

Community update

November 2025

Welcome to the latest newsletter for the Walpole Substation Expansion project.

We are upgrading the substation at Walpole in order to connect more homegrown energy to the grid. These essential works will boost energy security, and help to meet future demand.

The substation at Walpole was originally built in the 1960s and an upgrade is now required. Our work in Walpole forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade – the largest overhaul of the grid in generations.

The project will involve extending the substation site to the east and west. The eastern extension is being carried out through our permitted development rights, with a planning application due to be submitted to extend the western part of the substation site.

Latest news

Following our public consultation last year, the project team are preparing to submit a planning application for the western extension to the substation. The team are currently finalising design for the project ahead of submission, with planning submission expected in 2026.

Working with other projects

Under our license to operate, we have a legal obligation to connect developers to our existing network when a connection is requested. Verdant Energy and Conrad Energy have approval to work in some parts of the substation. More information about their projects can be found on their websites.

The timings for Conrad Energy's works inside the National Grid compound are as follows:

- **May 2025:**
Site mobilisation
- **May 2025 – Jan 2026:**
Civil works
- **December 2025 – June 2026:**
Installation and commissioning
- **October 2026:**
Completion of work

The timings for Verdant Energy's works are as follows:

- **February 2025 – September 2025:**
Piling and foundation works
- **February 2025 – November 2025:**
Cable installation
- **June 2025 – July 2025:**
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) delivery
- **October 2025:**
Transformer delivery and installation
- **October 2025 – February 2026:**
Project commissioning

There are other projects taking place in and around the Walpole area. The Walpole Substation Expansion is not part of Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) and Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) or Grimsby to Walpole. Please be assured that while our project is separate from these projects, we are continuing to work closely with our colleagues on these schemes to minimise disruption to local communities.

Our proposals for Walpole substation form part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. This will play a significant role in increasing our energy security and delivering more home-grown energy from where it is generated to where it is needed.



Community benefit

We believe communities should be rewarded for hosting new transmission infrastructure.

Earlier this year, the Government published new guidance for how projects like ours can deliver a positive local legacy.

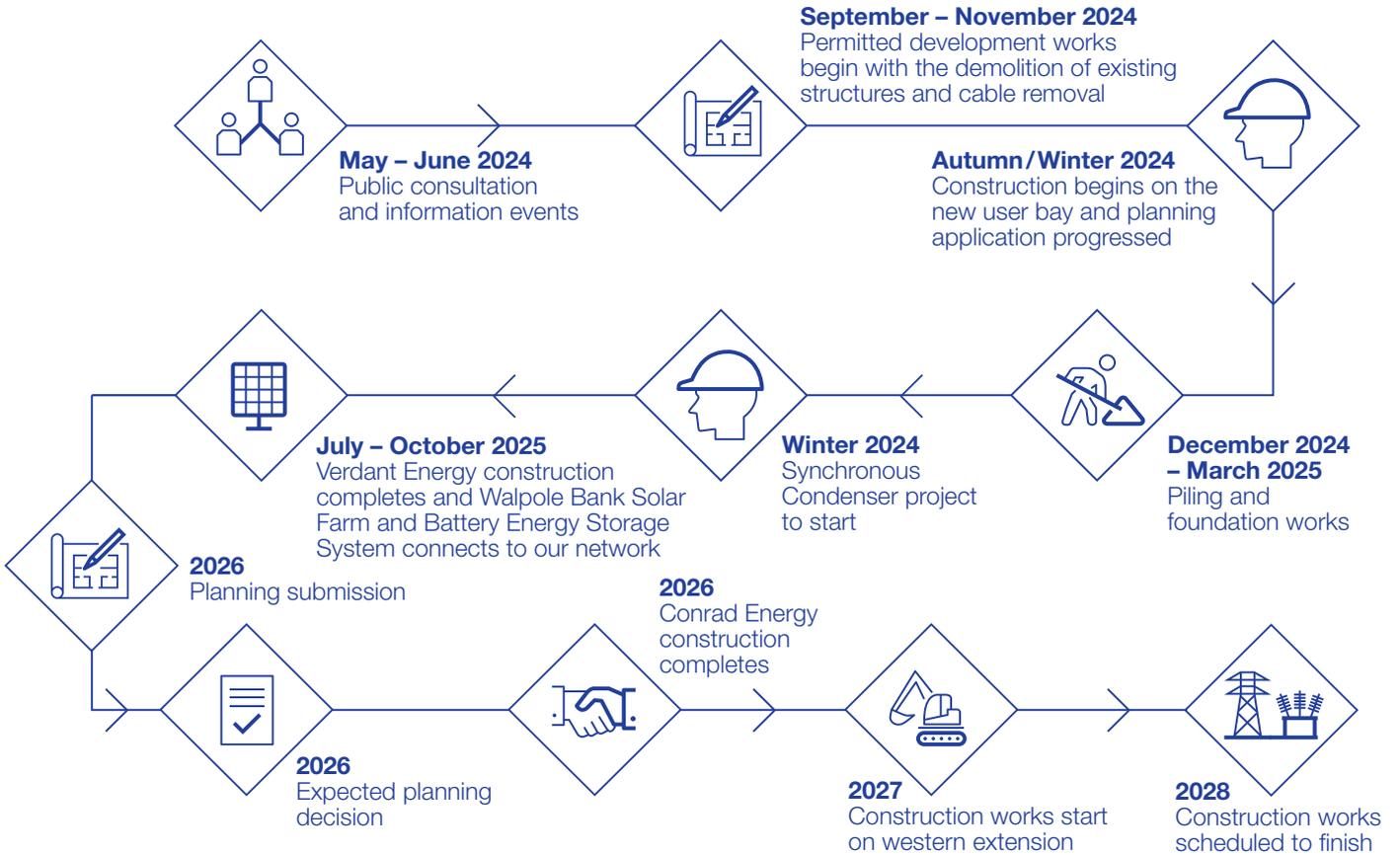
This guidance offers a clear framework and will enable us to work with communities so that meaningful, long-term, social and economic benefits can be delivered.

We expect the Walpole Substation Expansion project to be in scope of the new guidance, and this means that the project is expected to have a community benefit fund of £530,000.

We will be gathering feedback from the community to ensure that the fund can make a lasting impact in the local area. As the project develops, further information will be shared with the local community.



Project timeline



Walpole substation

Contact us

If you have any questions around the project, please visit our website, email our community relations team at walpole@nationalgrid.com or call them on 0800 083 3149.

Scan QR to visit our project website

