



Welcome to the latest update from National Grid's Grain to Tilbury project, where we're busy

This project is part of The Great Grid Upgrade - the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. It will enable us to carry more home-grown clean energy, while boosting Britain's energy security and helping to meet the growing demand for energy. By building a new tunnel and upgrading the overhead

[Click here to find out more about the project](#)

Caroline is on the move – and she's passed the 100-metre mark!

Over the past few weeks Caroline, our Tunnel Boring Machine, has been busy making her way underground. We're delighted to share that she's now passed a major milestone, successfully tunnelling more than 100 metres.

While it may not be a 100-metre sprint, reaching this point has taken weeks of precision engineering and controlled excavation, after many months of meticulous planning and preparation by an expert team, to ensure everything is working exactly as it



With this successful start behind us, Caroline is now fully assembled with the entire 100 metres long back-up assembly that will enable her to pick up pace and safely support the mining teams as she continues onwards beneath the River Thames. Once complete, the 2.2 km tunnel will connect Tilbury and Gravesend, helping to deliver more clean, secure energy as part of **The Great Grid Upgrade**.

100 metres down, around 2.1 kilometres to go! 🚇 ⚡

This is an exciting step forward for the project and a significant milestone in strengthening the network for the future.

Working together to improve the Thames and Medway Canal



Earlier this month, volunteers from the team spent some time working with the Thames and Medway Canal Association to help improve a popular local walking and cycling route at Canal Road in Higham.

Working alongside volunteers, we recently carried out a range of improvement works, including:

- clearing overgrown bushes and hedges
- removing weeds and dead trees
- improving sections of the path with new surface covering
- installing a pole for a new litter bin to help keep the area clean and welcoming

The canal is one of the closest neighbours to our Grain to Tilbury project, so supporting local spaces like this is an important part of how we work alongside the communities we serve.

Dave Parnell, Chair of the Thames and Medway Canal Association, said:

"The volunteers have made a real difference in a short space of time, helping us clear and improve sections of the canal that are used every day by the local community. The funding will be a big help too, giving us the equipment we need to manage the towpath more effectively over the long term."

Alongside the practical improvements, National Grid has awarded £20,000 through its Community Grant Programme to help the association continue its work maintaining and enhancing the canal for current and future generations to enjoy.

Work is now under way on the Gravesend side of the project, with further community activity planned as construction progresses.

[Find out more about our Community Grant Programme](#)

Supporting community, tackling loneliness: a day with Aveley Men's Shed



We were delighted to welcome members of **Aveley Men's Shed** to our Tilbury site last month – and it's safe to say the visit was a hit.

The group spent the day learning more about the project, meeting the team and seeing first-hand how work is progressing, including a look at the new tunnel being constructed beneath the River Thames.

Mark Farmer, Project Director, said:

"There was lots of curiosity in the room and plenty of great questions. One of the members had worked on the Channel Tunnel, so it was fascinating to hear them share their experiences. It was brilliant to see such genuine interest and enthusiasm."

"Men's Sheds play an important role in bringing people together, tackling loneliness and supporting wellbeing through practical activities and social connection. It was fantastic to open our doors, share what we do and spend time with such a welcoming group."

Aveley Men's Shed is part of a wider movement that supports people through shared activities, skills and social interaction, with members locally aged 18 to 84.

Find out more about Men's Sheds [here](#).

Contact us

Know someone who would be interested in our news? Forward this email and help us spread the word.

If you have any questions about the wider project, you can get in touch by:

Email: contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0203 398 1599 (Lines are open 9am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday)



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