

Harker Energy Enablement

June 2026

Welcome to our latest Harker Energy Enablement newsletter.

The project is progressing well with several milestones achieved this year. This includes the final two successful Supergrid Transformer (SGT) deliveries and work to install new substation equipment.

In this issue, we will share more information about our essential work and how we have been supporting the local community.

Project news

Substation extension

The extension of our substation at Harker will help to increase network capacity between Harker and the Scottish Border, whilst boosting energy security.

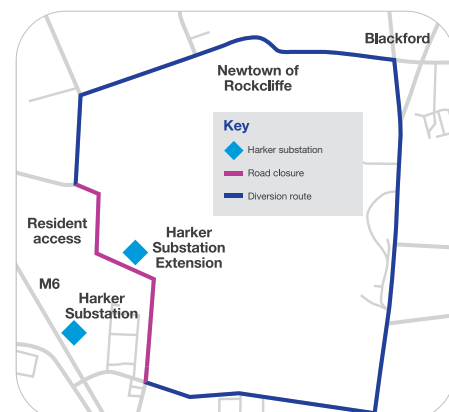
Site works are progressing well, and we are on target for the project to be completed in late 2029. Construction of the substation buildings has been completed by our contractor, Omexom Taylor Woodrow (OTW). We are focusing on installing the remaining Supergrid Transformers (SGTs) following their successful delivery, and the substation equipment that is housed in the newly built buildings.

Our contractor for the overhead lines element of the project, Morgan Sindall, has already upgraded more than 90 km of overhead line works www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-completes-overhead-line-upgrade-between-harker-and-scottish-border

A section of the public adopted highway, next to our substation, will be closed from June for approximately 16 weeks to allow for essential works. A diversion is in place via the A7. The works include installing cables between the new substation, and the existing substation and a new water main on behalf of United



Utilities. The closure will be in place 24 hours a day for the duration of this work. Signage will be in place to redirect vehicles and pedestrians, and residential access will be maintained. Thank you for your patience whilst these works take place.



Map of the road closure and diversion route

Transformer deliveries complete

In March 2026, the final SGT, supplied by HD Hyundai Electric, was successfully delivered to site. Work is ongoing to finish installing the equipment.

Once operational, they will improve energy resilience and support the distribution of power to homes and businesses in the area.

These colossal pieces of equipment each weigh 184 tonnes, equivalent to the weight of 30 African elephants.

Due to the size, a slow-moving transporter vehicle was used to ensure all the deliveries could take place safely from Heysham Port. This meant that some rolling road closures were implemented in the area.

We would like to thank the local community for your patience and understanding while this essential equipment was brought to site.

The video showing a full transformer movement can be viewed here: nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation

Community News

Griddles the Bear

Project Manager Kat Woods recently visited Blackford CE Primary School to read the new National Grid children’s book about Griddles the Bear to pupils in Reception and Year 1.



Pylon felled

Elsewhere on site, a pylon from the centre of the site was felled in a controlled manner by ENWL (Electricity North West Limited) contractor Aureos. The video of the pylon felling can be viewed on the project website here: nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation

The pylon was owned and operated by ENWL. The electricity circuit which previously ran through this pylon has been diverted into the existing substation whilst our extension works take place.

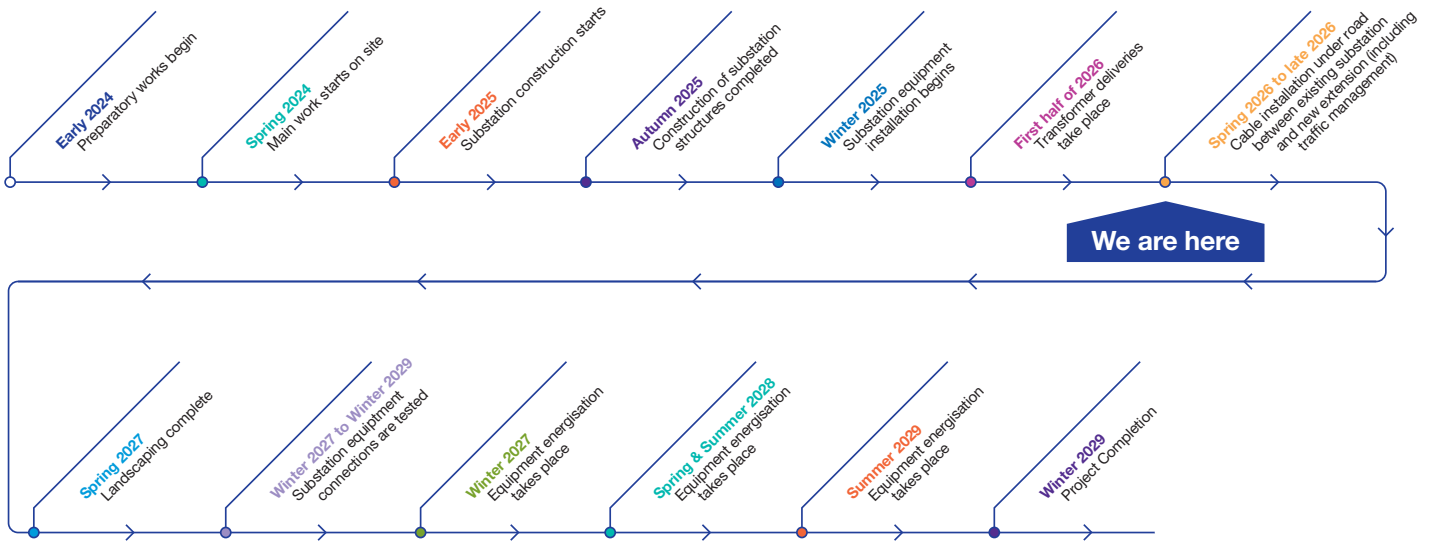
Once completed, this circuit will be transferred into ENWL’s new 132 kilovolt (kV) substation. This will allow for new connections to be made from the substation extension to SP Electricity North West’s network.

For further information about the ENWL work, please visit the project website: enwl.co.uk/about-us/networkinvestment/cumbriaring/harker/

Did you know?
Once complete, the extended substation will measure around 55,000 square meters – this is around the size of 8 full-size football pitches.



Timeline



Community News

Community Grant Programme success

We are pleased that two local groups have been successful in their Community Grant Programme applications. The Laurie Brewis Trust, which supports adults with learning disabilities, mental health issues, acquired brain injury and others in north Cumbria, has been awarded just over £12,000 to complete remedial works on their portacabin project, which includes repairing the building's roof and replacing the windows.

More than £19,000 has also been awarded to the Parent, Teacher and Friends of Blackford CE Primary School Association to install solar panels on the roof of the school hall. The project will help to reduce the school's emissions and reduce energy costs.

If you represent a local charity or community group and would like to apply, further information is available on our website: www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme

North Cumbria Search & Rescue

In our last newsletter we shared that North Cumbria Search & Rescue (NCSR) had been successful with their Community Grant Programme application to fund a roof for their new site at Heathlands. Once work to fit the new roof was completed, a group from the project team visited the site to see the roof in place and met the NCSR volunteers who make a difference in our local community.

Working with other projects

We are also looking to deliver another electricity scheme in the area called Cross Border Connection, alongside project partners, SP Energy Networks. The project, which recently completed its Stage 1 public consultation, proposes to develop a new electricity connection between the England-Scotland border and a new substation in the Carlisle area. To find out more visit: www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/cross-border-connection



Our project team visiting NCSR's new site

Meet the team

In each issue we'll introduce you to a member of our project team behind our essential works:

Mitchell Coates
Project Supervisor

What is your role on the project?

I am a Project Supervisor for National Grid on the Harker Energy Enablement scheme. I ensure the work onsite is being delivered safely and ensure all the work being completed by OTW is to the correct National Grid quality specifications. I also make sure that the contractor is following the contract programme to ensure the work is being delivered in the correct timescales.

How did you become a Project Supervisor?

I joined National Grid in April 2024 after working on NG construction projects for the contractor. I have

been based on the Harker Energy Enablement project since I joined National Grid.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy going to watch Newcastle United and socialising with my friends and partner.

What have you done to become greener?

We use low carbon concrete on the project, which is much better for the environment than the standard concrete that is often used in construction.



Contact us

We will continue to keep the local community informed as construction activity progresses.

If you have any further questions, please visit our website or contact our team:

Phone: **0800 319 6165**

(Monday to Friday, 9am – 5.30pm)

Email: harker@nationalgrid.com

Website: www.nationalgrid.com/harkersubstation

You can also write to us using our freepost address:

Freepost FEEDBACK

(no stamp or further address required)

nationalgrid