

The Great Grid Upgrade

Chesterfield to Willington

Community update

May 2025

Chesterfield to Willington is a proposed new 60-kilometre high-voltage overhead line which would carry more power to homes and businesses.

In spring / summer 2024, we consulted on our early proposals. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their feedback. Since then, we have been developing more detailed proposals and carefully considering all comments received at the Stage 1 consultation.

Key areas highlighted in the feedback included the potential impact on the environment, wildlife and the effects on views, tourism and the economy. The Amber Valley was also highlighted as an area of particular importance.

Our environmental assessment work and discussions with local stakeholders in the wider area continue to help inform the development of our proposals. This will take time to complete, so we anticipate that the next stage of consultation will take place in early 2026.

At that stage we will seek feedback on more detailed proposals for Chesterfield to Willington. We will explain what considerations have shaped those proposals, including the feedback we received at Stage 1 consultation.

The Great Grid Upgrade

As the UK moves to cleaner, more affordable sources of energy such as offshore wind, we need to upgrade our network to connect this power to homes, businesses and public services. The Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the electricity grid in generations and includes our proposals for Chesterfield to Willington.

Find out more online at nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade.

Benefits



Powering six million homes

through the energy carried by Chesterfield to Willington.



Boosting energy security

by helping reduce our dependence on imported gas.



Helping to lower energy bills

by connecting the Grid to more affordable forms of electricity generation.

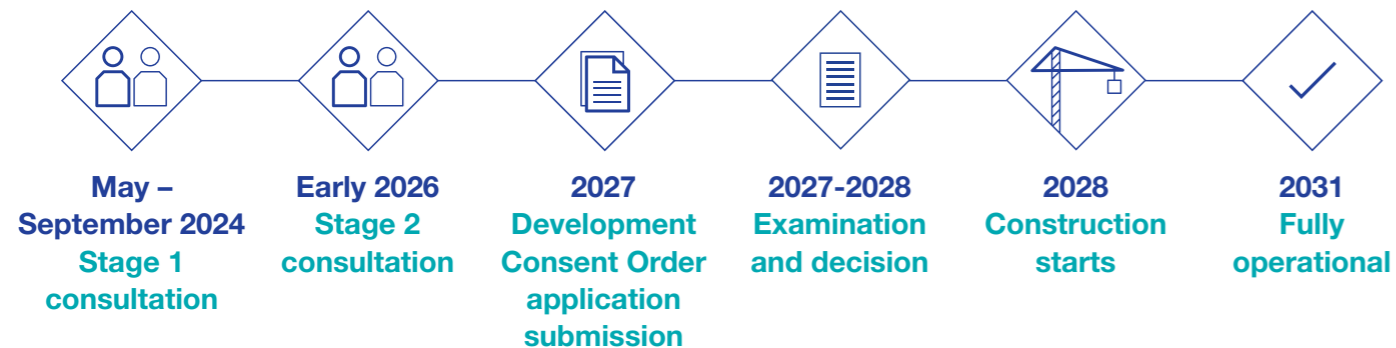
Stage 1 consultation in numbers



Key project information

- The approximate 60 km overhead line would connect a **new 400 kV substation at Chesterfield and the existing Willington substation.**
- The pylons used for new 400 kilovolt overhead lines like this are typically **around 50 metres high, with approximately three pylons every kilometre.**
- Chesterfield to Willington would **deliver greater energy security for the UK** by transporting cleaner, home-grown electricity generated by offshore wind to homes and businesses in the Midlands and the rest of the country.

Project timeline



All timings are indicative and subject to change as the project progresses.



Your questions answered

- 1 Why can't the whole line be underground?**
An underground alternative for Chesterfield to Willington would cost considerably more than the proposed overhead line. Government policy strongly favours overhead lines for electricity network infrastructure, except in areas such as nationally designated landscapes, because it is a cost-effective option for all electricity bill payers. National Grid carefully assesses the relative merits of both overhead lines and underground cables for each project, taking into account factors such as reliability, environmental impact, land use, and value for money.
- 2 Can you put more wires on existing pylons rather than build more pylons?**
National Grid only develops new infrastructure where the existing transmission system is operating at maximum capacity and cannot be further upgraded or enhanced by other means.

Assessment of the existing overhead line infrastructure in proximity to the project area has confirmed that the current network is not capable of carrying the amount of power needed to meet future demand.
- 3 Why can't the overhead line follow existing infrastructure routes e.g. the M1/A38?**
In identifying the Emerging Preferred Corridor, we considered how we could utilise the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and other existing infrastructure corridors. However, many locations adjacent to the SRN are already used for residential and commercial development as well as the existing overhead lines. This, along with environmental designations, means viable routes for siting new infrastructure are constrained. We are continuing to explore if there are opportunities to site our proposed infrastructure closer to the SRN as the project progresses.
- 4 How will you protect wildlife?**
We always take great care to minimise the impacts of our work and are engaging with wildlife experts, the local Wildlife Trust, Natural England and other relevant local community groups throughout the process. We are also working with local authorities to understand the local environmental aspects. Our team includes expert ecologists and, during construction, we will also employ experts who can help us mitigate effects on wildlife and habitats.

We are assessing the potential impacts of Chesterfield to Willington on local designated habitats and notable species. Important and designated sites include Special Areas of Conservation and Local Wildlife Sites. As part of our assessments, we are considering opportunities for ecological enhancement, as well as avoiding and mitigating impacts.
- 5 Do you support the Government's guidance on community benefits, and will you adopt it for this project?**
Yes. We believe communities should be rewarded for hosting new transmission infrastructure essential to boosting home grown, cleaner and more affordable power for the country. The guidance, published in March 2025, offers a clear framework and will enable us to work with communities and deliver meaningful, long-term, social and economic benefits through strategic investment.



What is an Emerging Preferred Corridor?
The Emerging Preferred Corridor is the area we have identified following initial technical and environmental assessments where new infrastructure, such as underground cable, overhead line, converter stations, substations and direct current switching stations could be located.

Find out more
To find out more, please see the FAQs section of our website: nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/chesterfield-to-willington/frequently-asked-questions

We are committed to working with our regulator, Ofgem, industry partners, local communities and their representatives to ensure these benefits are delivered fairly and effectively, driving lasting, positive change for the people and places integral to our developing electricity network.

Separate to this guidance, the Government has also announced plans for a bill discount scheme for nearby households. We will continue to work with Government as further details of this scheme emerge.



Landowners and surveys

Environmental surveys

Environmental surveys are taking place within and around the Emerging Preferred Corridor and will be ongoing as we continue to develop our plans. These are non-intrusive surveys where individuals walk over land, sometimes with measuring equipment to inform their assessments. They will help us to better understand the current conditions and will help shape the development of our plans.

Our land agents, Ardent, are currently requesting survey licences from landowners and occupiers to carry out surveys over private land. We recognise the importance of working with landowners respectfully and always aim to work constructively to agree access arrangements.

Land registration

It is important for us to understand who has a legal interest in the land in and around the areas being considered as part of the project. We have identified parties who we believe may be affected via Land Registry data and are currently verifying that it is up to date. We are also working to confirm who currently occupies the land through the issue of letters and site notices.

If you have any questions about a survey licence or access to land, please contact our dedicated lands team at Ardent. You can contact them by emailing chesterfield-willington@ardent-management.com, calling on **0203 489 9414**, or writing to **The Lands Team at Ardent, 36-38 Botolph Lane, London, EC3R 8DE.**

Get in touch

Call our freephone helpline: 0800 073 1047

between 9am-5:30pm Monday to Friday.

An answerphone facility will take messages outside of these hours.

Email us: chesterfield-willington@nationalgrid.com

Write to us: FREEPOST NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS (JBP)

- no stamp or further address is needed.



nationalgrid