

# Harker Energy Enablement

Newsletter 4

December 2025

**Welcome to our latest Harker Energy Enablement newsletter. We're continuing to progress the project and have achieved several key milestones over 2025. Some of the recent activity includes four successful supergrid transformer (SGT) deliveries and work to install new substation equipment. We're also pleased to share that the main phase of the overhead lines scheme is now complete.**

**In this issue, we'll share details of our essential work and how we've been supporting the local community.**

## Project news

### Substation extension

We're extending our substation at Harker, which will help to increase network capacity between Harker and the Scottish Border and will boost energy security.

Site works are progressing well with construction of the new substation nearing completion and key pieces of equipment now installed on site.

We're preparing to install new cables that will connect the existing substation at Harker and the new extension. To do this, we will need to close the unnamed road between the two sites during 2026. We are sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but please be assured we will keep these closures to a minimum and keep you informed.

Following the delivery of our SGTs over the last few months, we've started installing these large pieces of electrical equipment with the final two SGTs due to be delivered in the first half of 2026.

Due to the size of this equipment, we'll be using a slow-moving transporter vehicle to ensure that the deliveries can take place safely from Heysham Port. This will mean there are some rolling road closures in the area, as the vehicles carry the equipment to the substation. We'll continue to notify the local community once the details of these deliveries are confirmed and updates will be included on our project website [nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation](https://nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation)

SP Electricity North West has also been working in the North West corner of the site on their project to relocate the existing overhead line. This will allow for the new connections to be made from the substation extension to SP Electricity North West's 132,000-volt network.

Following the completion of their work, a redundant pylon will be taken down and dismantled. For further information visit the project website [enwl.co.uk/about-us/networkinvestment/cumbriaring/harker/](https://enwl.co.uk/about-us/networkinvestment/cumbriaring/harker/)



Aerial photo of the site

# Community news

## Community grant success for North Cumbria Search & Rescue

Over recent months we've received applications from local community groups and projects for our Community Grant Programme.

The scheme provides grants of up to £20,000 supporting a wide range of charities and community activities. Considered on a quarterly basis, we're pleased to share that North Cumbria Search & Rescue's bid was recently approved. This means they will receive £20,000 funding for a new roofing system at Heathlands, near Rockcliffe. The roof will help to protect the lifesaving rescue equipment from adverse weather conditions.

North Cumbria Search & Rescue is a Carlisle-based charity, providing a fully trained volunteer team specialising in water rescues and land searches, working alongside blue light services, as well as providing an extensive outreach programme based around water safety.

The charity was founded following Storm Desmond in 2015, when approximately 2,000 local homes and businesses experienced severe flooding, and there was no local team to support the community and emergency services in their time of need. Visit [ncsar.uk](https://ncsar.uk) for more information.

If you represent a local charity or community group and would like to apply, further information is available on our website.

# Our progress so far

## Overhead lines

The main phase of our work to add new wires to the existing pylons between Harker substation and the Scottish Border has been completed by our contractors Morgan Sindall.

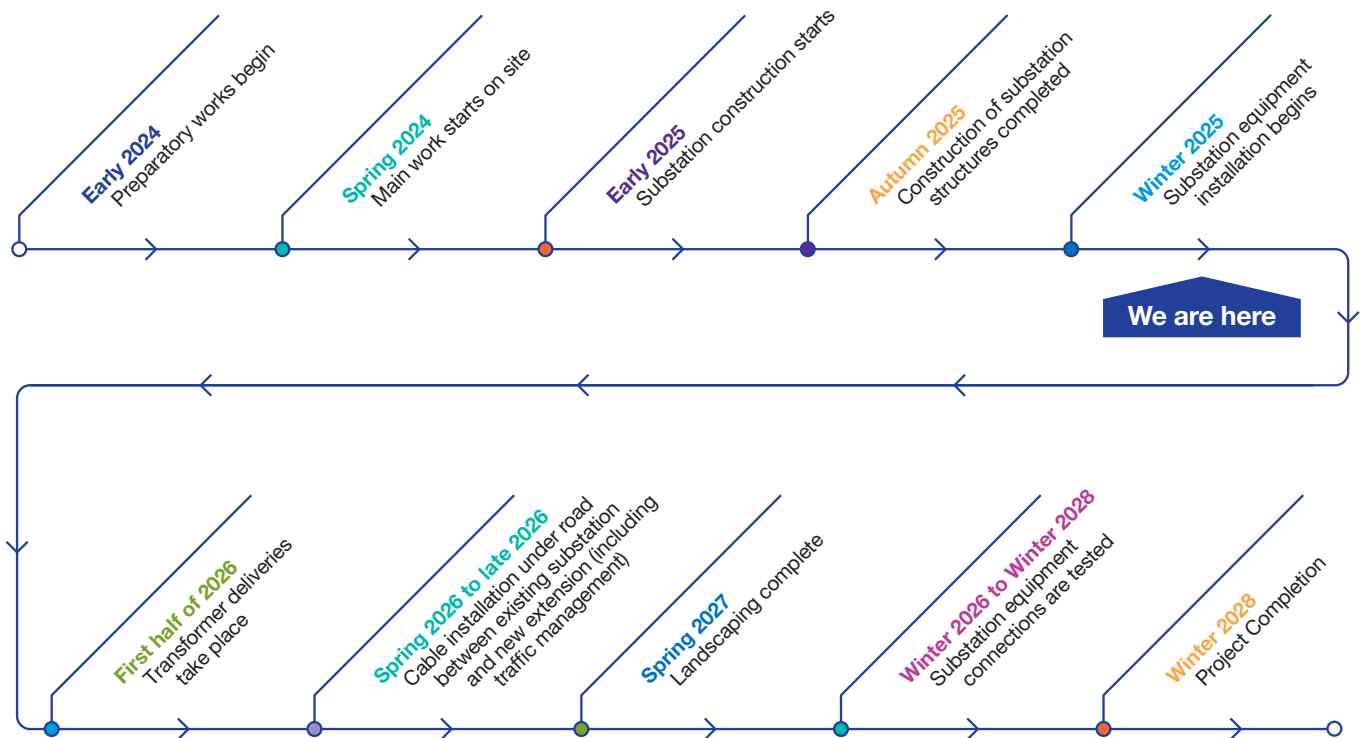
The completion of this part of the project, which involved refurbishing pylons by renewing the existing wires crossing north Cumbria including those running through Longtown, means more power can be transported along the existing network.

Further associated works will take place in 2027, and we will share more details about this next year.

## Working with other projects

National Grid Electricity Transmission and SP Energy Networks are planning to enhance the electricity network with proposals for the Cross Border Connection project. Cross Border Connection is a proposal to develop a new electricity connection between a location near Lauder in the Scottish Borders and the Carlisle area. To find out more visit [nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/cross-border-connection](https://nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/cross-border-connection).

# Timeline



# Community news

Over the last six months we've continued to work with the local community to make a difference.

This has included hosting a site tour for Blackford CE Primary School pupils and the successful Community Grant Programme application from North Cumbria Search & Rescue.

## Supporting Blackford CE Primary School

Pupils from Blackford CE Primary School were given a unique insight behind the scenes of the substation extension project when children from Years 4, 5 and 6 met members of National Grid's project team and contractor Omexom Taylor Woodrow, before being given a tour of the construction site and then taking part in educational workshops.

The project team has been working closely with Blackford CE Primary School to provide careers talks, with children from the school also taking part in a competition to design safety posters which are now proudly on display across the site.

Kevin Harper, Project Manager at National Grid, said: "It's wonderful to be able to support the communities we work in, particularly working with the local school and being able to take them around our site and give them an insight into how we build important infrastructure. The children were enthusiastic, and we hope to see some of them working as engineers or project managers in the future"

## Major boost to outdoor play plans

Additionally, our contractor for the overhead lines project – Morgan Sindall – also supported Blackford CE Primary School with a donation towards the school's Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) project and held a series of workshops with the children focusing on environmental studies, and construction activities.

Lindsey Slater added: "We can't put into words what the generosity of Morgan Sindall means to the school community. We've been trying to raise funds to build the MUGA for a long time, as the field is boggy it is almost unusable for most of the year. This donation won't just help us to build the MUGA for the school pupils to use, but for the wider community to come and play in!"

## IT equipment gets an upgrade

The school has also received a generous donation from the supplier of our SGTs, HD Hyundai Electric, to the school which included essential IT equipment and stationery for students.

The package of support included a £25,000 financial donation, new computers, a charging centre, and student stationery, as well as educational and careers events for pupils.

Mrs Dorothea Mackay, Chair of Governors for Blackford CE Primary School, said: "The governors, staff and I are astounded at the generosity of HD Hyundai Electric. The difference the laptops and the donation will make to our pupils is significant.

School budgets are tight, and this additional funding just allows us to purchase equipment we would not otherwise be able to afford.

HD Hyundai Electric and National Grid are leaving a wonderful legacy at Blackford School."

## Harker Team gets 'Wilder at Work' with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Members of our substation project team have recently taken part in the 'Wild at Work Day' initiative run by Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT). Held at CWT's organic working farm, Gosling Sike, the project team worked on several tasks including weeding, planting and working in the wildflower plant nursery.

They also carried out a scrub clearance at Drumburgh Moss, a national nature reserve, to help raise the water level so that the bog vegetation can regrow. The volunteers from National Grid, and our contractors Omexom Taylor Woodrow and Fourway, spent the day removing trees and scrub.



Years 4, 5 and 6 from Blackford CE Primary School tour the Harker site

# Meet the team

Each issue we'll introduce you to a member of our project team as you can get to know the people behind the site works:

## Mohammed Akib

**What is your role in the project?**  
Apprentice Assistant Project Manager

**How did you become an Apprentice Associate Project Manager?** I've recently joined the National Grid Apprenticeship programme as an Assistant Project Manager. This marks a major career change for me — one driven by a desire to challenge myself and contribute meaningfully to a more sustainable future. I wasn't sure I'd be accepted at my age, but I'm proud to be here and excited for what lies ahead.

**What are your hobbies?** Outside of work, I'm a proud dad to two energetic boys aged 8 and 10, who keep me busy and inspired. I'm a big fan of cricket and

football, and I coach the under-10 and under-11 teams at my local cricket club — helping young players grow in confidence and teamwork while having fun.

**What have you done to become greener?** Sustainability is a personal passion of mine. I've already taken steps to reduce my carbon footprint by upgrading my home with solar panels and external wall insulation, and I'm always looking for new ways to live greener and promote environmental awareness. I'm particularly interested in how infrastructure and energy projects can support the UK's transition to net zero, and I hope to get involved in initiatives that align with those goals.



# Contact us

We promise to keep you informed of our vital works and will continue to support your community through our grant programme and volunteering activities. If you have any further questions, please visit our website or contact our team:

**0800 319 6165**  
**(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5.30pm)**

email [harker@nationalgrid.com](mailto:harker@nationalgrid.com)  
website: [nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation](https://nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation)

You can also write to us using our freepost address:

**Freepost FEEDBACK**  
(no stamp or further address required)

**Over the Christmas period the site will be closed between Friday 19 December 2025 and Monday 5 January 2026. Security will remain on site but if you have any concerns over this period, please contact 016044 98849. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season.**