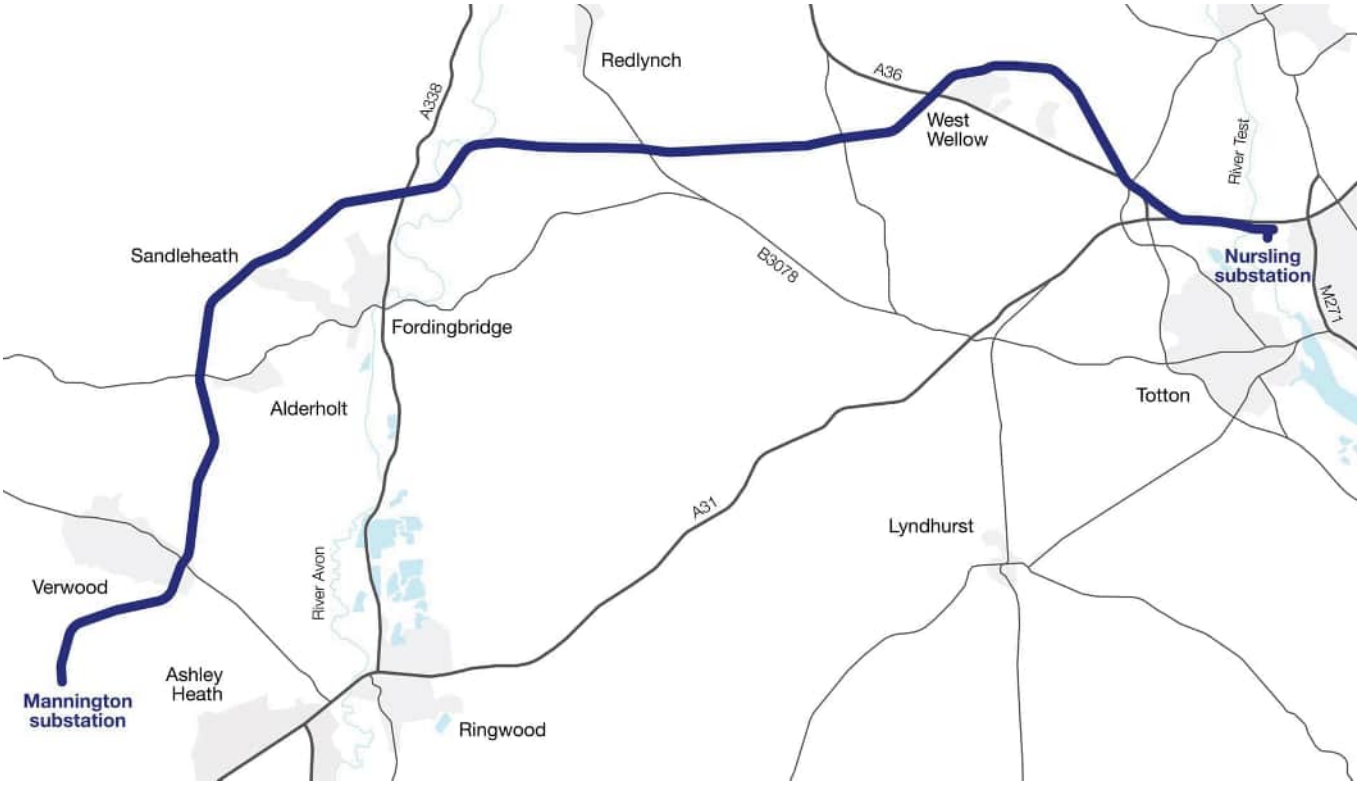
National Grid Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment

Community Newsletter - Issue 1, May 2026

Welcome to the first edition of our Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment community newsletter. We will produce a series of newsletters over the coming months as our work progresses, to help keep you up to date with what's going in your area.

What is the Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment project?



Map showing the Mannington to Nursling overhead line route

We are undertaking essential maintenance work to the overhead electricity line between our Mannington and Nursling substations. The overhead electricity line begins at Mannington substation, travels north past Verwood, runs across the north of the New Forest National Park crossing into Wiltshire, and ends at our substation in Nursling.

The overhead line, first constructed in the 1960s, is now reaching a stage where some key parts of the infrastructure need replacing.

This essential work will ensure that we continue to provide a safe and reliable electricity supply for homes and businesses in the region into the future.

To view the overhead line route in more detail, please visit our interactive map, which can be found on our webpage through the link below:

Visit our project website and view our interactive map

What exactly does the refurbishment work involve?

Example image of an engineer working at height on a pylon

The Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line consists of 115 pylons with two circuits. To enable the first stage of refurbishment to begin in June, we are currently in the process of finishing our preparatory works, which will enable our engineers to carry out the specific refurbishments required for individual pylons. Our staff have been carrying out pylon inspections to assess their condition before the refurbishment and undertaking vegetation clearance and minor works to create safe access routes for workers.

Over the next few weeks and months we expect the work to take place as outlined below:

- June 2026 – July 2026: First round of refurbishment works to one side of the pylons
- Summer 2026: Second round of vegetation clearance to remove any regrowth
- July 2026 – September 2026: Second round of refurbishment works to the remaining side of the pylons
- September 2026 – November 2026: Demobilisation, reinstatement and expected completion

The main refurbishment works are being carried out in two phases because overhead lines have two circuits, one on each side of the pylon. Work will be carried out on one side of a pylon at a time only, so that the other side can be kept 'live'. This means that, throughout the duration of the refurbishment works, **there will be no disruption to your electricity supply**.

How do pylons work?

Pylons are used to support electrical cables that transmit high-voltage electricity from where it's generated, such as a power station or wind farm, to where it can be distributed to our homes and businesses.

Electricity comes out of a power station at low voltage, and passes through a 'step-up' transformer at a substation to create high-voltage electricity – up to 400,000 volts – which travels around National Grid's electricity transmission network. Increasing the voltage allows for greater efficiency with less energy loss. 'Terminal' towers are located at each end of the route, while tension or angle towers enable the route to be realigned if necessary.

Insulators made of porcelain or toughened glass support the overhead high-voltage cables and protect the steel towers from being 'live' themselves.

The voltage of the electricity in the transmission cables (lines) is too high for use in everyday appliances, so a 'step-down' transformer in a substation is used to lower the voltage.

The UK's distribution network operators connect the transmission network to where electricity is used, 'distributing' it at these lower, more usable voltages for homes and businesses.

Working with wildlife

We're committed to minimising the impact of our work on the environment and local wildlife.

Over the last five years our ecologists have carried out surveys and monitoring along the overhead line route. By conducting thorough surveys, we know what species live where along the route and can plan specific measures to avoid disrupting their habitats.

Dormouse nest found during ecological surveys along the Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line route

Hannah, one of our ecologists, explains what's been done so far: *"We have been involved with this overhead line for some time now and have a very good understanding of the protected habitats and species that reside close to the works. To prevent any impact or harm on local wildlife, we have completed detailed habitat surveys and protected species surveys across the whole overhead line to inform working methods and timescales for the programme. This includes but is not limited to dormouse, badgers, rare reptiles and bird surveys. These surveys let our project team know of any protected habitats and species present across the overhead line and where licenses are needed for working close to them. Where we have vegetation works taking place, a team member known as an Ecological Clerk of Works is on site supervising and all vegetation is checked before it is removed".*

Smooth snake found during surveys along the Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line route

What's next?

From June 2026, we will be starting our main refurbishment works along the Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line. You can expect to see additional work to create safe access routes and engineers working at height to replace equipment and conductors.

To ensure that the refurbishment works can take place safely, we will occasionally need to temporarily close some local roads, footpaths and bridleways where they intersect with the overhead line route.

All closures and traffic management measures taking place are agreed with by the relevant local authority and we will ensure to communicate this in advance.

We've made a WhatsApp channel where you can see the latest updates on any road or footpath closures. To join, scan the QR code below:

In some areas you may see temporary ‘stop and go’ traffic management measures put in place along the route. These measures are not expected to last longer than 15 minutes at a time and are expected to cause minimal disruption. When any road, lane or footpath closures are anticipated to last any longer than this, we will ensure the community is notified in advance, so people know what to expect.

Get in touch

You can find out more about the project on our webpage, where you will also find an interactive map of the route and a dedicated FAQs page: nationalgrid.com/manningtontonursling

If you have any questions about the project and would like to speak to a member of our Community Relations team, please do not hesitate to get in touch via either of the below communications channels:

Call us: 0800 099 6087 (between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Any calls outside of these hours will be forwarded to voicemail where we will aim to respond as quickly as possible).

Email us: newforest@nationalgrid.com

We'd also like to hear any feedback you may have on this newsletter. Please use the email above to let us know your thoughts.

Community Grant Programme

National Grid Electricity Transmission's Community Grant Programme supports community organisations and charities in areas where our work is impacting local people through our operations and site activities.

The programme provides grants of up to £10,000 to fund projects run by charities and community groups that meet the local community needs by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits. To find out about eligibility and how to apply for a grant, please click on the link below.

Find out more about our Community Grant Programme