

Blyth Substation

Newsletter

August 2026

This newsletter provides an overview of the project we are delivering at Blyth Substation and an update on the planning submission for the first phase of work.

Project overview

As part of The Great Grid Upgrade, we are planning to extend the existing Blyth Substation and build a new substation nearby. The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations and will help connect the North East to more secure, cleaner and home-grown energy from more affordable sources.

National Grid owns and operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales. It transports electricity from where it is generated to local networks, which then supply homes, businesses and public services. Substations are a vital part of this network. They connect energy to the grid, change electricity to the right voltage and direct it safely to where it is needed. As a regulated business, we also have a legal obligation to connect customers to our network.

Our existing substation is located just south of the former Blyth Power Station on Taranis Street, between Cambois and East Sleekburn.

Upgrading the substation will help connect new customers to the electricity transmission network and meet future energy demand in the area. This includes connecting wind power generated in the North Sea and supporting the proposed Cambois Data Centre Campus.

Data centres are critical national infrastructure. They support cloud services, artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security, financial services, healthcare, education and public services. As demand from data centres and digital infrastructure grows, The Great Grid Upgrade is strengthening the grid to help power possibilities for customers, communities and the wider economy.

Alongside the upgrade to the existing substation, we are also developing plans for a new substation nearby. As these proposals are still at a very early stage, the project is planned to be delivered in two phases.



Phase one – substation extension

Our plans: We are proposing to extend the existing substation, mainly within National Grid's land. The extension would include new equipment to connect customers to the electricity transmission network.

Where we are now: Earlier this year, Northumberland County Council confirmed that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this phase of the project. This is because the proposed construction is not expected to have significant environmental effects.

While an EIA is not required and much of this phase can be carried out using our permitted development rights, we still need to submit a planning application for a small number of elements.

Construction that can be carried out under permitted development rights

Under permitted development rights, certain construction activities can be carried out without the need for a full planning application. This includes:

- installing new electrical equipment, including supergrid transformers
- installing underground cables and drainage
- constructing temporary internal access roads and a construction compound, which will be removed once construction is complete.

Construction requiring planning permission

We have submitted a planning application for a small number of elements that fall outside our permitted development rights. This includes:

- a small area of National Grid-owned land that sits outside the existing operational substation boundary
- new perimeter fencing
- a portable relay room, which houses the equipment used to monitor, control and protect the substation.

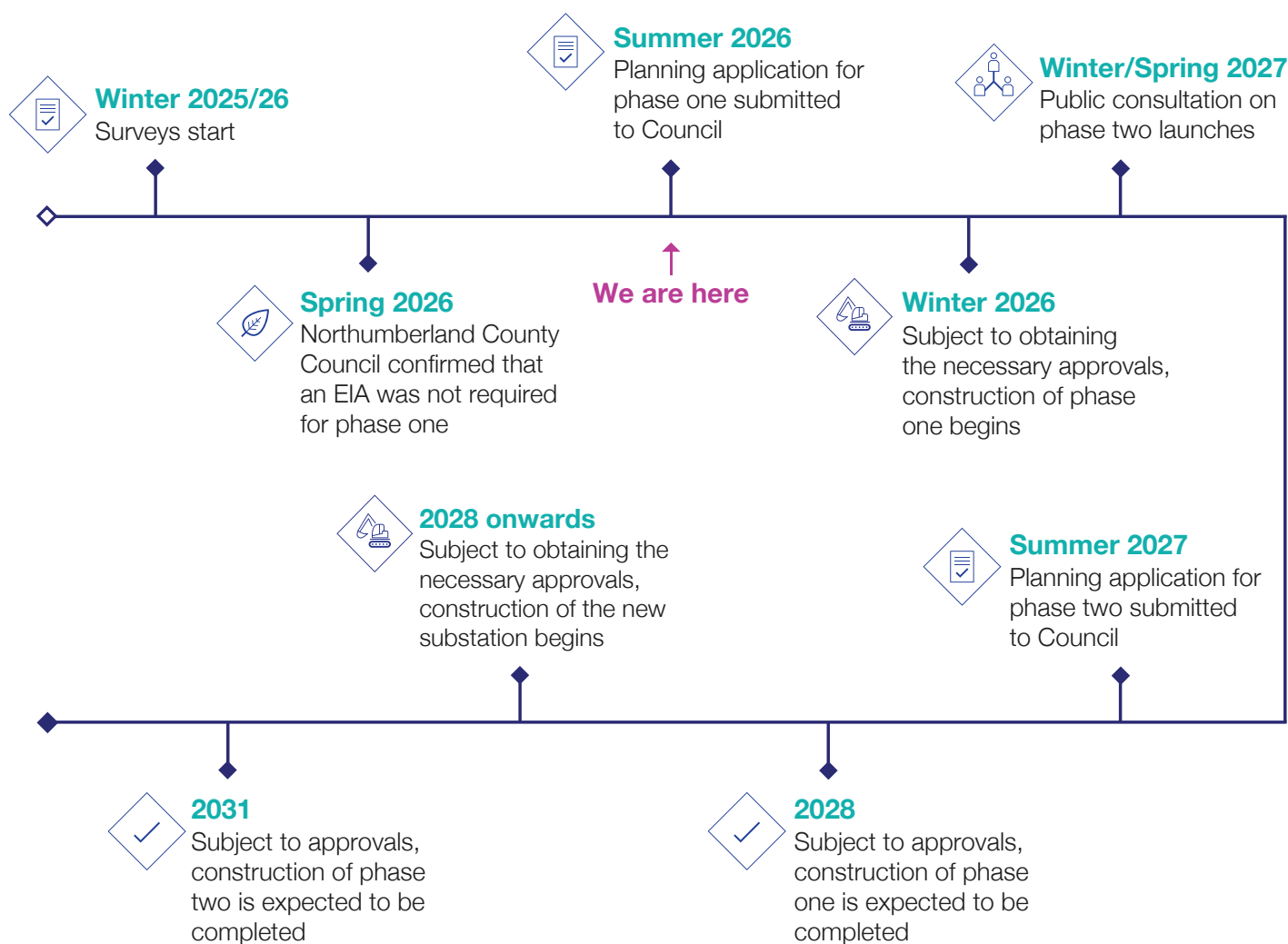
Phase two – a new substation

Our plans: We are developing proposals for a new substation nearby to provide the additional capacity that is required for customers in the area.

Where we are now: This phase of the project is currently in early development and we are carrying out environmental surveys and design assessments before submitting a planning application. Before any application is submitted, we will consult on our proposals, providing opportunities for you and anyone interested to learn more about the project and share feedback.



Indicative timeline



Community news

While our team has been developing our plans for Blyth Substation, we have also been on the ground visiting schools, volunteering and getting involved in a range of local projects and initiatives.

November 2025

We took part in a careers pop-up event at Ashington Academy, where members of the project team spoke to students about future career opportunities with National Grid.



March 2026

We returned to Ashington Academy for the school's annual Careers Fair and attended the Green Careers Fair at the Port of Blyth's Energy Central Learning Hub, meeting young people from across the North East and showcasing the wide range of careers available.



March 2026

We attended an Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Celebration Event at the Energy Central Learning Hub, hosted by Northumberland Skills, where we met engineering students gaining hands-on experience and training for careers in the energy sector.



We also joined an Energy Central UK event at the Port of Blyth, where we gave a presentation about the project and heard from organisations including Business Northumberland and Great British Energy.



June 2026

Members of our team volunteered at East Bedlington Community Centre, painting and carrying out general maintenance to help support the upkeep of the centre.

The Community Centre said: "I would like to thank National Grid for the assistance offered to the Centre on behalf of the Trustees. We managed to decorate the two main rooms on the ground floor which is a great help."



Contact us

To ensure you do not miss any project updates, we encourage you to sign up for email updates via our website. If you have any questions about the Blyth Substation project, or would like to speak to the team, please get in touch with our dedicated Community Relations team.

Email: blyth@nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0800 130 3711 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5:30pm)

Website: www.nationalgrid.com/blythsubstation



Scan the QR code using the camera app on your smartphone to visit our website

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