

Community update

Spring 2026

Welcome to the latest update on Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire. We are proposing to build and upgrade energy infrastructure in the area so we can move energy to where it is needed in Lincolnshire, and the wider East Midlands.

With energy demand set to double, our proposals will help deliver secure, cleaner and more affordable energy.

This will create a stronger, more reliable network for homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

Our proposals include a new overhead line running from Weston Marsh in Lincolnshire to near Wartnaby in Leicestershire via two new substations.

We are also proposing upgrades to the existing network from Wartnaby down to Grendon in Northamptonshire.

In summer 2025, we held a consultation on our early proposals and asked residents for their thoughts.

Thank you to those who shared their views. We received over 900 pieces of feedback. We are now carefully considering all comments as we develop our proposals.



In this newsletter, you will find:

- key themes from your feedback, including next steps
- how your comments are shaping the project
- what's happening now – surveys and site checks.

Key

- Existing 400 kV transmission network
- Proposed Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire new 400 kV overhead line
- Reconductoring of approximately 60 km existing overhead line
- Existing 400 kV substations
- Proposed new 400 kV substations

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire is a project of national significance. This type of project requires a planning consent known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process, and your views are important in helping to shape our proposals. We will present our refined proposals as part of our Stage 2 consultation planned for later this year.

The comments and feedback we received during our Stage 1 consultation will be recorded and our response published in a consultation report, which will be published later in 2026.

About the project

approximately

60 km

of proposed new 400,000 volt (400 kV) overhead line

2

proposed new substations

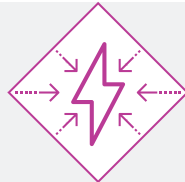
the upgrading (reconductoring) of approximately

60 km

of existing 400 kV overhead line

Why is Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire important?

More secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources

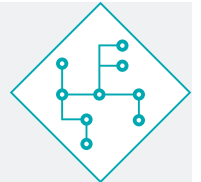


More renewable energy is being generated in new places, such as offshore windfarms, so we need to configure the grid to make sure it can connect this energy.

This project will connect our homes, businesses and public services to home-grown energy from more secure, cleaner, and more affordable sources.

This can **help to lower our electricity bills** and **make our country more energy secure** and more self-sufficient.

Reinforcing the network between Lincolnshire and the East Midlands



Demand for electricity is forecast to increase, and we need to make sure the grid has the capacity to transport the power that would be generated offshore, from east to west.

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire would transport enough energy to power up to **six million homes**, playing an important role in building a more secure and resilient future energy system.



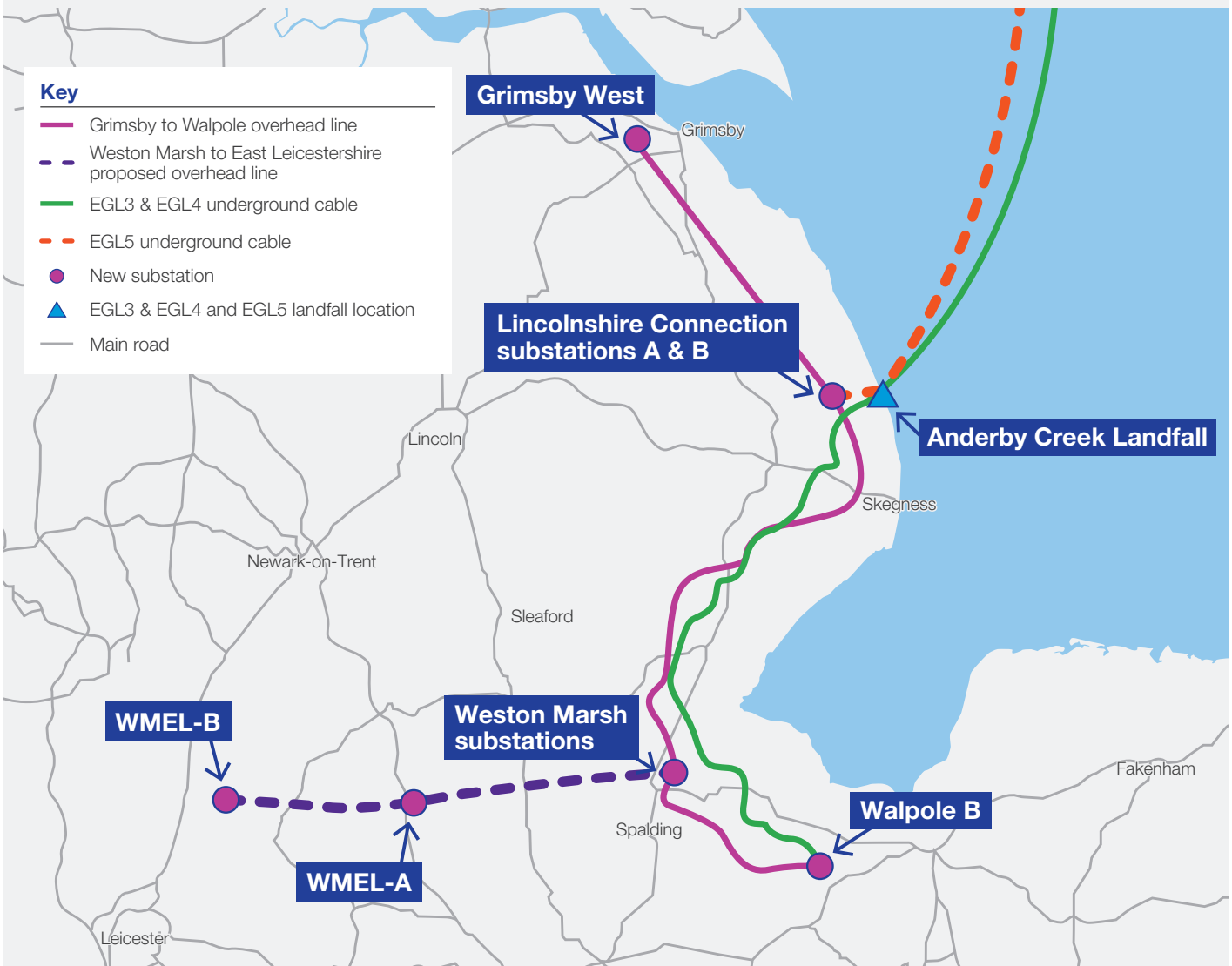
Other proposals in the area

National Grid's East Midlands projects will help to meet the region's growing demand for electricity.

Grimsby to Walpole – a proposed new transmission line and associated works between North East Lincolnshire and North Norfolk. This project includes two new substations at Weston Marsh.

Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 (EGL3 & EGL4) – proposals for two primary offshore 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.

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL5) – a proposed subsea cable connecting offshore wind generated in Scotland via Lincolnshire to homes in the Midlands and South of England.



These projects are part of **The Great Grid Upgrade** – the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.

You can find out more about The Great Grid Upgrade at nationalgrid.com/tggu





Our Stage 1 consultation in numbers



11,197

newsletters sent to addresses within 1 km of our proposals



842

people attended our eight in-person consultation events



47

people attended our five online events



936

feedback responses received

Our consultation has now closed. You can still find copies of all the documents published as part of the consultation in the document library area of nationalgrid.com/wmel. Please get in touch with the project team using the details in this newsletter if you would like more information.

What you asked us



Hearing your views is really important in helping us refine our proposals and understand the issues and concerns that communities have. We've listened and responded to some of the questions most asked by communities during the consultation.

We will continue our discussions with landowners and local elected representatives, while also working with communities, local authorities and other stakeholders to help refine our proposals as the project develops.

What is the 'emerging preferred corridor' and how was it identified?

The 'emerging preferred corridor' is the area we identified following initial technical and environmental assessments where new infrastructure, such as overhead lines and substations, could be located and connected into the existing 400 kV network.

We try to locate new infrastructure as far as we can from homes and businesses while respecting natural habitats, wildlife and the historic environment.

We are now reviewing the consultation feedback and carrying out further technical assessments, including engineering, environmental and ecological surveys.

At our Stage 2 consultation we will present more detailed plans, including the locations of substations and other associated infrastructure.

Why can't the line be put underground?

There are a few reasons why we are proposing a new overhead line. This includes responding to national policy, the challenges of different technologies, environmental issues and impacts on electricity bills.

When developing new infrastructure, we need to consider the Government's National Policy Statement EN-5 which says that, in most cases, overhead lines will be appropriate and should be used as standard to reinforce the grid.

An overhead line can carry significantly more power than an underground cable. To deliver the project's expected power capacity we would need up to 18 underground cables and a construction corridor between 50 and 120 metres wide. This would have greater environmental and construction impacts on local farmland and communities.

During operation, any technical work on underground cables, including repair and replacement, would require excavation works.

This would further disrupt local farmland, agricultural practices and communities.

As well as offering environmental and technical advantages, an overhead line is also the most cost-effective.

Underground alternatives are significantly more expensive and complex to install and maintain. From our assessments, the different costs of delivering the project would be:

- £597.8m for AC overhead lines (pylons)
- £2,911.7m for underground AC cables
- £2,518.3m for HVDC underground cables.

This is important because the costs of such projects are ultimately considered by the energy regulator Ofgem when determining the charges paid by everyone in their electricity bills.



How big will the substations be?

We are still in the early stages of planning, but we have set out the maximum area size we would need for the substation to help our assessments and site selection.

Both WMEL-A, near Corby Glen, and WMEL-B, near Wartnaby, are expected to cover around 720 metres by 400 metres.

The tallest part of substations of this type can be up to 18 metres where the overhead line connects to the substation.

Other infrastructure on the site would not be as tall.

It is important to note these sizes are only a guide and could change.

The final size and layout of each substation will be determined by a range of engineering and environmental factors as the project progresses.

We will share more details about the substations at the next stage of consultation later in the year.

What community benefits are there?

Communities that host new electricity infrastructure should benefit from doing so.

Millions of pounds will be available to benefit local communities and the wider area from The Great Grid Upgrade projects.

We are interested in your views on what could benefit most from this funding, so please do let us know what you think in our Community Benefit Survey, available on our website.

Thank you to those who have shared their views so far, including:

- upgrading of communal spaces
- rewilding areas
- upgrading of bus shelters in the area.

We are also looking at other ways to enrich the local environment, through partnerships and investing in skills and employment opportunities. We want to leave a positive legacy alongside reliable grid infrastructure.

What happens next?

The feedback we received from Stage 1 consultation, along with findings from technical assessments and environmental surveys, will shape the development of our proposals for Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire.

We will share our updated proposals with the community at our next stage of consultation later in 2026.

For more information on the DCO process please visit the **Planning Inspectorate website.**



More information and answers to frequently asked questions are available on our website nationalgrid.com/wmel





Surveys

We have started to carry out environmental surveys in and around the emerging preferred corridor. These will continue as we develop our plans.

These are non-intrusive where our surveyors walk over land, sometimes with measuring equipment to inform their assessments. They will look at wildlife and ecology, archaeology, soil quality, landscape, visual considerations and heritage assets.

They will help us to better understand the current conditions and will help shape the development of our plans.

If you have received a letter about a survey licence or have any questions about access to land, please contact Savills, our dedicated Lands team for Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire.

Land registration

It is important for us to understand who has a legal interest in the land in and around the areas being considered as part of the project. We have identified those who we believe may be affected through Land Registry data and are currently verifying that it is up to date.

We are also working to confirm who currently occupies the land through the issue of letters and site notices. If you have received a letter or have any questions about a survey licence or access to land, please contact Savills.

You can contact Savills by calling **0800 567 7600** or by emailing **WMEL@savills.com**. Alternatively, you can write to **Freepost WMEL Land** (no stamp or further address details needed).

Potatoes, energy and innovation

We are working with schools and young people in the area to bring energy to life through a range of fun and interactive Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities.



Late last year, primary school children discovered how potatoes can create electricity, while secondary school pupils tried their hand at balancing power flows across the UK and explored the exciting engineering careers available to them.

This year, we will be visiting more schools to talk about apprenticeships and career options.

Inspiring the next generation is incredibly important to us. By supporting young people today, we are aiming to help them unlock their potential and achieve their future goals.



If you are a community group that would like to get involved, please contact the project team.



Community benefit survey

We are committed to leaving a positive legacy, as we transition to more secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources.

We want to understand what is important to you, and where community benefit funds could deliver long-lasting benefits, including

through community grant schemes and investment in community groups or via regional partnerships.

You can take part at any time by visiting our website and completing our community benefit survey: nationalgrid.com/wmel



Contact us

Please get in touch if you have any questions about our proposals for Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire.

Call us on: **0800 138 9191**
(Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-5.30pm).

Send an email to: ContactWMEL@nationalgrid.com

Freepost WM TO EL
(no stamp or further address details needed).

