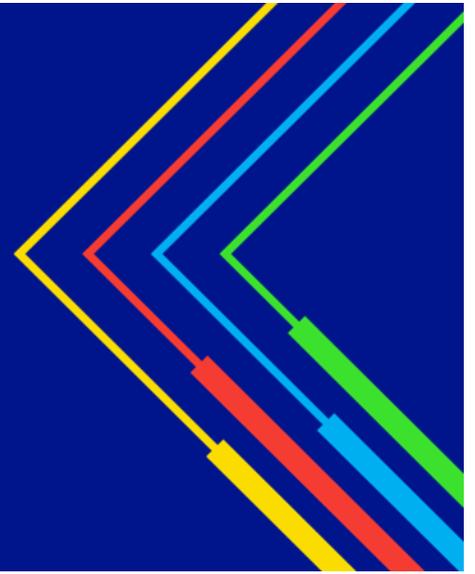


# Frequently Asked Questions



## Hinkley Connection Project: Sandford substation

### What are you doing?

We're building a new substation.

Construction activity includes:

- Temporary entrance and access roads
- Temporary haul road to take construction traffic off local roads
- Fencing off working areas
- Site compound for office cabins and staff facilities
- Working areas to store equipment
- Piling and concrete foundations
- Erecting buildings and structures
- Removing the haul roads and accesses once work is complete
- Replanting hedgerows and reinstating the area once work is complete

### Why do you need to build a new substation here?

The new substation will deliver electricity into the local electricity network, owned by Western Power Distribution (WPD). This is instead of power being brought into the area from Bridgwater through existing WPD pylons. We will take down those pylons when the substation is operational.

### When do you start work?

Construction started on 6 April 2020 and will be completed by early 2024.

### Who is doing the work?

Our principal contractor for this stage of work is Siemens.

### What are you doing to ensure the safety of staff and local communities during the COVID-19 outbreak?

We delayed starting work to give us time to work with our contractors and carry out robust risk assessments and a comprehensive review of our programme of works. We are continuing to progress with the critical elements of the project, in line with current Government guidance on construction activity.

We have reduced the numbers of staff working on site and introduced stringent operating procedures to safeguard the workforce, their colleagues, their families and the UK population. We have, for example, restricted travel between our sites and removed skin contact entry systems, such as fingerprint scanners. To meet social distancing requirements, we are installing additional handwashing facilities and welfare cabins.

### **What work have you already done near the site?**

We've completed the entrance from the A368 and an access road to the site. The access is being shared with the teams installing underground cables across the Mendip Hills.

We've carried out some advance landscaping and planting around the boundary of the site to help screen the new substation.

In autumn 2019 we cleared vegetation and trees and carried out some initial drainage work on the land.

The vegetation clearance is part of a detailed ecological plan that we have developed with local authorities and Natural England to protect wildlife. We'll keep as many trees in place as possible, particularly along the edges of the site to help maintain screening and more will be planted after the substation is built.

National Grid is committed to protecting the environment, and for every tree removed as part of this project, we will plant four new trees in the region.

### **How will construction vehicles get to the site?**

We have a strict traffic manage plan for the project. It sets out the traffic routes which were agreed with local authorities as part of our consent and our contractors must abide by the plan.

Traffic will be routed from M5 junction 22 via the A38 and A368. We will not need to use local roads.

### **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.

### **Will the construction be noisy?**

As with 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.

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

We will try to prevent this happening wherever possible by using wheel cleaners for vehicle leaving site in wet weather. If any mud does go on the public road, we would deploy a road sweeper to remove it as soon as possible.

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 and installing special fencing to discourage newts and reptiles from the construction areas.

### **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 this work affect our local electricity supply?**

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

### **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 attendance at the parish council meeting. 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.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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.