

[Home / Press Releases /](#)

# National Grid completes £7m Midlands-Derbyshire power line upgrade

£7 million refurb for Midlands-Derbyshire power supply complete

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National Grid has completed a major two-year project in the West Midlands and Derbyshire to refurbish an overhead power line and meet the country's rising demand for power. The £7 million essential maintenance scheme involved engineers working on a series of 40-year-old pylons along a 34 km stretch of overhead line from Bustleholme substation in Walsall to Drakelow substation in south Derbyshire.

Chris Card, National Grid Project Manager, says: "We're investing substantially in the region's power network through improvement schemes like this, so communities continue to have the reliable power they need for many years to come. Now our work is complete, we'll increase the overhead line voltage from 275,000 volts to 400,000 volts to supply electricity to homes and businesses more efficiently."

The maintenance scheme involved the addition of new fixtures and fittings to 101 pylons along the power line, the replacement of pylon steelwork and a fresh coat of paint for every pylon to keep them in good condition. The work was carried out by National Grid's contracting partner Balfour Beatty and took place in eight local Council wards and four Parliamentary constituencies.

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Notes for editors

### Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

#### National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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##### In Media

- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

#### Useful National Grid information

##### United Kingdom

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

##### United States

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)