The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

nationalgrid



Targeted consultation newsletter

3 November to 8 December 2026

Grimsby to Walpole is a proposed 140 km overhead line with substations between Northeast Lincolnshire and north Norfolk. It would include new overhead lines and six new substations along its route.

These proposals form part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the grid in generations, which will provide homes, businesses and public services with secure, cleaner, home-grown British energy from more affordable sources.

Following our route-wide and targeted public consultations in 2025, we have continued to refine our proposals for Grimsby to Walpole.

We are now consulting on two proposed changes in the Wisbech, Walsoken, West Walton and Walton Highway area, and your feedback could help inform the final design.

These changes may impact you and we're inviting you to provide feedback. More information on both changes, as well as details of the consultation and information about how to provide feedback are included within this newsletter.

These changes are:

New power connection

A proposed UK Power Networks (UKPN) power supply connection between the existing Walsoken substation and the proposed new Walpole B substation

New highways works

Proposed use of School Road and Salts Road for construction access and future maintenance associated with the proposed Walpole B substation

Take part in the targeted consultation

The targeted consultation will run from 12 noon on 3 November 2026 to **11:59pm on 8 December 2026**.

Find out more by visiting **nationalgrid.com/g-w** or by scanning the QR code:

Why we need Grimsby to Walpole

Demand for electricity is set to double by 2050 as the way we power our homes, businesses, industry and transport changes. We need to upgrade the grid now to ensure we can meet this increase in demand.

Much of the existing electricity network in the region was built in the 1960s. It does not have enough capacity to meet future needs as electricity demand grows and the way we generate it changes.

Grimsby to Walpole forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade, the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations. The project would help connect homes, businesses and public services across the UK to more secure, reliable and affordable home-grown energy.

The Great Grid Upgrade

The Great Grid Upgrade is upgrading the electricity network so it can:

- **carry more home-grown renewable energy**
- **strengthen Britain's energy security**
- **meet rising electricity demand**



These upgrades will help support local economies, jobs and skills, while strengthening the infrastructure that communities and businesses rely on every day.

How we've developed our plans

Since we last consulted the public, we have:

- reviewed consultation feedback from communities, landowners and stakeholders;
- continued environmental surveys and technical assessments; and
- worked with landowners, local authorities and other organisations.

Your feedback has helped shape our proposals. Although we cannot make every suggested change, we have used feedback to reduce or manage potential impacts on local communities, while still meeting the needs of the electricity network.

Changes we would like your feedback on

We understand the importance of local input in the design process and for this targeted consultation, we are seeking your feedback on two specific proposed changes in the Wisbech, Walsoken, West Walton and Walton Highway area. What you tell us could help inform the final design of these proposed changes, as feedback has throughout the development of our proposals for Grimsby to Walpole.

The consultation journey

01
Jan-Mar 2024
Stage 1 Consultation
7,694 responses received on our early proposals

02
Jun-Aug 2025
Stage 2 Consultation
1,203 responses received on our updated, more detailed proposals

03
Nov-Dec 2025
Weston Marsh Targeted consultation
262 responses received on our detailed proposals for Weston Marsh

We are here

04
Nov-Dec 2026
Targeted consultation
We are now seeking feedback on specific changes to our proposals near Walpole

05
Summer 2027
Submission of DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate for Grimsby to Walpole

A proposed UKPN power supply connection between the existing Walsoken substation and the proposed new Walpole B substation

A new permanent electricity connection is required between the existing local distribution network and Walpole B substation. This connection would also power the temporary construction compound, adjacent to Walpole B substation, while the project is being built.

This would require around 5.5 km of new 11 kV underground cable (for context, Grimsby to Walpole is a 400 kV overhead line). The cable would connect the existing Walsoken substation and the proposed Walpole B substation. Walsoken substation is part of the UK Power Networks electricity distribution network whereas the proposed Walpole B substation would be part of National Grid's electricity transmission network.

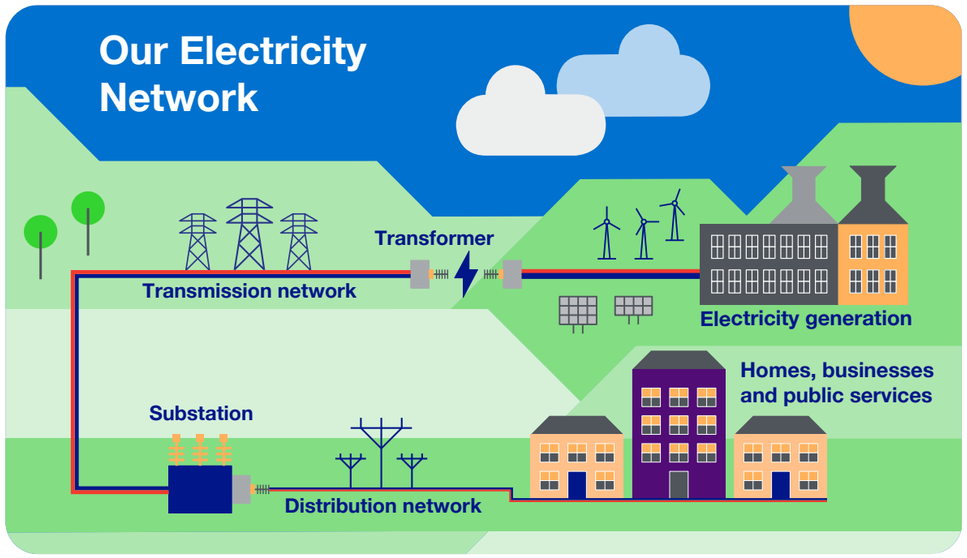
Most of the underground cable would be installed within the existing road or highway verge. Some locations require temporary access or additional land during construction. A temporary construction compound is also proposed to the north-east of Wisbech.

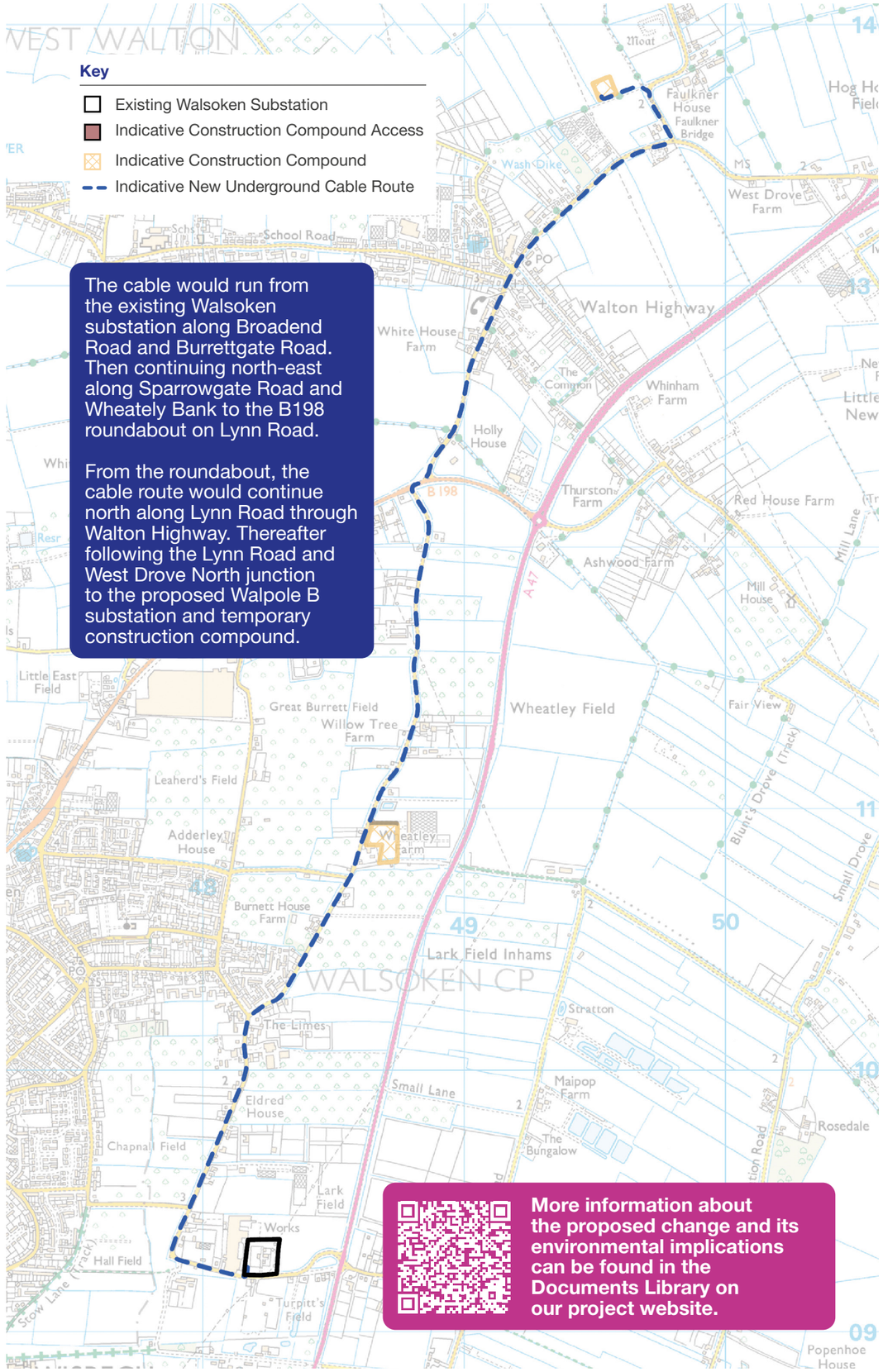
What is the difference between the electricity distribution network and transmission network?

A good way to think about the difference between the high-voltage electricity transmission network and the lower voltage distribution network is to imagine Britain's road system:

- The transmission network is like the motorways, carrying vehicles (electricity) at high speed (high-voltage) across the country. This is the network of big pylons and overhead lines you see around the country. Grimsby to Walpole is an upgrade to the electricity transmission network.
- The distribution networks are the local roads, connecting the motorways with homes and businesses. These are the smaller pylons (and underground cables) carrying lower voltage lines, which are owned by many operators, including UKPN who own the existing Walsoken substation.

Our transmission lines carry high-voltage electricity around on the 'motorways' of the network, and the distribution lines use the 'local roads' to deliver it to where it's needed.





Use of School Road and Salts Road for construction access and future maintenance associated with the proposed Walpole B substation

We are proposing highway improvements on School Road and Salts Road between Walton Highway and West Walton to support construction activities.

The highway improvements during construction would allow construction vehicles to use the route safely, while helping to maintain access for residents, businesses, farms, school transport and emergency services wherever possible.

Following construction, School Road and Salts Road are proposed as a permanent access route for future maintenance of the drainage basin associated with the proposed Walpole B substation. This would help manage surface water runoff from the new substation during operation.

We recognise that parts of the local road network are constrained, including Salts Road and the area around Salts Farm, north of West Walton. Our proposals will seek to minimise disruption to the local road network. We will continue to work with relevant local authorities to develop our construction traffic management plans. Feedback from this consultation could help inform the final design and our approach to managing disruption, where possible.

The proposals for highways improvements on School Road and Salts Road include:

- **localised road widening**
- **new passing places**
- **temporary traffic management measures during construction**

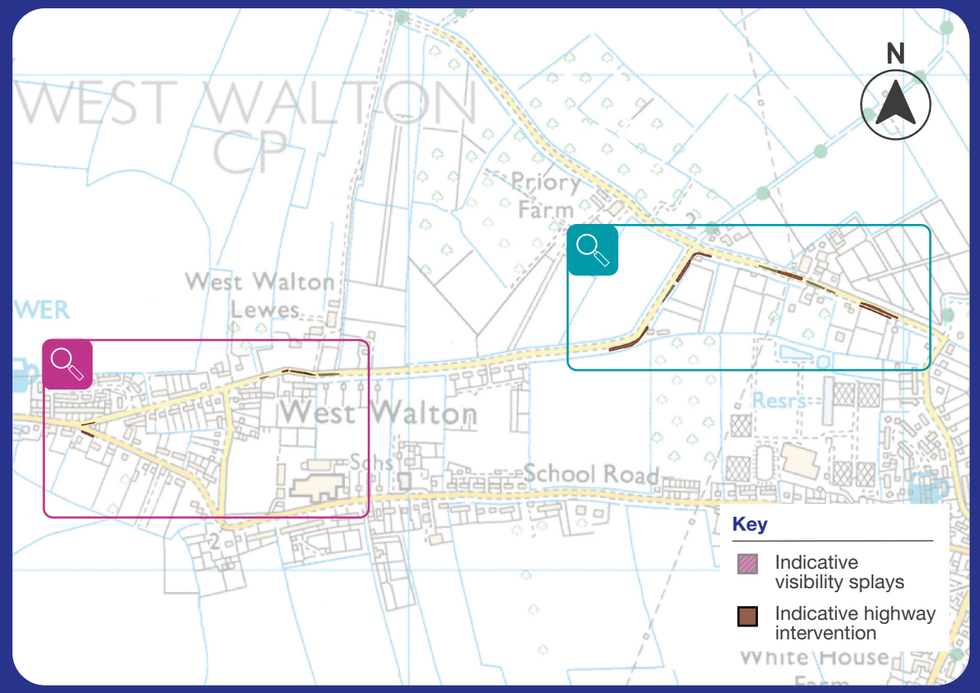
More information about the proposed change and its environmental implications can be found in the Documents Library on our project website.

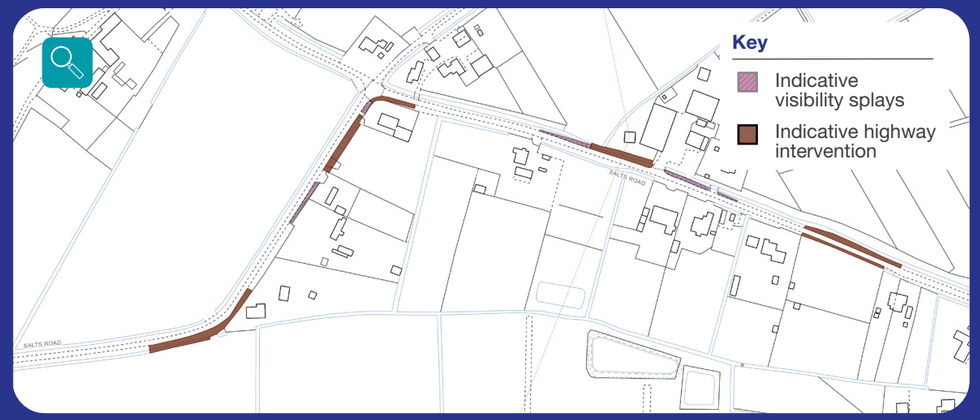
What is a visibility splay?

A visibility splay is the area around a site access, passing area or junction that must be kept clear of obstructions. This ensures drivers using the construction access route have adequate visibility along the road to identify and respond to other road users or hazards safely.

The works on School Road and Salts Road may include vegetation clearance and management to maintain the required visibility and ensure the safe operation of the access.







Find out more

Our targeted consultation will run for 35 days, from 12 noon on 3 November 2026 until **11:59pm on 8 December 2026**. If you live, work, travel or own land near the proposed changes, we would like to hear your views.

Visit our website
You can find the following consultation materials on our project website **nationalgrid.com/g-w**

- plans of the identified changes
- this community newsletter
- the feedback form
- the targeted consultation approach document
- the Environmental Implications of Change Report
- an interactive map
- an online survey, seeking feedback on the two proposed changes.

How to submit your feedback

You can share your views in the following ways:

Online: complete an online feedback form by visiting **nationalgrid.com/g-w** or by scanning the QR code

By email: send your comments or a scanned feedback form to **contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com**

By post: send a letter or return a paper feedback form to **FREEPOST G TO W** (no stamp required).

All feedback relevant to the two changes being consulted on will be carefully considered alongside our technical assessments and environmental surveys as we finalise our proposals.

We currently expect to submit the application to the Planning Inspectorate in summer 2027. If approved, construction is expected to start in 2029, with Grimsby to Walpole becoming operational by 2033.

Get in touch

You can view the latest project information and sign up for email updates on the Grimsby to Walpole project website. If you have any questions about the project, please contact the community relations team by:

Email: contact@g-w.nationalgrid.com;

Phone: 0808 258 4395 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5:30pm); or

Post: FREEPOST G TO W (no stamp required).