solar, gas-fired generation, interconnectors, battery storage and subsea links from Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development consent order application submission: 2027Anticipated construction: 2028-2033	
EGL 3 and EGL 4 (Eastern Green Link)	EGL 3 and EGL 4 are two primarily offshore subsea cables, needed to move clean wind energy generated offshore in Scottish waters through offshore subsea cables and underground onshore cables to the Midlands and South of England. The two Projects will each power up to two million homes with clean, renewable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development consent order application submission: 2026Anticipated construction: 2029-2034	
EGL 5 (Eastern Green Link)	EGL 5 is a cable route connecting offshore wind power generated in Scotland to the Midlands. The cable will be subsea when offshore and underground when onshore, and would power around two million homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stage 2 consultation: 2026Development consent order application submission: 2027Anticipated construction: 2030-2035	
Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire	Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire is a network reinforcement, carrying enough electricity into the Midlands to power up to six million homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stage 2 consultation: 2026Development consent order application submission: 2028Anticipated construction: 2029-2033	

¹ National Grid’s commitments when undertaking works in the UK: Our stakeholder, community and amenity policy (National Grid, December 2019) – Available at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/81026/download>

² National Grid Electricity Transmission, ‘How we work’ video [players.brightcove.net/867903724001/default_default/index.html?videoId=6329276694112](https://www.brightcove.net/867903724001/default_default/index.html?videoId=6329276694112)

In developing The Great Grid Upgrade, we have considered how these projects can be delivered cohesively, while ensuring maximum benefit for consumers, local communities and the environment. In the Lincolnshire area, this has included:

- 1

sharing cable corridor routes
- 2

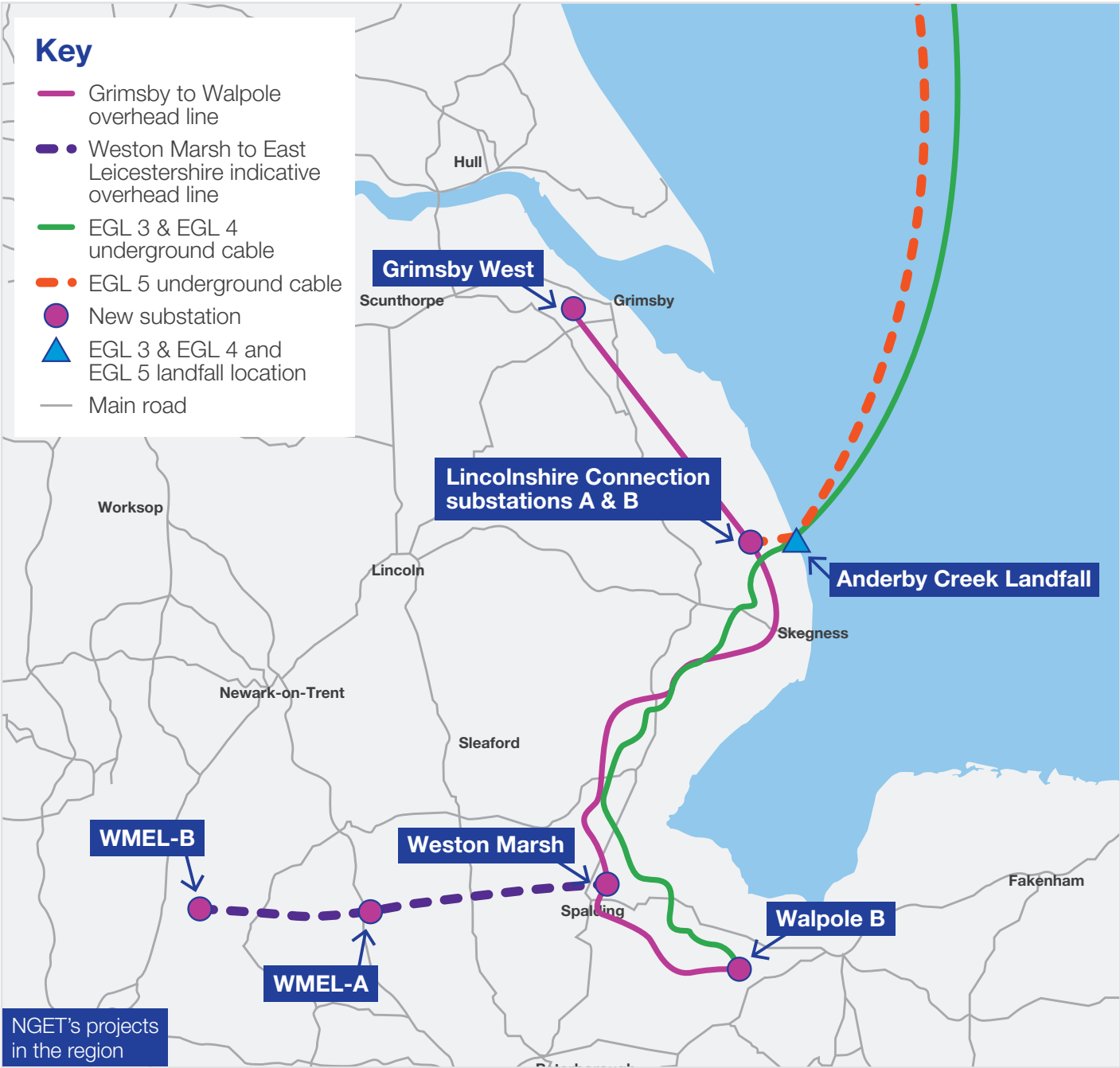
sharing landfall locations
- 3

managing construction impacts
- 4

considering cumulative impacts
- 5

co-ordinating local engagement
- 6

co-ordinating environmental management.



Our proposals

During Stage 2 consultation, we presented the Grimsby to Walpole route in seven Route sections, clearly distinguishing between substation and overhead line locations.

Route section 5, previously called the 'Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone', showed the proposed area for up to two new substations in the Weston Marsh area. Following engagement with energy generators, and the completion of ongoing surveys, the design for 'Route section 5 – New Weston Marsh

Substations A and B' has now been further developed and is being presented for consultation as part of the DCO planning process. At this consultation, we are presenting the equivalent level of detail for Route section 5, as was presented for other Route sections of the Project at Stage 2 consultation.

More detailed plans, photomontages and the Guide to interacting with our consultation plans, are available in the Document library on our Project website.

Route section 5 consultation plans

Earlier phase of development consultation plans

Guide to interacting with our consultation plans

Interactive map and photomontages



Consulting on our proposals

Our approach to consultation

We recognise that major infrastructure projects have both local and national impacts. Our commitment is to consult and work closely with residents, community representatives, and stakeholders at every stage of planning and construction. We aim to minimise disruption and maximise the benefits of the project for local communities, while ensuring the UK’s energy network is fit for the future.



Overview of Stage 2 consultation

Overview of Stage 2 consultation

Our Stage 2 consultation, held between 11 June and 6 August 2025, provided an opportunity for local people, stakeholders, and interested parties to review and comment on our updated proposals for Grimsby to Walpole. This consultation built on feedback from our earlier Stage 1 consultation in 2024, which introduced the Project and gathered initial views.

Stage 2 consultation statistics:

- 1,203 feedback submissions were received from local communities, stakeholders, and consultees
- 1,214 people attended public information events and 39 joined online webinars
- 150 responses were received to the Community Benefits Survey
- 32,441 unique website views were recorded during the consultation period.

Weston Marsh targeted consultation

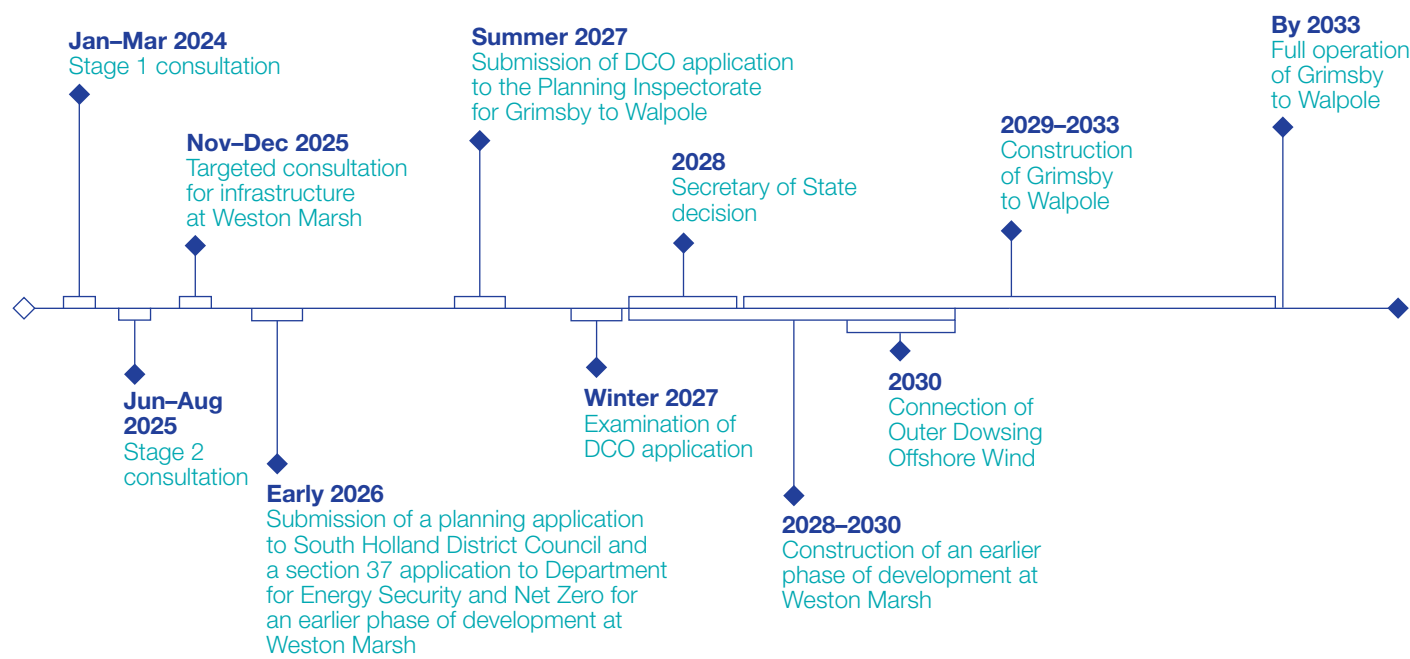
Now that we have refined our design for Route section 5 of Grimsby to Walpole, we are presenting our plans and undertaking a targeted consultation to gather feedback on this section of the proposals.

Our proposals for the DCO application for Grimsby to Walpole include both Weston Marsh Substation A and Weston Marsh Substation B. However, we are also presenting our plans for, and seeking feedback on, proposals to build part of Weston Marsh Substation A earlier than the rest of Grimsby to Walpole. In addition to our DCO application, we will also apply to South Holland District Council and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for planning permission for this initial phase of development.

Consultation on these proposals will run from **Tuesday 18 November to 11:59pm on Friday 19 December 2025.**

Project timeline

The table below sets out the expected milestones for each stage of the Project from pre-application consultation through to construction.



The need for the Project

The way we generate and consume electricity is changing

With more power now coming from British renewables and demand for electricity forecast to significantly increase, we must upgrade the transmission system so it can reliably transport energy from where it is generated to where it is needed.

However, the Lincolnshire coastal region currently has limited infrastructure, restricting its ability to support new renewable energy connections.

The existing transmission network in the area was mostly built in the 1960s, to connect inland coal-fired power stations. Later, gas-fired power stations were connected in areas such as the Humber.

Grimsby to Walpole is part of The Great Grid Upgrade. It will strengthen links between the North, the Midlands and the South so that more home-grown power can reach homes, businesses and public services.

New electricity generation and network capacity

Electricity generators such as solar and offshore wind farms apply to the National Energy System Operator to connect to the electricity network. Once a connection is agreed, it is contractually secured.

National Grid Electricity Transmission must provide the connection to the network, whilst also making sure the transmission system meets performance and security standards. For example, the network must be designed to handle existing and new connections in peak demand conditions and to have sufficient spare capacity to prevent widespread supply interruptions when there are certain faults on the network.



Planning ahead to power homes by 2030

Energy demand is rising, and we need to act now. That is why we are seeking to deliver part of Weston Marsh Substation A earlier than the rest of Grimsby to Walpole.

This earlier phase of development will connect the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm to the electricity network in 2030, bringing home-grown energy to over 1.6 million homes from its first day of operation. Without appropriate transmission infrastructure in place by 2030, it is possible that the wind farm's energy generation would not be able to be connected to those that need it across the East Midlands.

Delivering part of Weston Marsh Substation A earlier would support us to connect clean, home-grown British energy to homes, businesses and public services sooner.

Reinforcing network boundaries

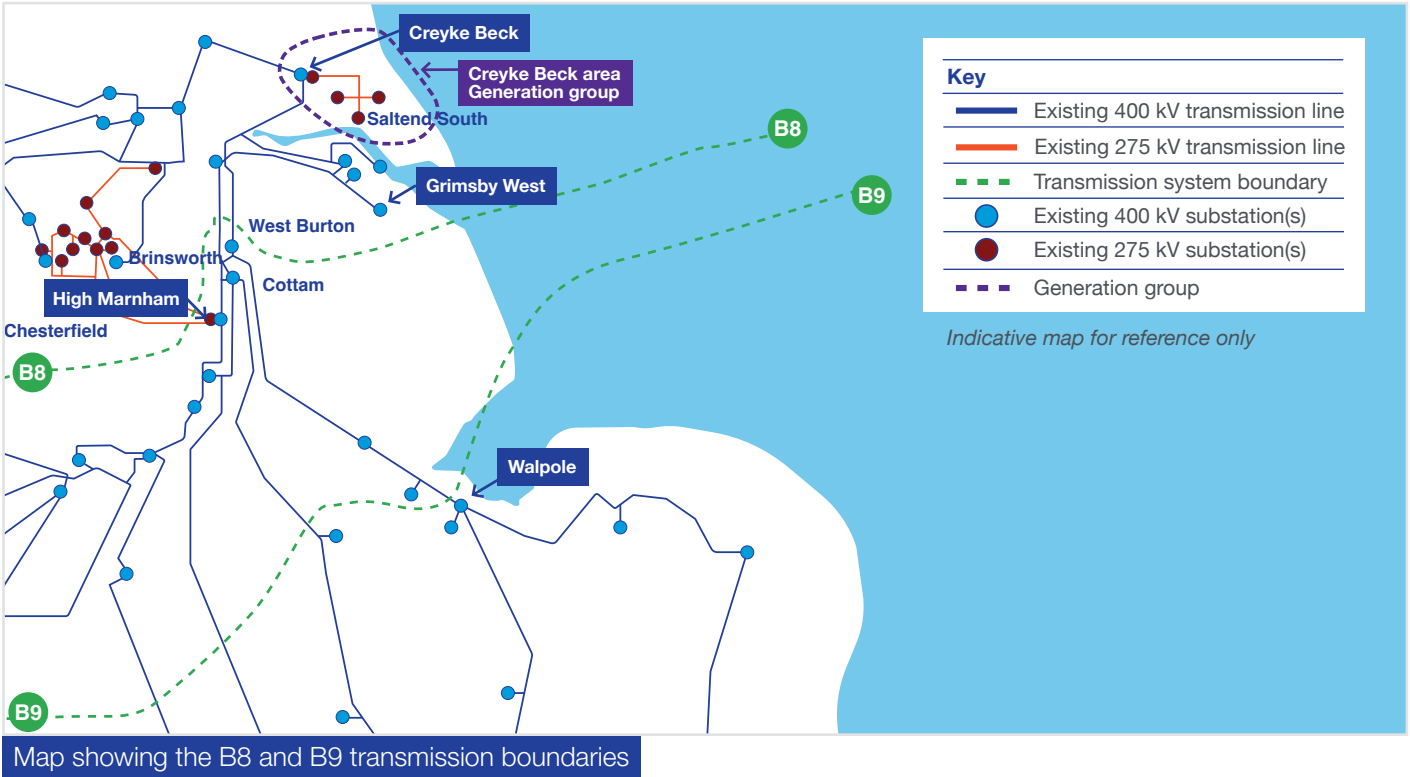
The electricity network system in Britain is split into boundaries. Each boundary has a limit to the amount of electricity that can flow across it. As more electricity is needed and is being generated in Britain, we can assess where the power flows between these boundaries will need to increase. The boundaries B8 and B9 (shown below), are where we need to increase the capacity of the Grid for this increased amount of electricity.

Grimsby to Walpole will help achieve this by providing reinforcement across boundaries B8 and B9. B8 needs around 7.9 GW of additional capacity by 2035, and B9 needs around 4.7 GW by 2030 in accommodating the two generation groups. In this case, we must build new parts of the network to connect new generation and resolve capacity issues with network boundaries B8 and B9.

Delivering new infrastructure

Upgrading the existing network will not resolve the capacity issues and help to meet the supply of additional electricity flows in order to meet growing demand. Reinforcements are therefore essential.

Grimsby to Walpole will add one of the needed 400 kV AC double circuits connecting new offshore wind, energy storage, solar, interconnectors and Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plants that are contracted to connect to the network.



Power Units: GW vs. MW

A gigawatt (GW) is a unit of power equal to one billion watts, often used to measure the output of the total power consumption of a country at any given time. For example, the peak demand of the Great Britain (GB) system is currently around 65 GW.

A megawatt (MW) is a unit of power equal to one million watts, typically used for wind turbines, or the power consumption of a city.

For instance, a typical offshore wind farm has a capacity in the region of 1 to 1.5 GW. One gigawatt is equal to 1,000 megawatts.

This makes GW suitable for larger-scale power generation and MW for smaller facilities or regional energy use.

Transmission infrastructure explained

Pylons and overhead lines

Pylons are used to support high voltage overhead lines – the conductors that transmit electricity all over the country. They keep these cables elevated to ensure safe passage over roads, rivers, valleys, and railway lines.

Overhead lines can transmit higher amounts of electricity than underground and subsea cables in one piece of infrastructure. For example, a single line of pylons can transport around 6930 megawatts (MW), whereas the largest underground high voltage direct current (HVDC) system could transport 2000 MW. The height of pylons can vary depending on the terrain and the specific requirements of the area. For example, low-height pylons may be used in areas with significant visual or environmental constraints.

Substations

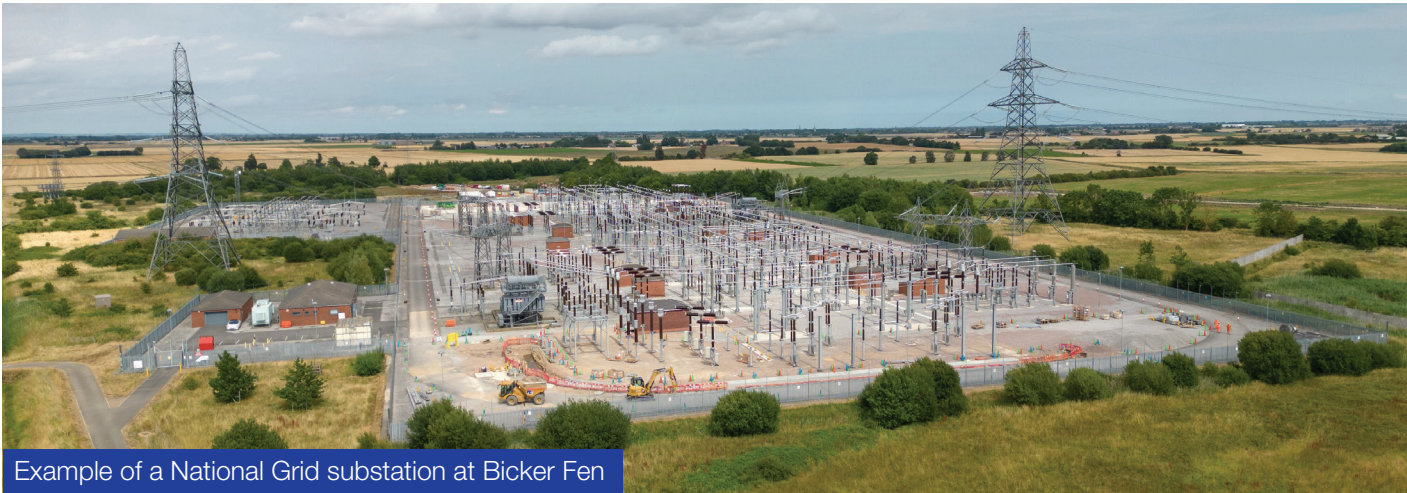
Substations convert electricity into different voltages. This conversion is necessary because high voltages are more efficient for transmitting electricity over long distances, while lower voltages are safer and more suitable for distribution into homes and businesses. This enables electricity to be transmitted and distributed throughout the country and into homes and businesses. Substations provide a vital role in connecting overhead line circuits, generators, interconnectors, other transmission projects, and new generation sources like offshore wind farms.

Substations typically include transformers, circuit breakers, disconnecting switches, and other equipment necessary for operating and protecting the electrical grid. They are above ground and once operational, do not require a large number of people to be present to operate and maintain them.

Underground cabling

‘Undergrounding’ involves the burying of cables. The process typically comprises of nine transmission cables, approximately 150 mm in diameter each, and buried within series of three.

They are then surrounded by an additional layer of cement bound sand, which provides a thermal barrier. The cables are then covered with protective warning tape to prevent any accidental excavation.



Example of a National Grid substation at Bicker Fen

Gantries

Gantries are bridge-like structures with platforms that support equipment and cabling. They guide power conductors from the last pylon near the substation to the electrical equipment within the substation.

Supergrid transformers

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

Angle Pylons

Angle pylons, also known as deviation pylons, are essential for carrying power lines around bends on their route. These pylons have unique design features, such as unequal arm lengths and squat bases for balance, which help maintain the integrity of the power line. They are used for realigning power line routes when necessary, especially at corners.

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)

Power is generated and largely transmitted across our electrical system as High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC). Alternating current power is efficient for distributing energy across the country, and into homes and businesses. HVDC is often more efficient when transporting electricity over much longer distances because it incurs fewer losses.

Watt

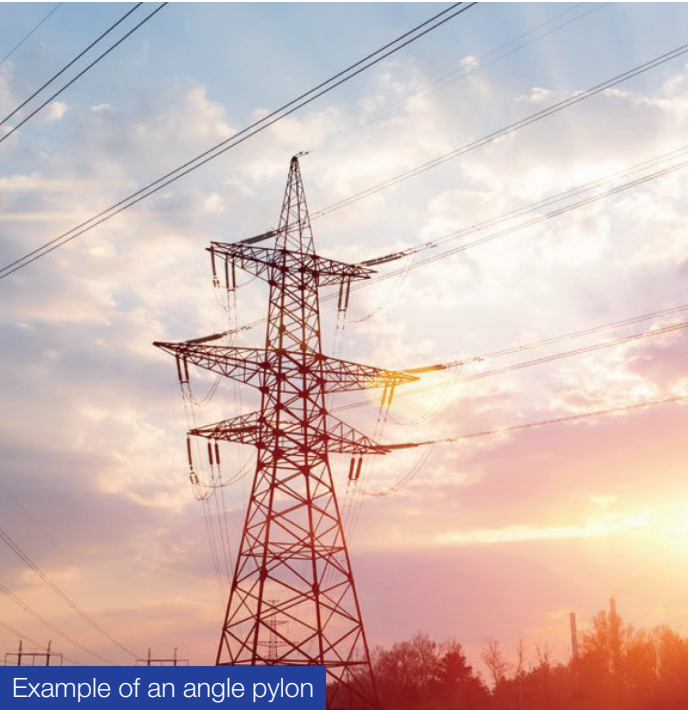
A watt is a measure of power, and there are 1 billion watts in 1 gigawatt (GW). 1 gigawatt hour (GWh) is a unit of energy, equivalent to powering one million UK homes for one hour. A kV is a measurement of electrical voltage. The measurement stands for kilovolts or one thousand volts. Put simply, the higher the kV capacity of an overhead line, the more power it can transport.



Example of a National Grid gantry



Example of a National Grid Supergrid transformer



Example of an angle pylon

Our proposals for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B

We are proposing new electricity infrastructure in the Weston Marsh area to help meet growing energy demand and connect more clean, home-grown British power to the grid. This will take the form of two new substations, connected via a 3.05 km underground cable.

These substations will be connected via overhead line into the existing electricity transmission network, and into the Grimsby to Walpole project, a network reinforcement that will see 140 km of new overhead line and six new substations developed between Grimsby in Northeast Lincolnshire and Walpole in North Norfolk.

The overhead line in Route section 4 will connect New Lincolnshire Connection Substation B, near Alford, to New Weston Marsh Substation A. Route section 6 will connect Weston Marsh Substation A and B to New Walpole B Substation, near Walpole in North Norfolk.



Types of substation

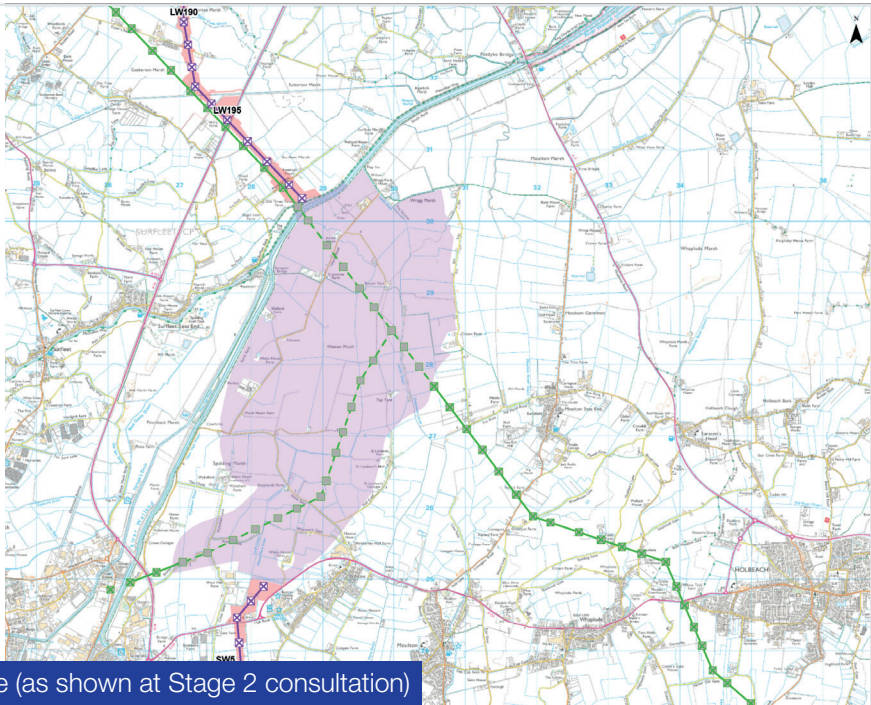
There are two main types of substations: air insulated switchgear (AIS), which uses air to insulate components, and gas-insulated switchgear (GIS), which uses gas to insulate components.

AIS is the default for substations because it allows for more efficient installation, procurement of equipment, and operation and maintenance.

All substations included within our proposals for Grimsby to Walpole are proposed to be AIS.

Key:

- Draft order limits
- Refined Weston Marsh substation siting zone
- Indicative new lattice pylon
- Existing lattice pylon - within Weston Marsh siting zone that may be modified
- Existing lattice pylon - not affected
- Indicative new overhead line
- Existing overhead line not affected
- Existing overhead line - within Weston Marsh siting zone that may be modified



Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone (as shown at Stage 2 consultation)

Weston Marsh Substation A

We are proposing to build Weston Marsh Substation A using Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS), which means most of the equipment will be outdoors.

This new 400 kV substation would be located just east of Marsh Road, near Surfleet Seas End and north of Weston, in South Holland district. The substation site would cover around 10.6 hectares and be securely fenced. The tallest equipment would reach up to 12.5 metres, with overhead line gantries up to 15 metres high.

Weston Marsh Substation A would connect to the wider transmission network through new and modified

overhead lines, including a new section from the north-west and links to the existing overhead line. It would also act as the grid connection point for the Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, helping deliver clean electricity to over 1.6 million homes.

We are planning to deliver Weston Marsh Substation A in two phases. Phase 1 would include the infrastructure needed to connect Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind, and Phase 2 would include additional bays and infrastructure required to complete the substation as part of proposals for Grimsby to Walpole.



³ Illustrative design of the complete Weston Marsh Substation A



⁴ Photomontage of Weston Marsh Substation A

³ The aerial images used in this document are extracts from Fly-through videos covering the full route of the Project, which are available on the Project Website. These have been produced using aerial footage captured from an altitude of approximately 300 m above ground level in October 2024. They provide an illustrative representation of the design being consulted on as shown in the Consultation Plans after completion of construction, including indicative locations of the areas for vegetation screening. The visualisations make use of 3D Models for the substations based on the layouts presented in the Substation Site Layout Plans, as well as 3D models for the new and modified overhead lines which are based on the design presented in the Consultation Plans. Whilst efforts have been made to ensure technical accuracy of the visual models, the images are indicative only and the Consultation Plans should be referred to for accurate design information.

⁴ The photomontage images used in this document are extracts from a larger set of photomontages which are available on the Project Website. These have been produced using imagery captured from various locations across the Project. They provide an illustrative representation of the design being consulted on as shown in the Consultation Plans. The photomontages make use of 3D models for the new and modified overhead lines which are based on the design presented in the Consultation Plans. Whilst efforts have been made to ensure technical accuracy of the visual models, the images are indicative only and the Consultation Plans should be referred to for accurate design information.

Weston Marsh Substation B

Weston Marsh Substation B is proposed to use (AIS), meaning most of the equipment would be outdoors.

This 400 kV substation would be located north of Stone Gate and east of Marsh Road, near the Moulton Seas End junction in South Holland district. The site would cover around 8.4 hectares and be enclosed within a secure fence. Equipment would reach up to 12.5 metres, with gantries for overhead lines up to 15 metres high.

Weston Marsh Substation B would connect into the transmission network via new and diverted overhead lines, including diversions to the existing overhead line. It would also provide future connection points for solar, battery storage, and other energy generation projects, supporting onward transmission to Walpole and East Leicestershire.



Illustrative design of Weston Marsh Substation B



Photomontage of Weston Marsh Substation B

How our plans have developed through the Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultations

The proposed locations for both Weston Marsh Substations A and B remain consistent with the siting zones shared during our Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultations.

Weston Marsh Substation A is positioned close to existing overhead lines, helping to reduce the need for new overhead lines and minimise disruption.

Both sites have been carefully designed with the local landscape in mind, avoiding key constraints such as Lord’s Drain and the Intergeren gas pipeline. They would also incorporate new planting and screening to reduce visual impact and help the substations blend into their surroundings. The layouts are designed to maintain safe distances from key local features, such as residential properties, public rights of way, and watercourses.



Connecting Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

We’ve recently completed our Stage 1 consultation on proposals for a new overhead line from Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire (WMEL). We expect it to connect directly into the new Weston Marsh Substation B. WMEL Stage 2 consultation, planned for 2026, will include detailed route proposals for the new WMEL line.

Our approach to delivering Weston Marsh Substation A earlier

Our proposals for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B will be included in our Grimsby to Walpole DCO application. Alongside this application, we will also be submitting separate planning applications for earlier delivery of part of the development to allow connection of Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind by 2030.

Earlier delivery of part of Weston Marsh Substation A would mean two phases of construction.

Phase 1 – Weston Marsh Substation A

Phase 1 would include:

- a new 400 kilovolt (kV) substation east of Marsh Road (called Weston Marsh Substation A)
- around 1.8 km of new and modified overhead power lines and towers to connect the substation to the existing network
- supporting infrastructure like gantries, control buildings, and access roads
- landscaping and environmental mitigation.

In addition to submitting Route section 5 as part of our DCO application, the substation elements of Phase 1 will be submitted for planning permission to South Holland District Council, while the 1.8 km of new, and modified, overhead line will be submitted to the Secretary of State for consent under s37 of the Electricity Act 1989.



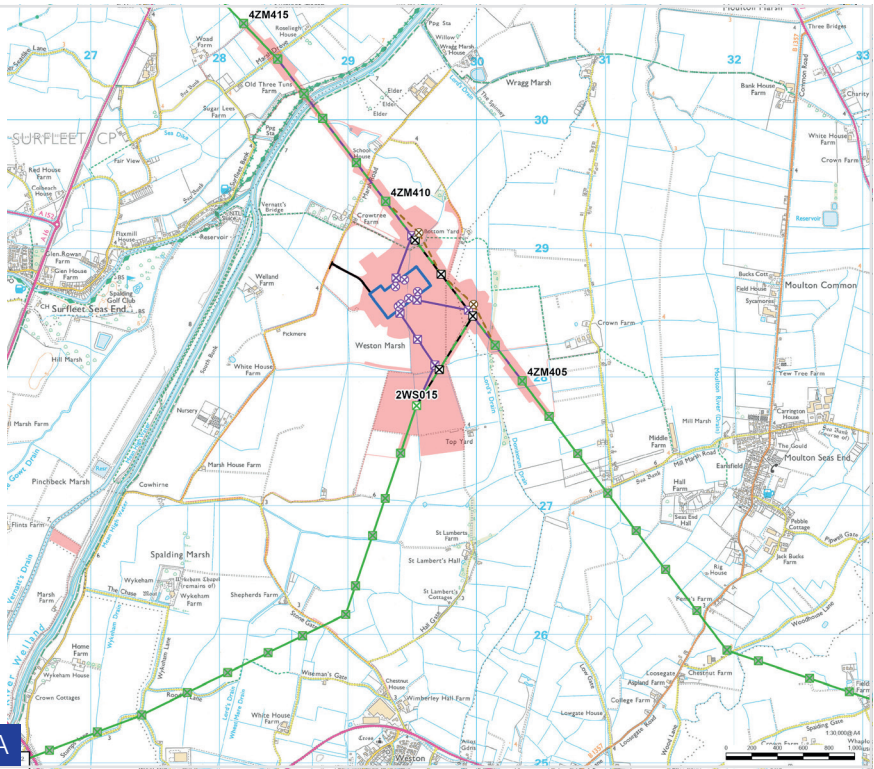
s37 Electricity Act 1989

When National Grid plans to build a short run of electricity pylons, less than 2 km long, it needs to get permission from the Secretary of State. This process – via the Electricity Act 1989 – is separate from the development consent order and the town and country planning act processes. We will seek the Secretary of State’s permission to build 1.8 km of new overhead line, part of Phase 1, via this process.

Key:

- Draft order limits
- ⊗ Indicative new lattice pylon
- ⊗ Indicative new gantry
- ⊗ Existing lattice pylon - not affected
- ⊗ Existing lattice pylon - to be modified
- ⊗ Existing lattice pylon - to be dismantled
- ⊗ Indicative temporary structure
- Indicative new overhead line
- Existing overhead line - not affected
- Existing overhead line - to be modified
- Existing overhead line - to be dismantled
- - - Indicative temporary overhead line
- Indicative new substation boundary
- Indicative permanent substation access route


Phase 1 plans for Weston Marsh Substation A



Phase 2 – Weston Marsh Substations A and B

Phase 2 would comprise the construction of the remainder of ‘Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B’ as part of Grimsby to Walpole. This would include:

- further work to Weston Marsh Substation A and building a second substation, Weston Marsh Substation B, north of Stone Gate
- continuation of the 400 kV overhead line between Lincolnshire Connection Substation B and Walpole B Substation, connecting Weston Marsh Substation A, including a mix of new, existing and modified overhead line and towers
- around 3.05 km of underground cable connecting the two substations
- changes to existing overhead lines, including diversions, removals, and upgrades.



Diversions, removals and upgrades

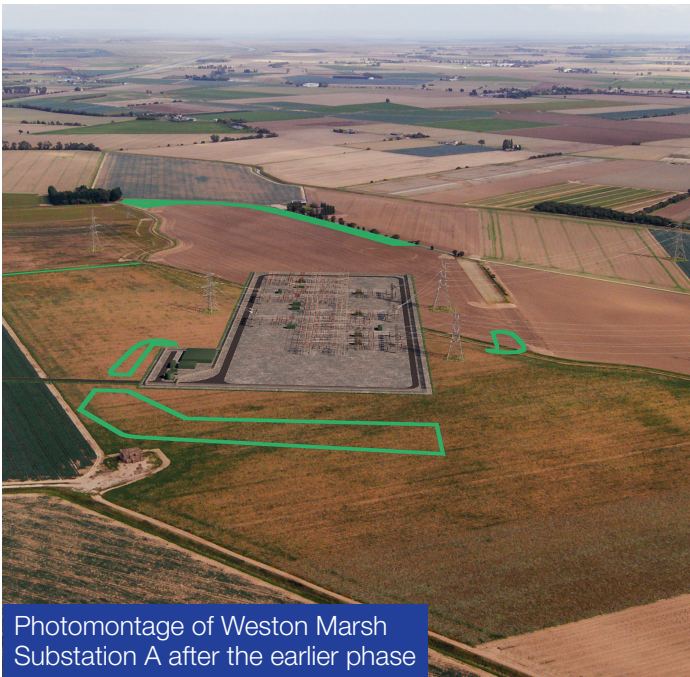
Diversions, removals and upgrades are works where we move, take down or improve overhead power lines. This keeps the network safe, reliable and ready for the future.

Additional Works

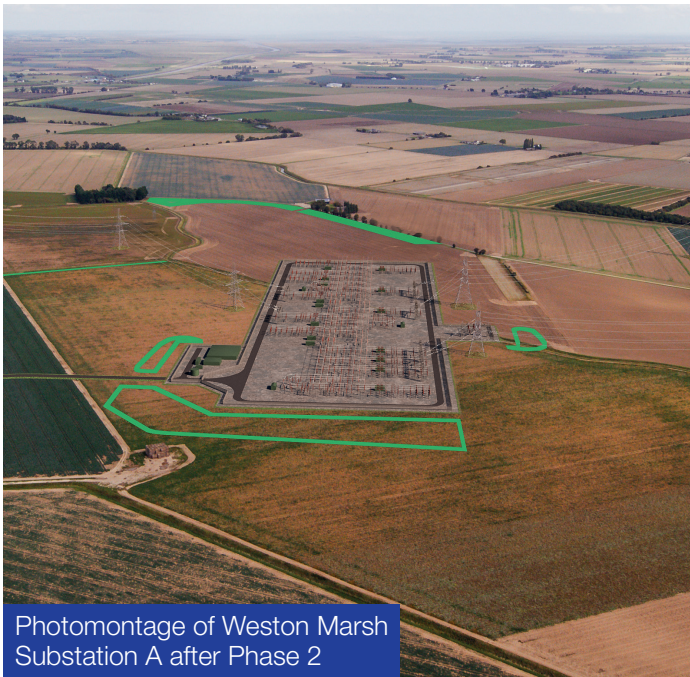
Across both phases, we will also need to build temporary access roads, alter highways, and set up construction compounds. We will work in partnership with organisations to enhance nature and wildlife in Lincolnshire and address potential significant effects as much as possible.

The extension of Weston Marsh Substation A during Phase 2

The second phase of construction would include further work to complete Weston Marsh Substation A. This would include the installation of additional bays, gantries, and substation plant, as well as the completion of on-site buildings, such as the control room. The differences between the substation at each of these stages can be seen on the below screenshots of the Photomontages. Interactive versions of these Photomontages are available on the Project website.



Photomontage of Weston Marsh Substation A after the earlier phase



Photomontage of Weston Marsh Substation A after Phase 2

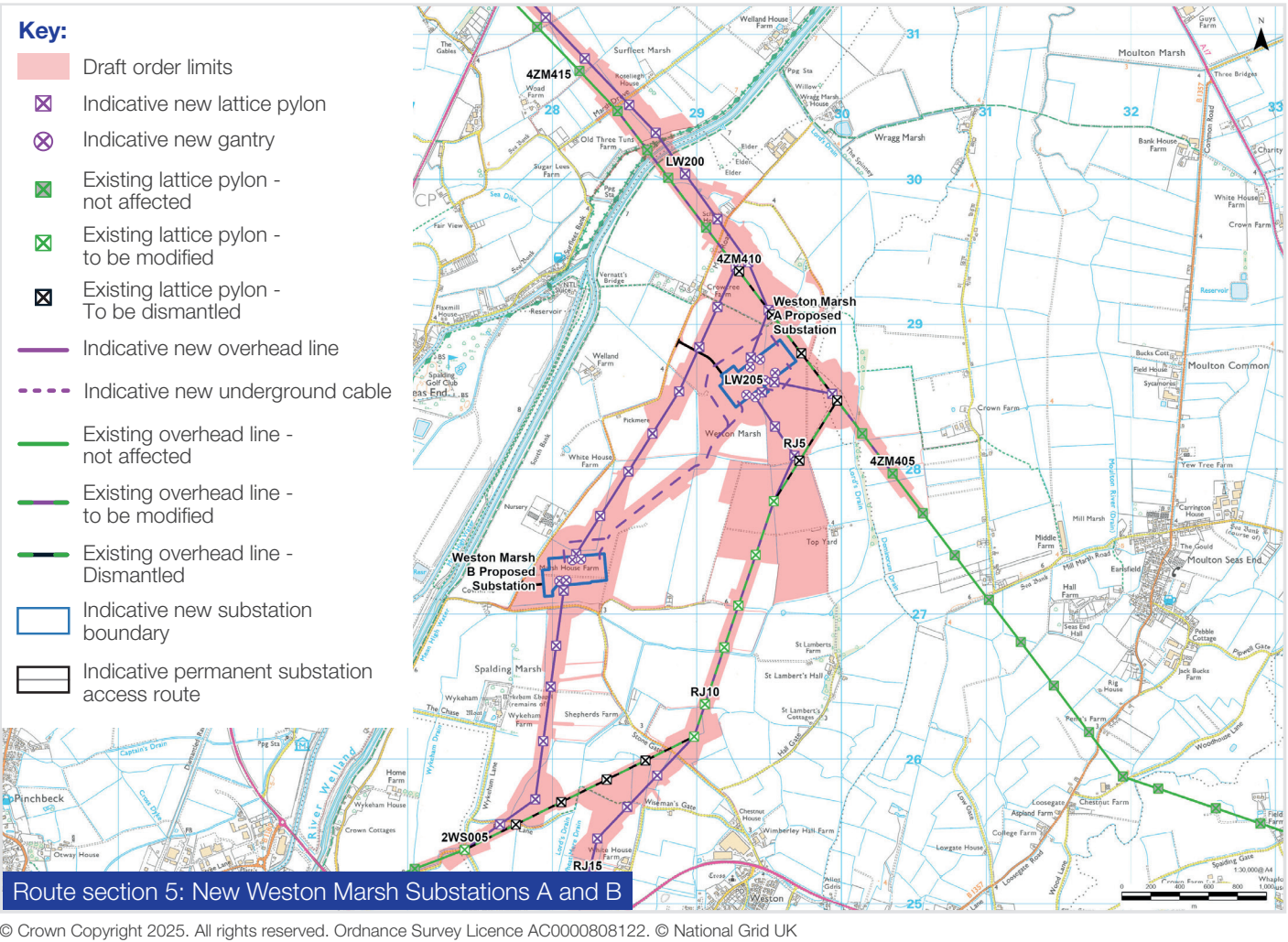
An option for a single phased development approach

We’re working to get part of Weston Marsh Substation A built ahead of the Grimsby to Walpole line. To do this, we will apply for permissions (under the Town and Country Planning Act and Section 37). If these permissions aren’t granted, the substations at Weston Marsh would need to be built in one phase, as part of the full Development Consent Order (DCO) process.

However, this would mean that Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind would not be connected to the electricity network until Grimsby to Walpole is completed in 2033. This would also mean a

delay in connecting more clean, home-grown British energy to the homes, businesses and public services that need it.

The plan below shows our proposals for developing infrastructure at Weston Marsh, as part of our Grimsby to Walpole proposals in one single phase of construction. While these plans show a final state that is the same as the two-stage construction approach, the approach to development is slightly different.



Construction

Should permission be obtained for the earlier phase of development, we expect to commence construction of the first phase of Weston Marsh Substation A in 2028 and complete that in 2030.

The construction of the remainder of ‘Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B’ as part of Grimsby to Walpole would commence slightly later in 2029, with the entire overhead line and substation project expected to be fully operational by 2033. Should we be unable to proceed on the earlier phase of development, ‘Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B’ would be delivered as part of the DCO in one phase of construction.

Preparation for construction means clearing vegetation, moving utilities, and improving drainage to help prevent flooding or damage, both during building and once everything is up and running.

During construction, we will set up temporary facilities like compounds, working areas for equipment, site offices, storage spaces, and access routes. We will also create safe crossings over local watercourses and make sure public rights of way are diverted appropriately. All of this will happen within the project’s planned boundaries.

Where possible, we intend to share compounds and access routes between construction phases. We are committed to working closely with local authorities, landowners, and the community to ensure construction is undertaken efficiently.

Mitigating construction impacts

Our environmental and technical assessments include consideration of potential effects on local communities and the environment during construction, including traffic, noise, dust, and cumulative impacts with other projects.

Through this work, we are identifying mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate potential impacts from the construction of the Project. More details can be found in the Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR), which sets out the preliminary findings from the environmental studies and assessments we are carrying out in this route section.

We are committed to transparency throughout the construction period and will:

- provide regular updates to stakeholders and the community
- establish a dedicated communication channel for inquiries and feedback
- hold periodic meetings to discuss progress and address concerns.

Building overhead lines

The first step in building overhead lines is preparation. This involves setting up access points, roads, and construction areas. We might need to move or protect existing power lines to make way for the new 400 kV overhead line.

Next, we work on the foundations. For pylons with piled foundations, we drive long concrete pillars into the ground and top them with reinforced concrete. For pylons with pad and column foundations, we dig open holes, fill them with reinforced concrete, and then cover them up. This ensures the pylons have a strong base.

Once the foundations are ready, we assemble the pylons in sections on the ground and use cranes to lift them into place. This process varies depending on the size and type of the pylon. After the pylons are built, we attach the lines that carry electricity, a process known as ‘stringing’. We typically work on about 10 pylons at a time, using scaffolding and netting to keep everyone safe when crossing roads and rivers.

Finally, once the wires are attached, we remove the temporary roads and construction areas and restore the ground to its original state. Animations showing this process will be available at our public Information events and on our website.

Burying cables underground

Before we install electricity cables underground, we undertake extensive technical studies and surveys and work with landowners to carefully plan the most appropriate route, ensuring that the cables can be installed safely and with minimum disruption. A variety of methods can be used to lay the HVAC underground cables, including ducted and trenchless methods. Our cables would be installed in trenches, alongside a temporary road built for construction, called a haul road.

First, we carefully remove the topsoil and store it alongside the trenches so we can replace it after the work is finished. Then we dig the number of trenches we need on both sides of the access road. Cables are normally buried with a minimum of 0.9 meters of material cover above their protective tiles but could be buried deeper depending on soil Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), drainage and ground investigation surveys. The trenches are dug in lengths of up to 1500 metres. We then lay a bed of cement bound sand along the length of each trench. This helps manage any heat created by the electricity cables.

Next, we either lay the cables on the cement, or install ducts that run the length of each trench. Once the ducts have been installed, or when the cables have been laid in their individual trenches, we will return the subsoil and topsoil back from where it was removed. Our aim is to reinstate land to its original condition and land grade by implementing these mitigation measures.

Constructing a substation

Constructing a substation involves several important steps to ensure it works properly and fits into the local environment. First, the site is prepared by clearing and levelling the area. Excavation is done to create space for the foundations, and the removed earth may be used to reshape the surrounding landscape. Foundations are built to support heavy equipment like transformers and circuit breakers. Piling may also be required for the substations within Route section 5 – New Weston Marsh Substation A and B, based on ongoing assessment of local ground conditions.


Next, the construction of buildings and structures begins. These are designed to meet the specific needs of the substation. The installation of high voltage equipment is a crucial part of the process. Large components such as transformers, switchgear, and circuit breakers are delivered and installed. Busbars, which are metal bars that conduct electricity, are set up to connect the equipment. Ensuring these connections are secure is vital for the substation’s operation.

An electrical connection is established between the substation and the National Grid network, which can be done using cables or overhead lines. Once all the equipment is in place, thorough testing is conducted to ensure everything works correctly and safely. This includes checking transformers, circuit breakers, and other systems to make sure they perform well. Finally, the substation is officially brought into service, ensuring it meets all operational standards. Additional landscaping and aesthetic enhancements are added to integrate the substation into its surroundings.

Temporary construction compounds

We need to set up temporary construction compounds to support construction activities. These compounds house temporary offices, staff welfare facilities, and store equipment. They have a hard-standing surface, are secured by perimeter fencing, and will be removed at the end of the construction phase of the Project. Our aim is to reinstate land to its original condition and land grade by implementing a soil management plan to ensure there is no drop in soil quality as a result of construction works.

Grimsby to Walpole construction animations can be viewed by scanning the QR code:





Managing and mitigating effects

Feedback from this consultation, along with outputs from our ongoing technical and environmental assessments, will help us to further refine our proposals for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B.

We use good practice environmental impact assessment techniques to assess possible effects of our works and identify opportunities for mitigation measures and for delivering biodiversity net gain. Our Supplementary preliminary environmental information report (SPEIR) considers the likely significant effects of our proposals on the environment, along with the measures we are proposing to mitigate these impacts. The SPEIR is the equivalent of the Preliminary environmental information report presented at Stage 2 consultation, but focused specifically on Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B. The SPEIR, along with a non-technical summary of its findings, is available on our Project website nationalgrid.com/g-w.

Protecting the environment during construction

Our detailed environmental surveys and assessments have helped us to understand potential effects and how they can be avoided, reduced or mitigated during construction and operation. Where avoidance and mitigation are not possible, we would explore opportunities to offset, or compensate for, effects by planting or enhancing the environment near to the area of works.

We will also develop proposals to deliver biodiversity net gain (BNG). We are working closely with local authorities and relevant stakeholders to identify what kind of enhancement is most suitable and where to locate it.

Environmental impact

We are required to follow a set procedure for all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) to assess the likely significant environmental effects of our proposals. We will carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and submit a full environmental statement (ES) and non-technical summary as part of our application for development consent.

Our TCPA application does not require an ES but will be accompanied by an Environmental Report.



Biodiversity net gain (BNG)

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way to ensure that the environment is left in a better state after construction than it was before the work started.

BNG can be achieved through habitat creation and/or enhancement and may be delivered on site or off site. We are working with regional and local partners to identify BNG opportunities in parallel with the development of the Project design.

Protecting soil and agricultural land

We recognise the significance of the agricultural land and would put measures in place to reduce our impact, including:

- carefully removing and storing soil so it can be put back in the same area and similar condition as before
- protecting livestock by erecting suitable fencing
- making sure soil work is supervised by qualified experts and planning for proper aftercare so the land can return to its original condition.

Drainage

We also recognise the importance of effective drainage for local farmers and communities. Working with landowners and stakeholders we propose to:

- use a specialist contractor to check the existing drainage systems before work starts
- prepare a drainage report before construction to record the condition of the current system
- propose a management plan for post-construction to make sure everything is working properly.



Community benefit

Communities which host new electricity infrastructure should benefit from doing so. Millions of pounds will be available to benefit local communities and the wider area from these projects. We are interested in your views on how it should be spent.

That is why, as part of our Stage 2 consultation and this Weston Marsh targeted consultation, we have asked local people for their views on community benefit funding.

The aim is to understand what is important to you, and where funding could deliver long-lasting benefits, including through community grant schemes and investment in community groups or via regional partnerships.

Government guidance published in March 2025 sets out which projects qualify and how much funding should be provided. For example, for a new substation, the funding is £530,000 and for new overhead lines, it is £200,000 for every kilometre built. Across Grimsby to Walpole, this means millions of pounds will be available for local communities. The feedback you provide through the survey will help shape how these funds are used during construction and operation.

Survey Responses

During our Stage 2 consultation, we asked what is important to you for community benefit funding. Here is what you said:

Better community spaces: you want investment in places you use every day, village halls, play parks, leisure areas, community rooms, and faster broadband. There is strong support for grants to help local clubs and restore heritage sites.

Safer, easier travel: fixing roads (especially those used by construction traffic), adding pavements, cycle paths, bridleways, and improving rural transport options like buses and community schemes are key priorities.

Affordable, cleaner energy: you are seeking practical ways to cut bills and go greener. Ideas included solar panels, battery storage, insulation grants, EV charge points, and community energy tariffs.

Protecting nature: you want action to reduce the impact of new infrastructure. Suggestions included planting trees and hedgerows, boosting biodiversity, and creating nature areas around affected villages. Local jobs and skills: you want the project to create opportunities for local people, for example apprenticeships, hiring local contractors, supporting STEM in schools, and funding youth skills programmes.

As part of this targeted consultation, we are again asking for your guidance on community benefit funding. We want to hear what matters to you and we encourage you to complete the community benefit survey, which can be found on our website and local information points.



How to find out more

All consultation information is available on our website: nationalgrid.com/g-w

During this consultation, we are holding two in-person public information events (see Table one) and one online webinar. At these public information events, we will present information about our proposals, and members of the Project team will be available to answer your questions.





Details on how to sign up to the webinar are available on the Project website or by contacting us by phone via **0808 258 4395** or by email at contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com.



To learn more about our proposals:

- visit our website at nationalgrid.com/g-w
- come to an in-person public information event (see Table one)
- join our online webinar (see Table two)
- visit a local information point (see Table three)
- sign up to receive Project update emails (visit our website)
- email us: contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com
- write to us: **Freepost G TO W (no stamp or further address details are required)**.

To respond to the Weston Marsh targeted consultation:

-  complete the online feedback form on our website at nationalgrid.com/g-w
-  email your comments to contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com
-  post your written responses (no stamp required) to **Freepost G TO W**
-  complete a printed feedback form and return it using the freepost address above.

Your comments must be received by **11:59pm on Friday 19 December 2025**.

Table one: Public information events

We are holding two public information events. These are drop-in events and will provide opportunities to view the proposals and speak to members of our team. The events will include display boards, large scale maps and technical documents.

Printed copies of this consultation document, the community newsletter, feedback form, non-technical summary of the Supplementary preliminary environmental information report (SPEIR) and USB sticks containing the SPEIR will be available to take away from the events.

Date and time	Venue
Friday 28 November 2-7pm	Weston Village Hall, Small Drove, Weston, Spalding, PE12 6HU
Saturday 29 November 11am-4pm	Moulton Seas End Village Hall, 21 Seas End Rd, Moulton Seas End, Spalding, PE12 6LE

Table two: Webinar

We will be holding a one-hour online Webinar session to present details of our proposals followed by a question-and-answer session.

You can register to attend the webinar on our website. Alternatively, you can contact our community relations team on **0808 258 4395** or by email at contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com. A recording of the webinar will also be made available to view on our website.

Date and time	Webinar
Wednesday 03 December 6:30-7:30pm	Weston Marsh Substations A and B (including proposals for an earlier phase of development)

Table three: Local information points

Paper copies of the Weston Marsh targeted consultation document, community newsletter, feedback form, non-technical summary of the Supplementary preliminary environmental information report (SPEIR) and USB sticks containing the SPEIR will be available to take away at the following locations throughout the consultation period.

Reference copies of the Weston Marsh targeted consultation approach document, Strategic options report, Supplementary design development report and Route section 5 consultation feedback report are also available at these locations, but not to take away.

Please check with the relevant venue for the most up-to-date opening times.

Location	Address	Opening hours	
Spalding Library	Victoria Street, Spalding, PE11 1EA	Monday	9am-5pm
		Tuesday	9am-5pm
		Wednesday	9am-5pm
		Thursday	9am-6pm
		Friday	9am-5pm
		Saturday	9am-1pm
		Sunday	Closed
Long Sutton Library	Trafalgar Square, Long Sutton, Spalding, PE12 9HB	Monday	2pm-6pm
		Tuesday	10am-5pm
		Wednesday	Closed
		Thursday	2-6pm
		Friday	10am-5pm
		Saturday	10am-1pm
		Sunday	Closed



Information for landowners

When developing our proposals, we need to understand who has an interest in the land in and around the areas being considered as part of this Project.

As part of the DCO process, anyone with an interest in land is known as a person with an interest in land (PIL). If you are identified as a PIL, we will contact you directly. While much of the information we need is available on public registers, we have appointed specialist land referencing firm Dalcour Maclaren to contact individual landowners to verify the publicly available information and ensure we have made best efforts to identify any potentially impacted landowners.

Dalcour Maclaren will continue to contact landowners and occupiers to arrange access for non-intrusive and intrusive surveys, which we have been carrying out since Spring 2025.

You can contact our dedicated Lands team at Dalcour Maclaren by:

Freephone: **0333 034 7961**

Email: **g-w@dalcourmaclaren.com**

If you have a general query about the Project, please contact the Grimsby to Walpole project team by phone via **0808 258 4395** or by email at **contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com**.





Next steps

All feedback we receive as part of this consultation will be carefully considered, alongside the outputs of our ongoing technical and environmental assessments.

During this time, we will also:

- continue our discussions with landowners and people with an interest in land
- continue briefing local elected representatives
- continue working with local authorities and other stakeholders
- carry out further technical studies and surveys in the Project area
- provide updates to those who have been asked to be kept updated on our proposals via email. You can register for these updates on our website nationalgrid.com/g-w
- post updates on the Grimsby to Walpole Project website at nationalgrid.com/g-w
- continue to refine our proposals in response to feedback and findings from technical studies and surveys
- prepare and submit our application for Phase 1 of Weston Marsh in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
- prepare our DCO application for Grimsby to Walpole.

Once we have prepared our TCPA application for Phase 1 of Weston Marsh substation, we will submit it to South Holland District Council, seeking approval to build part of Weston Marsh Substation A. Our planning application will include a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), outlining how we have considered feedback received to this consultation, related to the proposals within Phase 1.

Should the Council approve our TCPA application, we expect construction work for Phase 1 of Weston Marsh to begin in 2028, with construction completed to connect Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind in 2030.

We will also prepare our plans for Route section 5: New Weston Marsh Substations A and B as part of our Grimsby to Walpole DCO application. Our application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and will include a Consultation Report, showing how we have taken account of feedback received to all stages of consultation.

The Planning Inspectorate will examine our proposals and make a recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, who will make the final decision on whether to grant consent.

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