

Welcome to your latest community update from National Grid.

Each edition brings together news on our proposals for **Chesterfield to Willington**, progress on our work, and information on how you can stay involved.

Your feedback is helping shape our plans

Following our Stage 2 consultation, we have been carefully reviewing the feedback received and considering how we can improve our proposals.

As a result, we are exploring a small number of potential localised changes to the proposed route and design in specific locations. We are assessing whether these alternatives could offer a better solution than the options presented during consultation.

As part of this work, we may contact landowners in the areas affected to discuss possible changes.

No decisions have been made. We will consider these options alongside our ongoing surveys and technical assessments as we refine our proposals ahead of submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Survey works: what is happening and why?

You may have seen our teams carrying out surveys in the area. These surveys help us better understand local conditions and inform the design of our proposals.

Since June this year, our contractors have been carrying out ground investigation (GI) surveys at locations along the proposed route. These surveys help us understand the soil, rock and groundwater and other conditions beneath the surface.

Depending on the location, you may see specialist contractors using drilling rigs and other equipment to create boreholes or trial pits. We collect and analyse samples to help our engineers understand ground conditions and inform the design of infrastructure, including pylon foundations and access routes.

Survey activity in an area does not mean we have decided the final route or locations of pylons or other infrastructure.

We are continuing to review feedback alongside survey findings, technical studies and environmental assessments as we develop our proposals.

We carefully plan survey works to minimise disruption. Our usual working hours are 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday. Vehicles use designated access routes and parking arrangements.

Where access to private land is required, our land agents contact landowners and occupiers discuss arrangements. We reinstate the land once investigations are complete.

You can find the latest survey schedule and further information on our Landowners and surveys page.



Upcoming archaeological trial trenching

From Wednesday 18 November, we will begin archaeological trial trenching at several locations along the proposed route.

This involves digging temporary trenches to check for archaeological remains beneath the ground. The findings help us understand the importance of any remains and take them into account when developing our proposals.

You may see archaeologists and specialist excavation equipment creating temporary trenches in fields. These will typically be between 20 and 50 metres long, up to 2 metres wide and up to 1.2 metres deep.

If we find archaeological remains, our archaeologists will investigate and record them. Once this work is complete, we will backfill the trenches and reinstate the land.

Trial trenching is an initial investigation, rather than a full excavation. It focuses on specific areas of interest where we need more information. The findings will help inform the route design and may identify areas where further archaeological investigations are needed.

We are working closely with landowners and other relevant stakeholders throughout this work.

As with our other surveys, archaeological trial trenching does not mean that we have decided on the final route or where the pylons will be located. The findings will help us develop our final proposals.

Your questions answered

Here we feature the most common questions we've received recently.

Question: How do you look after wildlife during surveys?

Answer: We take care to minimise disturbance to wildlife and habitats during our surveys.

Our team includes specialist ecologists who study wildlife and habitats along the proposed route. They help us identify potential impacts before work begins.

We also work with organisations including Natural England, local wildlife groups and local authorities to better understand the local environment and how we can protect it.

The information we gather helps us identify sensitive areas and consider ways to avoid or reduce potential impacts.

Keeping you updated

We'll continue to keep you informed as our plans develop. You can find the latest updates on our **Project website**.

You can still access all consultation materials via the **Document library**, including the interactive map, fly-through videos, photomontages, construction animations and webinar recording.

For updates on the go, you can download our Grid:Engage app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us:

- Email: **chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com**
- Call: **0800 073 1047** Monday to Friday, 9am–5:30pm, with an answerphone service taking messages outside these times.
- Write to: **FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP)** no stamp or further address is required.

For landowners

If you own or occupy land and would like to speak to our land team, please contact Ardent:

- Email: **chesterfield-willington@ardentmanagement.com**
- Call: **0203 489 9414**
- Write to: **The Lands Team at Ardent, 36-38 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DE**

Yours faithfully,

Leanne Evans

Project Director – Chesterfield to Willington

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