

The Great Grid Upgrade

Grain to Tilbury

nationalgrid

Project update

August 2026

Welcome to the latest update from National Grid's Grain to Tilbury project, where we're busy building a new tunnel under the Thames and upgrading the electricity overhead lines in the area.

So much news to share from the Grain to Tilbury team



We're on a roll: 150 km of conductor installed ⚡

Alongside the construction of a new cable tunnel under the Thames, we're also upgrading the existing overhead power lines between Tilbury, Kingsnorth and the Isle of Grain.

Since work began near the Kingsnorth Power Station in mid-April, our teams have been steadily working their way along the route, renewing the electricity wires and insulators on existing pylons and strengthening the electricity network.

And we've just reached a major milestone – more than 150 kilometres of wires have now been installed!

That's about the same distance as:

- 15,000 London buses parked bumper to bumper
- 1,500 football pitches laid end to end
- crossing the Dartford Crossing over 100 times.

[Click here to find out more about the project](#)

From classroom to construction site

Late last month, a group of students from St John's Comprehensive School (Gravesend) joined the team for an exciting week-long work experience programme, giving them a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to deliver a major infrastructure project.

Throughout the week, students met experts from across the business, explored a range of career opportunities, and gained valuable insight into the different skills needed to plan, design, build and manage complex projects.

The programme combined hands-on activities, site visits and interactive workshops, helping students develop their understanding of the industry while building confidence and workplace skills.

From engineering and construction to environmental management, commercial, communications and project management, the experience showcased the wide variety of careers available and highlighted the important role infrastructure projects play in supporting communities and the economy.



Building confidence for future success

Members of the project team recently volunteered their time to help local sixth form students at Gateway Academy prepare for their next steps beyond education by taking part in a mock interview programme.

The sessions gave students the chance to practise their interview techniques in a realistic setting and receive valuable feedback ahead of applying for jobs, apprenticeships and university courses.

Drawing on their own career journeys and professional experience, team members shared practical advice on how to stand out to employers, helping students develop the skills and confidence needed to make a positive impression in future interviews.

Expert volunteering with Marmot Place – supporting healthier communities in Medway

Members of our design team have been volunteering with **Medway Marmot Place**, a local organisation that works to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing across Medway.

Working closely with the charity, the team identified ways they could share their expertise to help strengthen local business engagement.

They created a map of businesses across the area and developed a practical engagement toolkit to help Marmot Place build relationships with potential partners.

This support will help the charity continue its important work to improve health and wellbeing for people across Medway.

Awards

We're delighted to share that the project has been shortlisted for two awards at the **British Construction and Infrastructure Awards 2026**:

 **Biggest Impact – Innovation Impact Award**
Vertical Shaft Sinking Machine on Infrastructure Projects

 **Design and Delivery – Construction Excellence Award**
Grain to Tilbury Tunnel

These nominations recognise the innovation, collaboration and expertise demonstrated by our teams and partners in delivering complex infrastructure projects and developing new construction techniques.

We're proud to see this work being recognised by the industry and look forward to the awards ceremony later this year.

Contact us

Know someone who would be interested in our news? Forward this email and help us spread the word.

If you have any questions about the wider project, you can get in touch by:

Email: contact@graintotilbury.nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0203 398 1599 (Lines are open 9am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday)



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