



Welcome to the latest e-newsletter from National Grid on the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement, where we're busy upgrading the electricity transmission network in south Suffolk and north Essex.

In this update, you can learn more about:

- current and upcoming construction activity, including vegetation management and the start of underground cable works in the Dedham Vale National Landscape
- new animations showing how we are building the project
- the first grants awarded by our Community Fund
- how our team raised money for charity by climbing a pylon.

About the project

As part of [The Great Grid Upgrade](#), we're upgrading the electricity transmission network between Bramford substation in Suffolk and Twinstead Tee in Essex by removing an existing lower voltage overhead line and replacing it with a mix of new high voltage overhead line and underground cables. We're also building a new grid supply point (GSP) substation to the south of Sudbury, and carrying out works to support biodiversity and the environment.

By doing this, we're helping to connect more secure, cleaner, home-grown energy from more affordable sources.

[Find out more](#)

Community Fund: first grants awarded

We're delighted to share that our first funding panel has awarded **more than £213,000** to 17 community projects across Suffolk and Essex.

The grants, made through the Local Fund element of our £4.2 million Community Fund, support projects that improve community spaces, back health and wellbeing, protect the environment, create opportunities for young people and help communities respond to cost of living pressures.

Projects funded so far include:

- St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School PTA, replacing old climbing equipment with a new play structure for pupils
- Stour Power Community Energy, a feasibility study into a small run-of-river hydro scheme that could supply renewable energy to local homes and businesses
- Alphamstone Village Hall, installation of solar panels and battery storage to cut energy costs and help keep the hall sustainable
- New Life Church's Abi's Footprints Baby Bank, a part-time support worker to run free weekly parent, baby and toddler groups and visit families facing hardship and isolation.

Thank you to everyone who has applied so far. If you'd like to know more about eligibility or future funding rounds, visit [Localgiving's website](#) or email NGCommunityFund@localgiving.org.

Construction news

Vegetation works continue until end of October

Since the middle of September, we've been carrying out vegetation works at various locations along the route of the project. These works, which include trimming, pruning, coppicing and, in some places, removal, will allow us to build new construction accesses and temporary haul roads that keep our vehicles off local roads wherever possible. Where we will build the new overhead line, we may also require works to ensure a safe distance between vegetation and the future new transmission wires.

We've published detailed information about these works on our website, including an area-by-area breakdown of what is planned and when. You can read them at the links below:

- [Bramford, Burstall, Hintlesham, Hadleigh and surrounding areas](#)

- [Layham, Polstead and surrounding areas](#)
- [Assington, Leavenheath and surrounding areas](#)
- [Alphamstone, Lamarsh, Twinstead, Wickham St Paul and surrounding areas](#)

Start of underground cable works in the Dedham Vale National Landscape

We're pleased to say that work to build the first underground cable trenches in the Dedham Vale National Landscape has now started. We know the value you place in this landscape, and routeing the new line underground in this area and in the Stour Valley was one of the key commitments we made when developing our plans.

Even though we're not building any new overhead line or pylons within the National Landscape, we're still taking down the existing lower voltage overhead line and pylons here, with removal works due to begin next year. This means that, when construction is finished, there will be one less overhead line in the National Landscape area than at present.

We'll be using two different methods to lay the underground cables. The first involves digging a trench to lay the cables in, whilst the second involves drilling a path beneath the ground for the new cables to follow, known as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). This second method reduces the level of visual disturbance at ground level whilst construction is taking place.

You can find out more about both construction methods later in this newsletter, and we'll be sharing more information about these works with local communities over the next few months.

The first new pylon to be built... and the first existing pylon to be removed

October also marks two further milestones: we expect to take down the first existing pylon and put up the first new one in the area around Bramford substation. We expect to build more new pylon structures at various locations before the end of the year, with work to wire these pylons due to start next year.

We'll share more details on all of this as it happens. Keep an eye on the [‘What’s happening now?’](#) page of our website and our WhatsApp channels for the latest information.

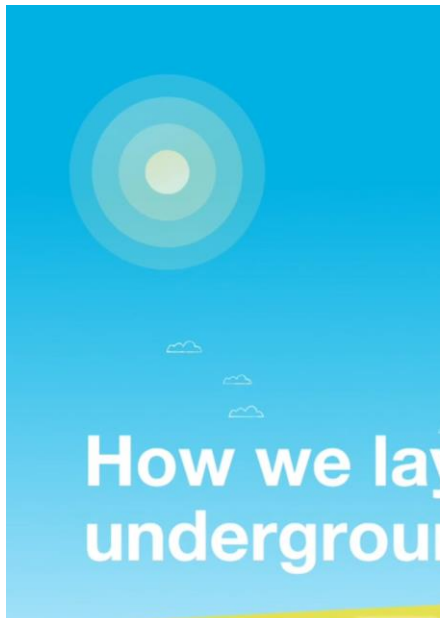
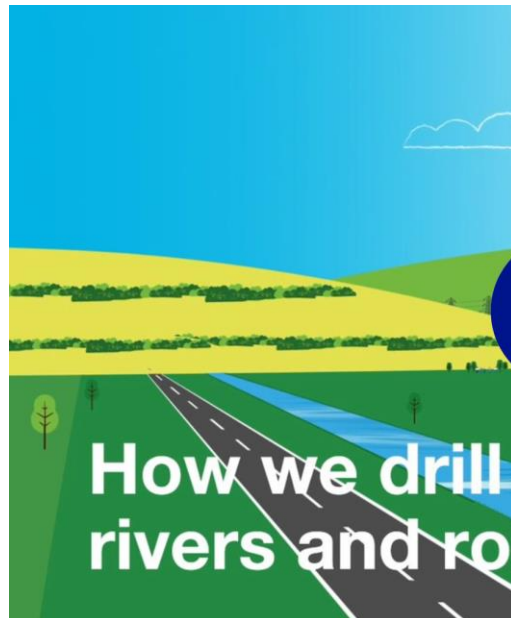
We know that construction works can be disruptive and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused. We're committed to giving advance notice of upcoming works so that you can plan ahead, and our teams are working to complete all activities as quickly and safely as possible.

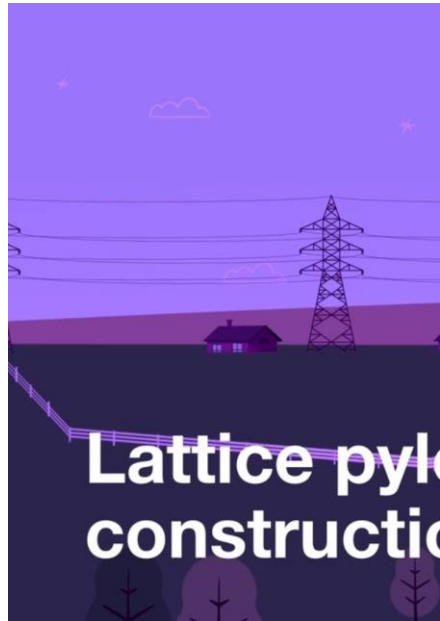
Ever wondered how we build a pylon?

As construction ramps up, you'll see all sorts of activity along the route, from new site entrances to temporary roads and the first new pylons taking shape.

To explain what's going on, we've brought together a set of short animations showing how each element of the project is built, including haul roads, underground cables and pylons. They're a quick and simple way to understand what you're seeing on the ground and why each step matters.

You can watch them on our website via the links below:

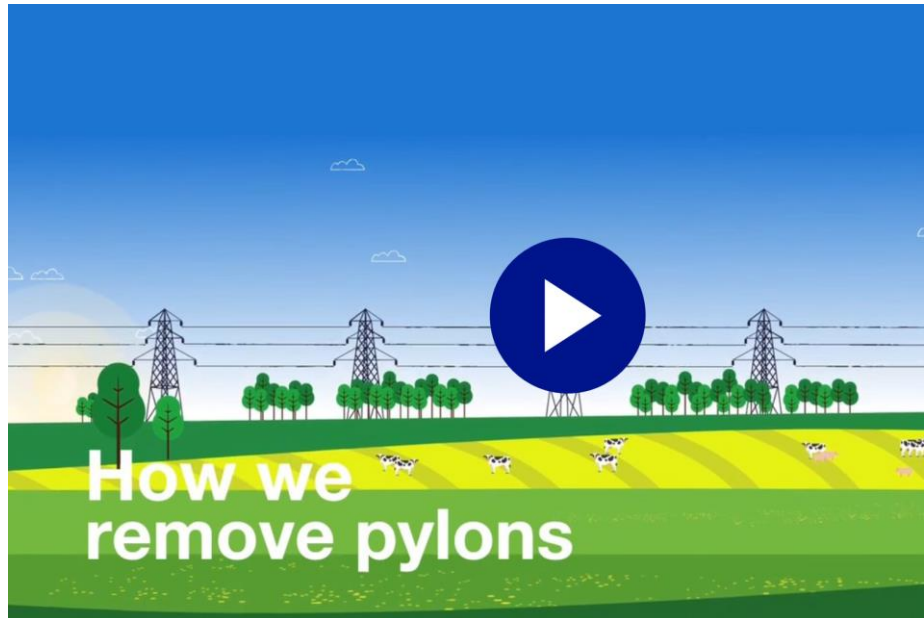




Lattice pylon construction



How we construct a haul road



How we remove pylons

Our team takes on a pylon climb for charity

Last month, members of the project team swapped the ground for the top of a pylon, raising nearly £2,000 for Brave



Futures Ipswich
along the way.
You can read
about their
climb [here](#).

A reminder: keep up-to-date with upcoming works via WhatsApp

Our WhatsApp channels are the fastest way to hear about upcoming works in your area, including locations, dates and times, along with any temporary traffic lights, road closures or diversions.

There are four channels covering different parts of the route, so you can sign up for the updates most relevant to you. To join, tap or scan the QR code with your phone:

Bramford, Burstall, Hadleigh and Hintlesham:

To join, tap or scan the
QR code with your ph

Layham, Polstead and surrounding areas:

To join, tap or scan the
QR code with your ph

Assington, Leavenheath and surrounding areas:

To join, tap or scan the
QR code with your ph

Alphamstone, Lamarsh, Twinstead and Wickham St Paul:

To join, tap or scan the
QR code with your ph

Contact us

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

If you have any comments or questions about the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement, you can get in touch by:

Email: contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com

Phone: 0808 196 1515 (Lines are open 9am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday)



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