

nationalgrid Tyne Crossing Strategic Replacement

Newsletter 1

December 2025

Welcome to the first edition of the Tyne Crossing Strategic Replacement newsletter!

This update will bring you the latest news and answers to some of the key questions you may have. In this issue, you will find details of the work underway, project timelines and major milestones. We will also share community updates and information about a nearby development.

Project overview

National Grid, the North East Combined Authority (NECA), Port of Tyne and other regional partners are working together to remove the overhead electricity lines that currently cross the River Tyne between Wallsend and Jarrow. These lines restrict the passage of taller ships and structures, creating a barrier for offshore wind and marine engineering businesses.

By removing this barrier, we will enable organisations along the River Tyne - many of which manufacture and assemble vital offshore wind components - to expand operations, increase output and strengthen their role in delivering clean energy for the UK.

Over the past few months, we've assessed different options to replace the overhead lines. A new underground bore tunnel has been identified as the preferred solution that is being taken forward. This involves the construction of a new tunnel approximately 1.6 km in length crossing underneath the River Tyne, along with two tunnel headhouses and two cable sealing end compounds (CSECs).

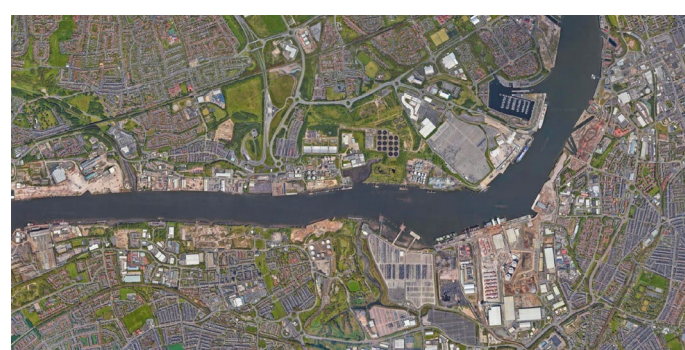
Our goal is to deliver a futureproof solution that maximises the use of the River Tyne and surrounding communities, supporting offshore wind and marine sectors that are essential to the UK's clean energy future.

Planning and consent

Planning permission will be required for key parts of the project, including the two tunnel headhouses and CSECs.

We will also submit an application to remove the existing pylons and overhead lines.

A headhouse is a small building at the tunnel entrance to provide access, while the CSEC is the point where underground cables connect to overhead lines, helping to manage and protect the electrical connection. For the overhead line works, Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 is required.



Key milestones

Submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report

In September 2025, we reached a key milestone by submitting our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Request to North Tyneside Council, South Tyneside Council and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Before we begin construction, it is vital we understand whether a full EIA is needed for the project. These screening requests help us confirm the level of environmental review required and guide us on the planning consent route.

It is a key step in making sure we meet all necessary requirements and deliver the project responsibly, with environmental considerations at the heart of our approach.

Ground investigation works underway

Ground investigation works are set to begin in North and South Tyneside in early January. We will carry out in-river drilling and land-based drilling on both sides of the River Tyne, to assess ground conditions.

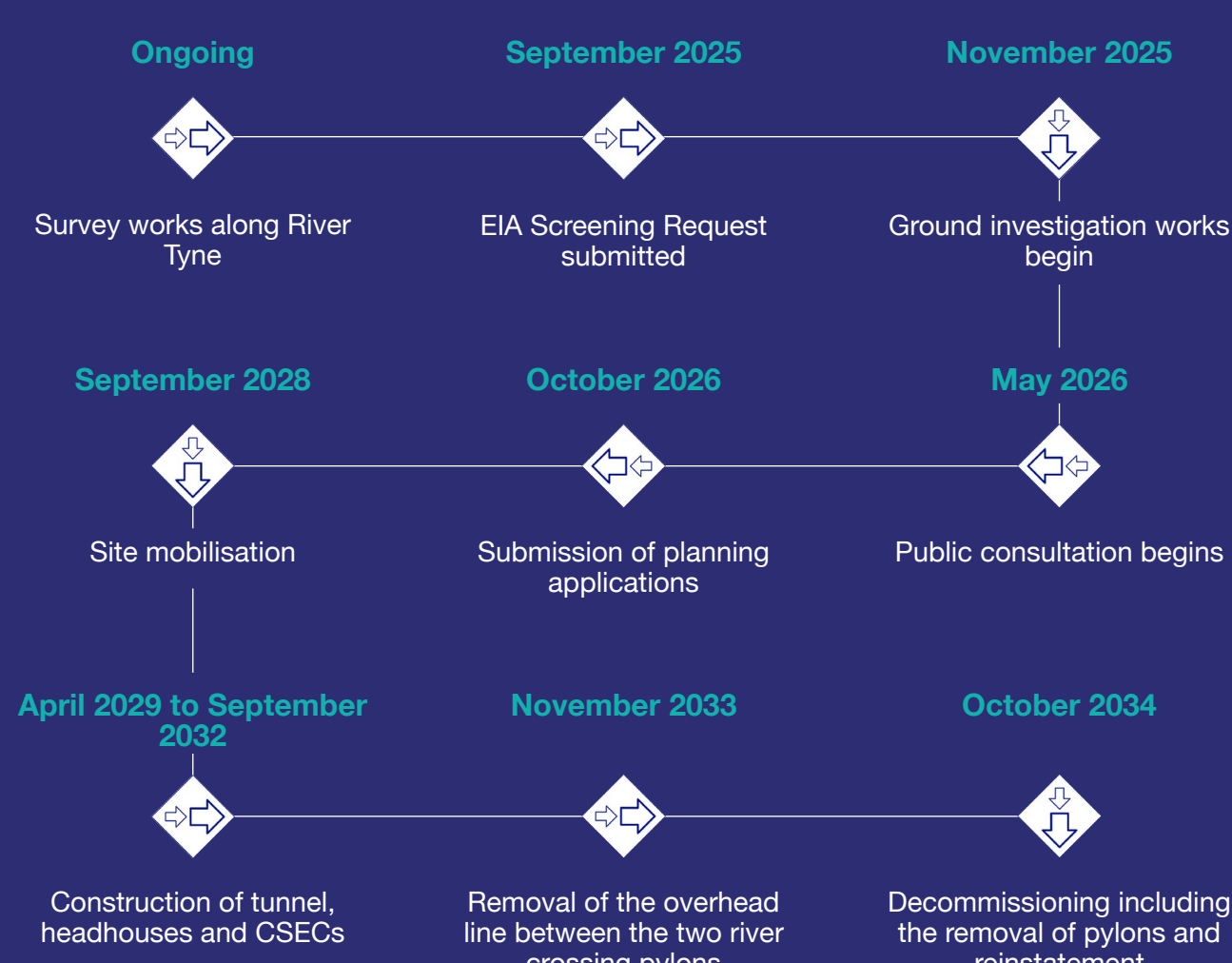
This work is vital to understand what's underneath the ground to support the design work for constructing the tunnel, which will house the cables.

Economic opportunity

Removing the overhead line will open up new opportunities for the North East, helping local businesses grow and supporting the UK's move towards cleaner sources of energy.

Independent analysis suggests the project could boost the UK economy by up to £2 billion over the next 40 years as a result of increased jobs, investment and business growth.

Anticipated project timeline



Community news

As part of our work on the Tyne Crossing Strategic Replacement project, we are pleased to be investing in the North East, both through our critical infrastructure works and our community outreach activity.

Our team recently spent a day with YMCA in North Tyneside volunteering to make a real difference to the local community.

We were hands-on, painting, tidying and organising the charity's Community Hub, which will be an important asset for the launch of their new community programmes.

Examples of what the Community Hub will be offering include:

- a neurodiverse youth group where young people can feel safe and supported
- a baby and toddler group for local families to connect and socialise
- a weekly youth group for 11–16-year-olds, offering a place to hang out, learn new skills, and make friends
- a home education group for young people and their families.

Our volunteering helps strengthen links with the community, building on our commitment to making both a positive social and environmental impact.

Thanking us for our support, the YMCA said: "Your energy and dedication made a huge difference! We were absolutely amazed by what your team accomplished during the morning and afternoon sessions."



Our project team at the volunteering day

Powering up the neighbourhood

We are already involved in a number of local projects which you may have noticed.

Construction is underway to install new Power Flow Control (PFC) equipment at the nearby South Shields substation. This project involves implementing new technology to push power off overloaded lines and pull power onto underused lines.

By introducing this new technology, we can make the existing network more efficient, which could reduce the need to build new infrastructure.

This will also give us more reliable, real-time control over how energy travels, helping meet the increasing demand for renewable power and grid capacity.

We will share more information with you as the project progresses.

Regular updates can be found on the webpage: [South Shields Substation | National Grid](#)



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 our team on:

Phone: 0800 130 3711 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Email: tynecrossing@nationalgrid.com

Website: www.nationalgrid.com/tynecrossing