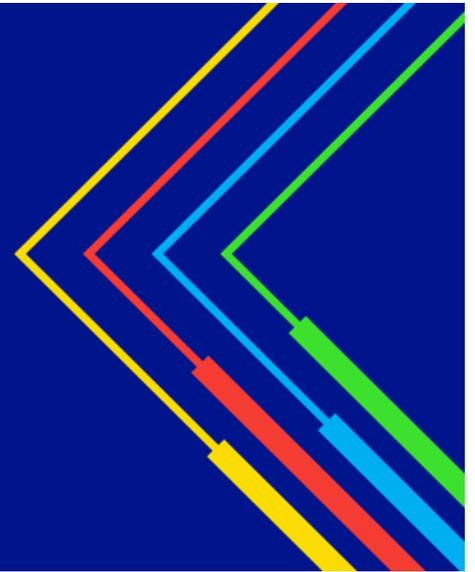


Frequently Asked Questions



Hinkley Connection Project: Overhead lines from Bridgwater to Loxton

What are you doing?

We're starting work to build the world's first T-pylons from Bridgwater to Loxton, where they will connect with the underground cables we are installing across the Mendip Hills.

Construction activity includes:

- Temporary entrance and access roads
- Temporary haul road
- Fencing off corridor and working areas
- Working areas to keep equipment
- Piling and concrete pylon foundations
- Erecting pylons, and stringing
- Removing the haul roads and accesses
- Replanting hedgerows and reinstating the area

When do you start work?

Construction starts 18 May 2020 and will be completed by late 2022

Who is doing the work?

Our principal contractor for this stage of work is Balfour Beatty.

What will I see?

Our first activity will be to build road accesses from existing public highways so we can start to build the temporary haul road. We will need to use traffic lights on these roads while we are working on them – to keep road users and our staff safe.

Much of the work to build pylons will be located away in fields away from properties. Some nearby residents and passers-by will see people working on the overhead lines and on the pylons.

People may also see large construction vehicles on roads whilst they are moving from one site to another.

What roads are you working on?

We are not planning to close any roads for this stage of the project, but we will need to put up traffic lights while building accesses to compounds and temporary haul roads.

In May 2020 we will start work on the following roads:

| Road | Start date | Completion date |
|---|-------------|-----------------|
| A38, Rooksbridge/Tarnock | 26 May 2020 | 20 June 2020 |
| B3141 Causeway - Highbridge to Woolavington | 26 May 2020 | 28 August 2020 |

We recognise this will cause disruption and delays to journeys. We are sorry for any inconvenience and we're working with our contractors, Balfour Beatty, to minimise disruption as best we can.

Why do you need the haul road?

Using a haul road will reduce the amount of traffic and disruption on local roads and improve access for the construction vehicles. When we have finished building the pylons, we will remove the haul road and reinstate the land to its original condition.

What are your working hours?

Our normal working hours are between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 5pm on weekends.

Most work will be carried out on weekdays, although there may be some occasions when we'll need to work at weekends or overnight - but there are restrictions to this.

How can I find out more?

Detailed information on all stages of the project and updates on our progress can be found on our project website: www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk/your-area

If you have any further questions, you can contact our Community Relations Team by calling 0800 377 7347 or emailing hinkleyconnection@nationalgrid.co.uk.

Who should I contact if I have a complaint or if there is a problem?

The community relations helpline is a 24 hour service to ensure all concerns can be addressed as quickly as possible. If there is an emergency, please dial 999.

Tarnock and Biddisham area

How long with the traffic lights be up on A38?

The traffic lights will be in place from 26th May until end of June – approximately 6 weeks. Some of the work to install signs and road markings was carried out last year so we will not need to do it this year.

Where will the traffic lights be?

The lights will be in place near the Tarnock Garage – on the south side of the road. We have already coppiced the hedgerows at this location.

How will you manage traffic – last year there were considerable delays and tailbacks?

We know that the lights will cause delays to journeys and we will do what we can to minimise disruption. We have learned from our experience last year and will employ additional monitoring staff during rush hours to help keep traffic moving through the lights.

How will you help local residents to keep their driveways clear?

We are looking at where we can safely put up notices to ask drivers to keep driveways clear. We must maintain visibility on road verges so we are limited to how many and where these signs will go.

What about the school bus?

We are talking to local residents to check if the school bus stops near the working area. If there a need to drop of children, we will stop the traffic and let the bus stop.

We have also been in contact with Transport for Somerset and will write to local schools to let parents know about the road works.

What are you doing to let people know about this?

Unfortunately, due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, we needed to postpone our public information event and attendance at the parish council meeting on 16 March 2020. All information which we would have shared can be found [here](#).

We will keep our project website up to date and stay in touch with the parish council. We will write again to local residents and re-arrange the public information event and parish council briefing when the restrictions on social events return are lifted.

Woolavington area

How long with the traffic lights be up on B3141?

We will need traffic lights on the B3141 Causeway - Highbridge to Woolavington from 26 May 2020 until 28 August 2020.

We need to build five road accesses in this area and having one combined road closure will help us to complete the work as quickly as possible.

Where will the traffic lights be?

To follow

What are you doing to let people know about this?

Unfortunately, due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, we needed to postpone our plans to hold a public information event and attend the parish council meeting. Information which we would have shared at these will be available on our [Community Portal pages](#).

We will keep our project website up to date and stay in touch with the parish council. We will write to local residents to let them know about the work and with details of the traffic lights.

We will organise a public information event and parish council briefing as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

Building T pylons

What is a T-pylon?

T-pylons are a brand new design for overhead lines. They have a single pole and T-shaped cross arms which hold the wires in a diamond 'earring' shape.

Have they been used anywhere else?

We have built a short run of T-pylons at our training centre in Eakring. We have used these to test the structures and to train our contractors how to construction them.

How many T-pylons will there be?

We're building 116 T-pylons - covering about 80% of the whole route.

Will the construction be noisy?

As will all construction work, there will be some noise from site activities and vehicles. Some particular activities – such as piling- will be noisy and we are looking at how we can reduce or muffle the noise. We will contact people in nearby properties before piling work starts to discuss any significant impacts with them.

When are you taking down the existing Western Power Distribution pylons?

We will start to take down WPD's pylons in 2021 – 2022. We're removing 68km of existing pylons along the whole scheme to reduce the visual impact on the local landscape. This includes Western the existing line from Bridgwater substation to the A368 in Sandford.

What will you do if you leave mud on the roads?

During wet weather, mud on the roads around our sites is sometimes inevitable. We will try to prevent this happening wherever possible by deploying a road sweeper to remove any mud and avoid this becoming a problem.

If you see additional mud on the roads and suspect that it has been caused by National Grid, please call our Community Relations Team and we will arrange to have it cleared.

Will there be lots of dust?

In very dry weather, construction activity and vehicles can create dust. We will monitor this and use water bowsers to keep dust levels down if necessary.

What impact will the work have on plants and wildlife?

We take our environmental responsibilities extremely seriously and we are working closely with Natural England to minimise the effects of our work as much as possible.

Over the past few years, we have carried out ecology surveys to identify wildlife and protected species and we have already carried out a number of mitigation activities to reduce the impact of our work.

These include coppicing trees and hedgerows to protect bats and nesting birds, strimming riverbanks to encourage water voles to move away from working areas and installing bat flyways to maintain linear features along hedgerows to help with their nocturnal navigation.

What will you do if you find protected species while working?

National Grid will immediately notify the environmental specialist on the project and all the necessary environmental departments. We will ensure our works programme does not affect any protected species.

Will you remove hedgerows and trees along the route?

We need to remove some trees and hedgerows along the route to enable us to build the temporary haul road and pylons. We will replant hedgerows after work has been finished and we will replant four trees for every one removed as part of this project.

What are you doing to reduce disruption?

We are looking at ways to reduce the impact of the project during construction. In some areas we may be able to use alternatives to stone roads, such as 'floating' roads and wooden matting.

Will this work affect our local electricity supply?

No, the electricity supply will not be disrupted as a result of construction.