

Rainhill Substation Extension

Newsletter

July 2026

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Rainhill Substation extension. Here, you'll find an update on the scheme, along with the latest news and updates from site.

Project overview

National Grid is extending the western side of Rainhill Substation, which is located on Lea Green Road, in St Helens.

As more electricity is generated from renewable sources such as wind and solar power, we need ways of storing energy for when it is needed most. This project will increase the capacity of the substation for local energy distributor SP Energy Networks (SPEN) while also enabling the connection to a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

By strengthening the local network, the project will ensure homes and businesses continue to have access to a secure supply of electricity, even during periods of high demand.

We started mobilising on site and began construction in March 2026, with works continuing until 2028.

The project forms part of the Great Grid Upgrade, National Grid's largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations.



Upcoming Activity

Earthworks are scheduled to begin on site at the end of July, with deliveries of equipment from heavy goods vehicles at the end of August. As a result, you may notice an increase in activity in the area.

Please be assured that we will keep noise and disruption to a minimum.

Local Supplier Spotlight: LCD Supplies



We spoke to Olly Phillips, Regional Sales Executive at St Helens-based LCD Supplies, about how the business is supporting us in delivering the Rainhill Substation extension.

For anyone who hasn't heard of LCD Supplies, what does your business do?

We provide a full range of products and services for infrastructure projects, from signage and health and safety equipment to stationery, cleaning supplies and even basics like tea and coffee.

How did you become involved with National Grid's Rainhill project?

When we were approached by the Project Manager for Rainhill to ask if we could provide our services for the site, it was near enough the perfect job for us. We're based just around the corner from the substation, so it was nice to supply products to a local project in our own patch.

What exactly are you supplying to the Rainhill site?

Pretty much everything needed to get the site set up and keep it running each day. That includes all consumables, safety signage, traffic cones and barriers, office bits like pens and paper, and general site essentials. If the team needs something urgently, we can usually deliver it within the hour. A benefit of being located just around the corner!

You're based close by to our substation. What's it like working on a project with one of your 'neighbours'?

It's great. We're only a couple of minutes away in St Helens, so you can physically see the difference the project is making. Most of our work is national, so having something so close to home is a real bonus for us and for our drivers.

What would you say to other local businesses interested in working with National Grid?

In my experience, they're effortless to work with. We've never had a single issue and it's reassuring partnering with such a well-known organisation.

Community Grant Programme

Local groups can now apply for grants of up to £10,000 through National Grid's Community Grant Programme, linked to the Rainhill Substation extension project.

Funding is available for community groups, charities and other not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that benefit local people, particularly those affected by the ongoing construction works.

If you know an organisation that could benefit, please spread the word.



For more detail on how to apply, scan this QR code

In the Community: Supporting Forestry England

Our project team recently spent a day at Sutton Manor Community Woodland, helping to clear vegetation and prune trees in the area. Our team's efforts focused on encouraging healthy tree growth and maintaining woodland habitats around the site. The day provided a great opportunity to support a valued local green space, while giving something back to the community.



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 160 1678 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5:30pm)

Email: rainhill@nationalgrid.com

Website: www.nationalgrid.com/rainhill

