The Great Grid Upgrade

Wallend Substation

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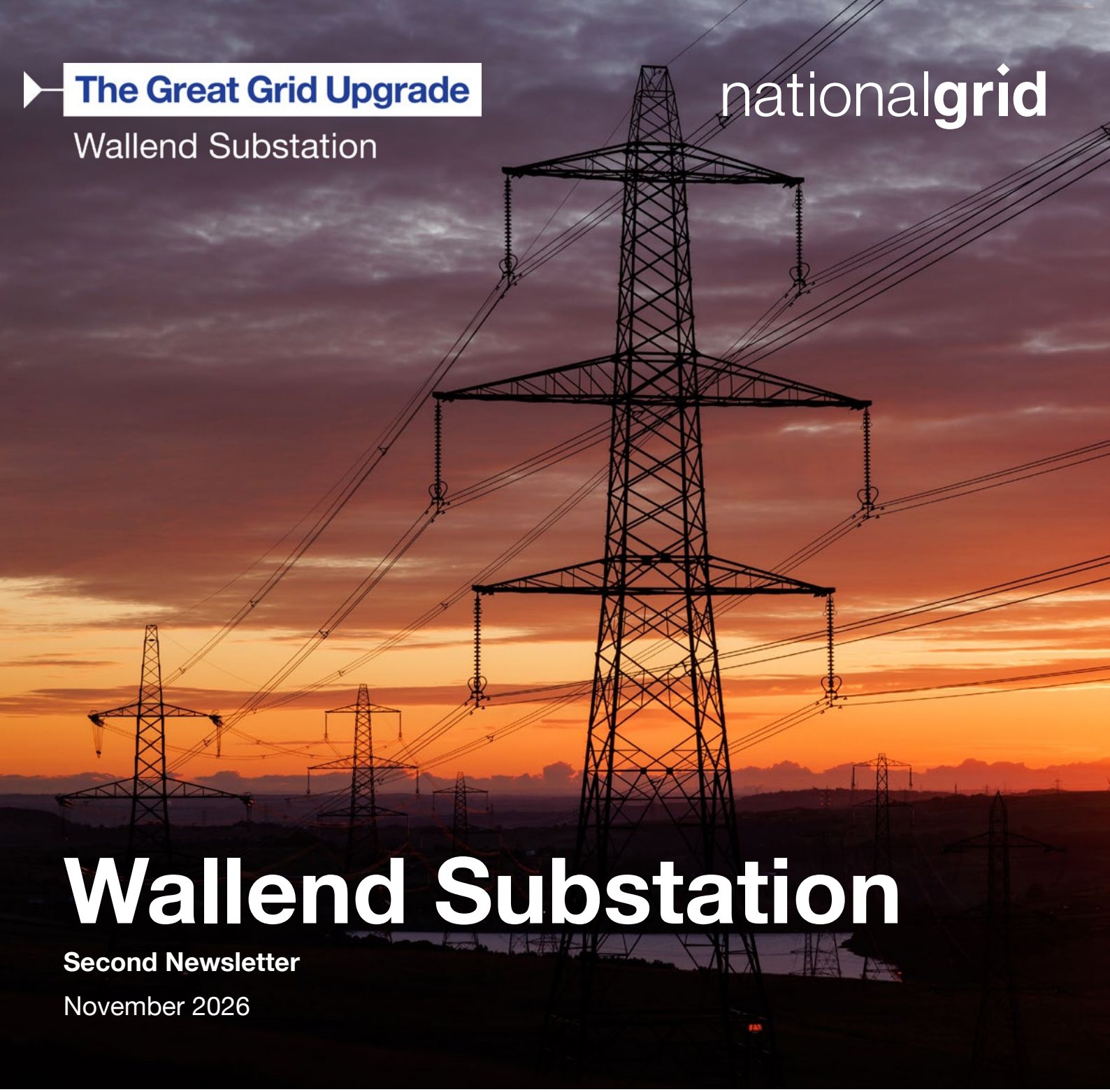

Wallend Substation

Second Newsletter

November 2026

Welcome to the second edition of our Wallend Substation construction newsletter. In this issue, we're sharing the latest progress from site, highlights from our recent community activities and information about careers in the energy sector.

Our project

Work has continued on our new 400kV Wallend Substation on the Isle of Grain since our last newsletter.

Once complete, the project will help strengthen the UK's electricity network and support the move towards a more secure and sustainable energy future. The substation will also support the NeuConnect project, a new electricity link between the UK and Germany, helping to deliver a more reliable electricity supply for homes and businesses.

What stage is the project at?

Alongside our contractor, Balfour Beatty, we have made significant progress on site, with several key milestones achieved:

- **Gas-insulated busbar installation:** Electrical equipment installation is complete on one of the main connections, with work continuing on the remaining connections across the site.
- **Equipment foundations:** Foundations for additional equipment have now been completed.
- **Distribution Transformer delivery:** The transformer has been successfully delivered and positioned on site.



Looking ahead: High-voltage testing

As we move closer to bringing the substation into service, we are approaching another important milestone.

In the coming months, our engineers will begin high-voltage testing to check that the equipment, cables and safety systems are working correctly. This is an important step in making sure the new substation can operate safely and reliably before electricity begins flowing through the network from the substation.

We will then move into the next phase of commissioning and preparation for operation, ahead of the substation becoming fully operational in 2027.

In the community

Over the past six months, our Wallend Substation team has been out and about in the local community, supporting schools, taking part in village events, meeting residents and welcoming visitors to the substation. Here are some of the highlights, along with the activities coming up over the next few weeks.

Supporting young readers

In June, we provided a selection of family games for St James Church of England Primary Academy to use as prizes for its family reading competition. It was a pleasure to support an initiative encouraging children and families to read together, and we look forward to continuing to work with schools in the local area.

Isle of Grain Fete

Our project team, alongside our contractors Balfour Beatty, enjoyed taking part in the Isle of Grain Fete on Saturday 18 July, one of the village's biggest annual community events.

Lots of you visited our stall to try our buzz wire challenge and PPE selfie station.

It was also a great opportunity for the team to meet local residents, share information about the project and answer questions about the work taking place.



Site visits

In October, we welcomed the Mayor of Medway and representatives from Ofgem to Wallend Substation, providing opportunities to showcase progress and share more about the work taking place on site.

During the Mayor's visit, we also discussed how the project can help create opportunities for local people and heard his insights into the Medway community.





Inspiring the next generation

At the end of November, alongside Balfour Beatty, we will welcome 20 Year 10 students to the site for a week-long programme introducing them to the project and careers in the energy sector.

Through site walkarounds, interactive sessions and team activities, students will learn about the different roles involved in delivering a major infrastructure project, from engineering and construction to project management and environmental work.

Careers fair

In early December, we will also be attending a local careers fair, giving school students the opportunity to learn more about careers in the energy sector and the different routes into the industry.

From apprenticeships and graduate programmes to experienced professional roles, National Grid offers opportunities across engineering, construction, project management and many other areas.

To find out more about current vacancies and career pathways, please visit our careers website: **https://jobs.nationalgrid.com/uk/early-careers**

Community Grant Programme

Local organisations can apply for grants of up to £20,000 through National Grid's Community Grant Programme, supporting projects in communities affected by the construction of Wallend Substation.

Funding can support both established organisations and smaller community-led groups, helping new ideas get started or existing projects grow.

You can find more information, including details of how to apply, on our website: **https://www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme**

Contact us

If you have any questions about the work we are doing or would like to know more, get in touch with our dedicated community relations team:

Calling us on: 0800 130 3767 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5:30pm)

Emailing us at: box.Wallend-Substation@nationalgrid.com

Visiting our website: : www.nationalgrid.com/Wallend-substation

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