

London Power Tunnels

Bengeworth Road Community Liaison Group, Q&A document

This document answers the questions asked at the fourth meeting of the Bengeworth Road Community Liaison Group (CLG) held on 7 September 2021. If you feel you have a question which is not answered here, please let us know.

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Screening Assessment

1. National Grid progressed with the permanent works of the shaft in August, prior to the publication of Lambeth Planning’s decision notice on 2 September 2021; under what authority were such works carried out?

Our July 2020 assessment was screened negatively, which gave us permission to start our permanent works in line with the mitigations proposed in this assessment because of our Permitted Development Rights (for reference, this can be found in the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Rights Order Amendment 2015). The shaft design and construction methodology has not changed from the July 2020 assessment.

Noise

2. Due to continued issues with night-time noise, further action may need to be brought from the Council – what action can UK Power Networks take to reduce noise on site?

UK Power Networks have taken various steps to reduce noise for residents, including moving materials further away from residential properties and they are working closely with their operations team to resolve the ongoing issues.

UK Power Networks will also reply to residents directly about any complaints relating to night-time works.

Air Pollution Monitoring

3. How does air pollution monitoring feature in the legal agreement between Lambeth Council and National Grid?

Air Quality monitoring measures fall under construction obligation 12 of the legal agreement and in accordance with the agreement, we have placed an air quality monitor next to the shaft access. The location of the monitor was agreed with the Council's environmental health officer.

4. Can residents be given access to the results of the air quality monitoring?

Air quality is continually monitored and residents can contact the community relations team for these results.

5. Has National Grid installed one or more automatic continuous monitors and, if so, could you indicate the date this was carried out and how much data National Grid has captured and recorded to date?

We installed the air quality monitor on 26 March 2021. The Council can request the data from the monitor at any time and this is secured by the Unilateral Undertaking (an agreement that we presented to the Council to allow monitoring of the site works by Lambeth Council).

6. Can National Grid Give a presentation on mitigation and monitoring at the next CLG meeting, so that residents can understand how they take place?

We will include this information at our next CLG meeting.

Contact

7. Where should residents go in the short term for questions where a response is required as quickly as possible?

Our community relations team run a 24/7 hotline for any queries relating to our works and will provide a quick response. The number is 0800 783 2855 and you can also email us at: nationalgrid@londonpowertunnels.co.uk

For queries relating to UK Power Networks, please contact their Care team directly on 0800 028 4587, customercare@ukpowernetworks.co.uk, or through their twitter handle (@UKPowerNetworks). Whilst the call centre is aware of activity at Bengeworth Road, UK Power Networks is also considering a dedicated hotline to manage issues on-site.

Access

8. Can National Grid guarantee that the access and egress agreement through Kings College Business Park will hold, as the screening opinion relies upon a previous agreement that allows entry through this road, but not exit.

We submitted a request on 7 September 2021 for an addendum to be added to the screening request we submitted in April. This detailed the updated access agreement with Kings College Business Park allowing our construction vehicles to enter and exit the site and we expect the Council to turnaround a decision in the next 21 days. As we have the agreement already in place with Kings College Hospital, we are already using this access in both directions to reduce the impact of our works on residents.

Building

9. When are the headhouse works going to start?

The headhouse work is currently planned to commence in early 2023 but we are reviewing the opportunity to bring the works forward into 2022 to mitigate the risk of any delay to our site programme. Works on the substation is planned to commence in 2023.

Based on the above, we hope to share plans of the headhouse at the end of this year or the beginning of next year (late 2021/ Spring 2022) and will discuss the plans with residents.

10. What opportunities will residents have to contribute their thoughts on headhouse construction and see their responses considered?

We plan to carry out our own public engagement on plans for our substation and headhouse and will share details of this engagement soon.

Other

11. Are National Grid using an Emergency Diesel Generator?

We have an Emergency Diesel Generator available for use. However, this is only used in an emergency and requires an agreement in writing from the Council to use it.

12. Have National Grid been keeping a record of complaints received in relation to the works at Bengeworth Road?

We keep a record of all complaints and queries across LPT, including our works at Bengeworth Road.

13. How frequent will CLG meetings be going forward?

We plan to hold the meeting on the first Tuesday of each month but are happy to review this if residents feel this is too frequent.