

Camelford Overhead Line Refurbishment Project

Key Messages and Q&A's

Key messages

Why are National Grid working here?

- Across the UK, National Grid are refurbishing the existing overhead power lines to make sure that people have the power they need and that a safe and efficient source of electricity is delivered to local communities.
- As part of our investment in the energy network in the South West, we're renovating steelwork on the overhead line running through Camelford, North Cornwall.
- Our job is to maintain the line by investing in the area, this is to keep the network in first class working order and meet future electricity demands.
- Flexibility in the network to meet future electricity demands is important as it allows for the changing demands on power networks in the South West.

What is National Grid doing in Camelford?

- Work on the line will take place on around 50 pylons, over 16km. The work includes replacing the steelwork components on some of the pylons, and repainting some of the towers along the line.
- There will be no new towers, but some temporary towers will be erected during the duration of the works.
- The project is due to finish in late 2018.
- It may appear that nothing is happening depending on where people live. This means refurbishment is taking place elsewhere. We will keep our neighbours informed when we are working in the area.
- Overhead line steelwork replacement work will not disrupt electricity supplies in the local area.

How does National Grid act as a responsible business?

- Most activity will take place in daylight hours from Monday to Friday, with occasional weekend work if required. There may be some noise during the work but we will try to keep this to a minimum. Our community relations helpline is available 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week for people to ask questions and raise concerns.
- National Grid behave as a responsible business and are positive about investing in the communities where we work. National Grid's Community Grant Programme invests money into community schemes. We also keep our neighbors and local community informed of our work that we complete in the area.

What is the community relations telephone number for?

The community relations team is available between 7am and 7pm seven days a week on 0800 073 1047. The number is available to:

- Ask any questions or request further information;
- Report any feedback – positive or negative – or register any concerns;
- Enquire about our community funding schemes, like our Community Grant Programme.

Questions & Answers

Q. If the pylons have not been refurbished in over 50 years, are they still safe? Why are you only doing this now?

A. The pylons are inspected regularly by National Grid to ensure they are operating safely and efficiently. For example, we use helicopters with heat mapping technology to spot any issues or problems, as well as ground inspections.

The components on overhead lines are designed to last up to 75 years. But we choose to refurbish before that time so that the renovation of pylons, such as repainting, isn't so costly and extensive.

Q. Haven't the pylons been repainted recently?

A. National Grid has been repainting other pylons in the area, but the pylons having steelwork renovation were not part of the previous work.

Q. Why is it necessary to clear birds' nests and vegetation?

A. National Grid are committed to minimising the impact of work on local wildlife and environment. We need to clear some trees and bushes from around the base of some pylons and underneath overhead lines so that our contractors will have safe access to work sites. Some bird nests will need to be carefully removed from affected trees and bushes. All bird nests will be removed outside of nesting season.

Q. Will the vegetation be replaced?

A. National Grid's policy is to replant four trees for every one removed and as we progress we will discuss areas to replant with the local authorities.

Q. Will my electricity supply be affected while work is going on?

A. Your electricity supply will not be affected by this work.

Q. How will National Grid transport its heavy machinery?

A. To reduce the impact on the condition of local roads, National Grid will use the major road networks to move equipment and materials to a central compound located along the overhead line. Smaller vehicles will run loads to different sections of the line. Vehicles will try to avoid travelling during peak traffic times.

Q. Who is responsible for clearing the mud off the roads?

A. National Grid take the cleanliness of the roads that we use seriously. Tyre washers will help prevent the spread of mud. It may still be possible that mud is spread onto the road and jet washers will be used to clear it. The community relations helpline can be used to report mud on the roads. National Grid cannot jet wash roads where they're not responsible for the mud.

Q. Will any roads be damaged by the heavy machinery?

A. All drivers, whether employed by National Grid or one of the contractors, are trained to avoid causing damage to roads as much as possible. If any damage occurs, they will reinstate the road to the original condition. At the end of the project, engineers from the local authorities will inspect the road to check it is in the same condition as before. The project will not close until this sign-off is received.

Q. Are all the people who work on the line National Grid employees?

A. National Grid use experienced, well-trained and properly qualified contractors to carry out the work. All contractors are managed by National Grid who monitor their performance closely. Any feedback about the contractors can be made via our community relations helpline.

Q. How will National Grid access the pylons?

A. Our engineers will sometimes require access to private land. Our Lands Team will discuss and agree with landowner's the access arrangements for our equipment and engineers.

Q. How will the steelwork replacement affect the local community?

A. We'll need to close some short sections of road and footpaths for a short time so that we can safely access power lines.

Where it is difficult to protect crossings whilst refurbishing the pylons, we liaise with local highways authorities to agree the necessary statutory closures. We always seek to close roads for the shortest possible time.

Residents living near some pylons will also see temporary towers being constructed.

Q. What is being done to keep people living directly under the wires safe?

A. National Grid take the safety of the public seriously and wouldn't do anything to endanger the public.

Any work taking place directly over people's properties will be discussed with the landowner in advance and the relevant protection put in place.

Q. Will National Grid be installing any new pylons?

A. No new pylons will be installed. We will replace some large sections of steelwork on a handful of pylons. In these locations we will use temporary towers to hold the wires in place during our work on the pylon. These are not a permanent addition to our network and will only be used for the duration of the work.