

# South Shields

June 2026

## Welcome to the latest edition of the South Shields project newsletter.

In this issue we will update you on our key works on site, our work with the local community and what's coming up next.



Aerial images of the site taken in February 2026

## Project update

We began construction in May 2025 and work at our site has progressed well. Some of our recent work involved constructing internal roads within the substation boundary, which will help us transport equipment around the site more efficiently. We did this work after we created the foundations for where the new equipment will be installed.

Recently, we began to dig trenches around the site so the cables can be laid, which will connect the new equipment to our existing substation. This work, called ducting, will be completed once the PFC equipment is installed in the new parts of the site.

You can learn more about the project on our website: [www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation](http://www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation)

### What is PFC equipment?

Technologies like PFC can help make the existing network more efficient, intelligently pushing and pulling power across circuits and routing it to where capacity is available, freeing up electricity flow. As we continue to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and increase the amount of clean energy that is generated, we will be using more electricity than ever.

This means we will need a resilient electricity grid that can carry all this extra electricity to wherever it might be needed. Installing PFC technology at South Shields will allow us to provide a more efficient flow of electricity around the country and ensure that the site continues to play a key role in supplying electricity to homes and businesses in the area.

## Coming up

Over the coming months, we will continue to install PFC equipment and lay cables which will connect the new equipment to the substation.

This work will take place within our existing site boundary and should not impact local residents.

Once installation is complete, we will focus on testing the equipment before the project is completed in 2028.

We will continue to update you as the project progresses.

## Career opportunities

At National Grid, we are at the heart of a clean, fair and affordable energy future. You can learn more about career opportunities at: [www.careers.nationalgrid.co.uk/](http://www.careers.nationalgrid.co.uk/)

## Did you know?

Our work at South Shields substation forms part of our continued investment in the North East, with £8.6bn of investment planned between 2026 and 2031.

## Meet the team

Each issue we will introduce you to a member of our project team so you can get to know the people behind the site works:

### Niall Seddon

Senior Project Supervisor

#### What is your role in the project?

I work closely with the site team to ensure works are carried out safely, correctly and to the high standards we expect at National Grid. I also oversee activities, ensuring our quality processes are followed.

#### How did you become a Senior Project Supervisor?

I started my career in the Royal Navy as an Aircraft Engineer, moving into being an Aircraft Engineering Supervisor. I then applied to National Grid as a trainee Project Supervisor via the Construction Development Programme. On completion, I managed a variety of projects in the North region and after six years I applied for my senior position, which involves

allocating resource and training colleagues alongside managing more complex projects within National Grid.

#### What are your hobbies?

I love training in the gym and anything sports related such as boxing and football. I am also a massive music fan and I enjoy DJing in my spare time.

#### What have you done to become greener?

I have overseen the use of innovative construction methods which can be more environmentally friendly, such as using screw piles on site rather than traditional piling methods, which negates the use of concrete, which is better for the environment.



## Project timeline

- **June 2025 to August 2025** ✓  
Site excavations
- **July 2025** ✓  
Northern PowerGrid installation of ducting and cables between substation entrance and railway bridge (Hartford Road)
- **September 2025 - December 2025** ✓  
Piling works (drilling to create foundations) take place
- **December 2025 - February 2026** ✓  
Construction of internal access roads
- **We are here**
- **March 2026 - October 2027**  
Installation of equipment
- **Summer 2028**  
Completion of works on site

Our Community Grant Programme is aimed at organisations and charities in areas where our operations and site activities impact the people living there. We provide grants for community-based initiatives run by charities and community groups that meet local community needs by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

If your project meets our criteria, you can apply for a grant of up to £10,000. To find out more about how to apply please visit our website: [www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation](http://www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation)

## Community news

We are thrilled to announce that Bright Futures NE were awarded almost £10,000 by our Community Grant Programme. The money will help the charity deliver a young women’s education and inclusion programme, which will support vulnerable and disaffected young women aged 12 to 16 who are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education. For more information about Bright Futures NE, please visit: [www.brightfuturesne.co.uk](http://www.brightfuturesne.co.uk)



South Shields Football Club Foundation has also been successful in its application for £10,000. This will be put towards setting up a new community cafe to reduce isolation, alongside the installation of brighter, more efficient outdoor LED lighting for the car park at its site. For more information about SSFCF, please visit: [www.southshieldsfc.co.uk/foundation](http://www.southshieldsfc.co.uk/foundation)



Lead Project Manager Steve Reynolds with Jill Charlton and Steve Camm from South Shields Football Club Foundation

## Your questions answered

### What are your working hours?

Our normal working hours are between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Some essential activities may take place occasionally outside of these hours. If this does happen, we will inform the local community.

### How long will the work take?

The main construction work is well underway, and it is due to be completed in 2028. We will then be on site until later in 2028 carrying out the connection work, where the new equipment will be connected to the existing substation equipment.

### How will these works affect me?

You may see additional traffic in and around the substation site. We don't expect any of our remaining work to cause significant disruption.

## Contact us

Our 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 the team on:

Phone: **0800 319 6183**

(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Email: **[southshields@nationalgrid.com](mailto:southshields@nationalgrid.com)**

Website: **[www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation](http://www.natgrid.com/southshieldssubstation)**

You can also write to us using our freepost address:

**Freepost FEEDBACK**

(no stamp or further address required)