

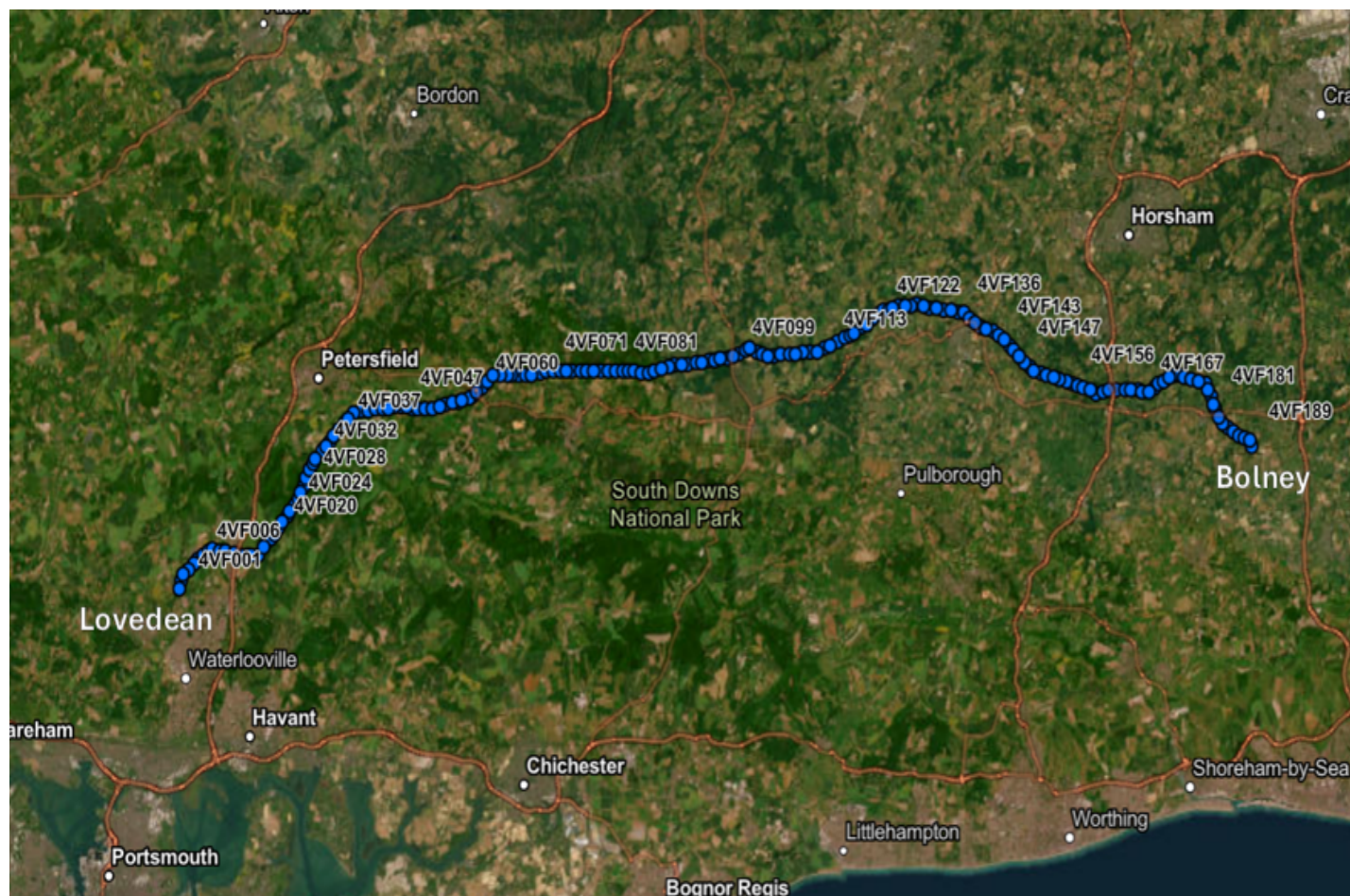


National Grid Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line Refurbishment

Community newsletter - Issue 1, May 2025

Welcome to the first edition of our Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line Refurbishment community newsletter. We will produce a number of newsletters over the coming months as work progresses and around key project milestones, to help keep you up to date.

What is the Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line Refurbishment project?



Map showing the Lovedean to Bolney overhead line route

We are completing essential maintenance work to the overhead electricity line between our Lovedean and Bolney substations. The overhead electricity line begins at Lovedean substation, slightly west of Horndean, travelling north-east towards Petersfield. The line continues west through the South Downs National Park, passing slightly north of Midhurst, Petworth and Billingshurst. The route then continues south-east, passing below Southwater (and Horsham), just above Cowfold, before ending at Bolney substation.

This overhead line was first constructed in 1966 and is now reaching a stage in its lifecycle where some key parts need replacing.

This essential work will ensure that we continue to provide a safe and reliable electricity supply to homes and businesses in your area for years to come.

The refurbishment forms part of our multi-billion annual investment in maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure.

You can view the Lovedean to Bolney Overhead line route in more detail on our interactive map, which you can find on our webpage by clicking on the link below.

[Visit our project webpage](#)

What does the refurbishment work involve?

The Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line consists of 190 steel pylons with two circuits.

The refurbishment is being carried out as two separate periods of work. This is because overhead lines have two circuits, one on each side of the pylon. Work is carried out on one side of the pylon at a time only, so that the other side can be kept 'live'. This means that that electricity provision can continue to flow and so, there will be no disruption to the supply of electricity.

Once all the work has been completed on one side of the overhead line, the circuit is re-energised, and the opposite side is switched off so that the work can be carried out on that side.

Key Fact: An overhead line is constructed using a variety of materials, including; concrete and steel for the foundations, steelwork for the pylon and aluminum and steel for the wire.

What can I expect to see?

Before the main refurbishment works begin, work has been taking place to inspect each of the pylons along the route to assess their condition. This requires the site surrounding each pylon to be prepared, to ensure those working can access the pylons safely. This involves clearing vegetation and installing trackway to create safe access routes.

Over the coming months, you can expect to see further work to establish access routes. Alongside this, the steelwork on pylons will be repaired and engineers will be working at height to replace the fittings.



Site set up on the Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line route in preparation for raising the working platform. The new insulators are positioned on the ground, prepared to replace the existing insulators on the pylons.

An example of engineers working at height

Did you know?

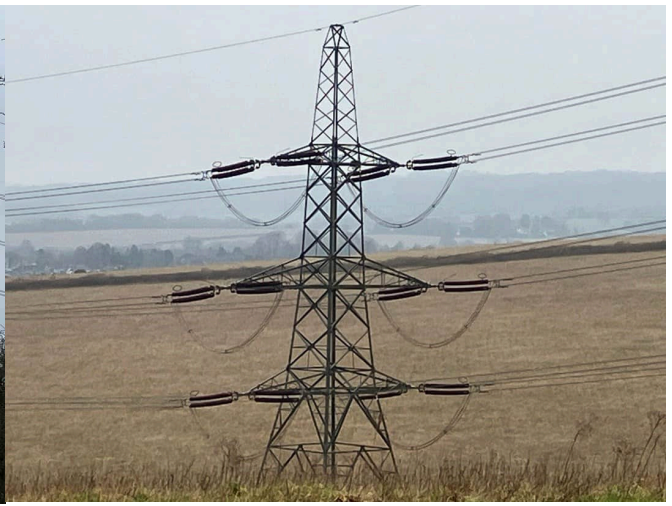
While many people call them pylons in the UK, they are actually called suspension, tension transmission towers by engineers.

The Lovedean to Bolney overhead line consists of 148 suspension towers and 42 tension towers.

Can you spot the difference? See the pictures below! Tension towers can be identified by the horizontal glass or porcelain insulators rather than the vertically hanging insulators which suspension towers have.



Suspension Tower



Tension Tower

Who is undertaking the work?

Morgan Sindall is the main contractor undertaking works along the route on behalf of National Grid.

Morgan Sindall's working hours will be 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.



Morgan Sindall team on site

Will the works impact my journey?

In some areas, we will need to temporarily close a small number of local roads, footpaths and bridleways, where they intersect with the pylon route.

These closures are needed to ensure the safety of members of the public and our workforce whilst refurbishment works are taking place. We expect closures to be short in duration. We will

ensure that diversions are in place and clearly signposted.

We will make sure that people living or working near to any planned closures or diversions are contacted in advance to ensure journeys can be planned and any disruption avoided as far as possible. Any updates will be shared on your project website: [Lovedean to Bolney Overhead Line Refurbishment](#) | [National Grid ET](#).

Timeline of works

The anticipated timeline for our works is as follows:

- **November 2024 to March 2025** – Preparation of work sites along the overhead line route, including vegetation clearance work and inspection of pylons
- **May 2025 to November 2025** – Refurbishment work starts on the pylons, the fittings and insulators are replaced. There may be further vegetation clearance works required to cover any regrowth in order for works to take place safely
- **November 2025** – Works are expected to be completed, and the site team will undertake any reinstatement work to ensure we leave the area in the same condition as we found it

Did you know?

There are almost 22,000 pylons on the transmission network in England and Wales.

The pylons connect over 4,500 miles of high-voltage overhead lines across the two countries – that's enough to stretch from London to Mumbai!

Ecology Surveys

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

Our ecologists have carried out lots of surveys along the overhead line route. This has included site walkovers, followed by targeted species surveys at specific locations. These surveys help us understand which species are living where on the route and the measures we should take to avoid disrupting their habitats.

Lily, one of our ecologists, explains what's been done so far: "We conducted protected species surveys across the scheme before any works started, using existing data and visits to the area. These included dormice, great crested newts, badgers, reptiles, birds, bats, otters, water voles and invasive species surveys. These surveys let Morgan Sindall know of any protected species present across the site 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."



Community Grant Programme

National Grid'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.

[Community Grant Fund](#)

National Grid are excited to be supporting the Cocking 10k Trail Race

The Midhurst Milers are holding the Cocking 10k trail race on Sunday 11 May 2025, through the South Downs.

The race begins next to the Cadence Cycle Café. If you are interested in taking part in the race, please use the link below to find out more.

National Grid would like to wish all the runners good luck in the race.



**Join us for the 2025 Cocking Trail Race:
10:15am Sunday 11th May 2025.**

[Visit the webpage](#)

Get in touch

You can find out more about the project on our [project webpage](#) where we will also share regular updates. Scan the QR code to visit the webpage.

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 contact via our dedicated communications channels:

Call us: 0800 998 7802 (available 9am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday).

Email us: lovedeantobolney@nationalgrid.com

We would also love to hear your feedback on this newsletter. Please use the above email to let us know your thoughts.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

National Grid Community Relations team





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