EGL1
EASTERN GREEN LINK



Welcome to the EGL1 Project newsletter – October 2026

Construction of Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) continues to make good progress in County Durham and East Lothian.

Since our last newsletter in January 2026, work has continued at the Murton Converter Station and Hawthorn Pit Substation sites, as well as along sections of the onshore cable route.

We've also reached important milestones in the community. These include opening our new Visitor Centre in Murton and supporting local projects in Scotland and England through our £8 million Community Benefit Fund.

We know construction can cause disruption, and we'd like to thank local residents, businesses and communities for their continued patience and understanding. We'll keep sharing updates on upcoming work and what's happening in your area.



Message from Nik Davies,
Project Director for EGL1

As EGL1 takes shape, it's encouraging to see the positive impact the project is having in local communities. The opening of our new Visitor Centre is an important step, giving people a place to learn more about EGL1, see how the project is taking shape, and meet the team behind it.

I'd like to thank everyone living and working near our sites for their continued patience and understanding. We're committed to keeping communities informed, minimising disruption wherever possible, and delivering a project that not only strengthens Britain's electricity network but also creates lasting benefits for local communities.

Inside this edition:

- **Construction progress**
- **Environmental action**
- **Local Community Fund awards**
- **Visitor Centre is now open.**

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Progress on site and across the cable route

Work is continuing at the Murton Converter Station, Hawthorn Pit Substation and the underground cable route connecting the two sites.

Underground cable route

Installation work continues along sections of the cable route between Seaham and Hawthorn Pit.





First, a trench is excavated along the cable route and protective ducts are laid underground. The ducts are then covered and the trench is backfilled, before the electricity cables are carefully pulled through the ducts. Once the cables are installed, the land above is reinstated.

Crossing roads

At some locations, we use horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to install the cables.

This method installs ducts below an obstacle, such as a road, reducing the need to disturb the surface above.

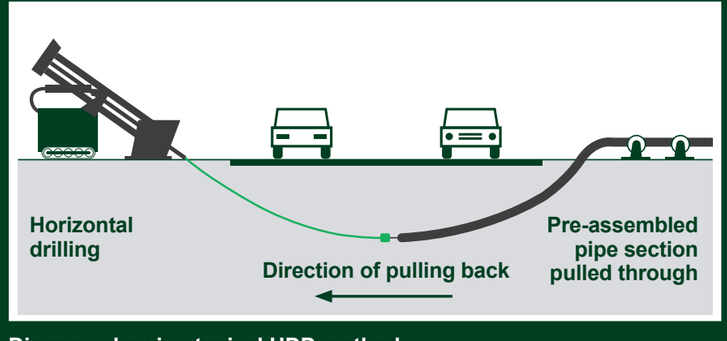


Diagram showing typical HDD method.

Progress at our main sites

Hawthorn Pit Substation

Piling works to create the foundations for the new substation are now complete. We thank the local community for their patience while these works have taken place.

Works are now being carried out to construct the substation foundations. This includes installing steel reinforcement before concrete is poured to form the foundations.

This will be followed by construction of the substation buildings and installation of the electrical equipment.



A piling rig installing the deep foundations for the new Hawthorn Pit Substation.



Foundation piles at the Hawthorn Pit Substation.

Murton Converter Station

Steelwork is underway at the converter station site. The steel frames will form buildings that house specialist equipment used to convert electricity between alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC), as well as storage and service facilities. Cladding and roofing works are expected to begin later this year.



Steelwork frame of one of the buildings at the converter station.



Steelwork foundations within the converter station.

Did you know?

Some of the piles extend up to **20 metres below ground**, creating stable foundations for the substation and converter station buildings.

What you may notice

Construction traffic, deliveries and visible site activity will continue as work progresses. We will share advance notice of activities that may affect nearby communities wherever possible.

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Reducing our environmental impact

Alongside construction, the project is taking practical steps to reduce waste, reuse materials and support local habitats.

Recent examples include:

Reusing steel pipes from the oil and gas industry instead of using new materials.

Recycling construction materials wherever possible.

Reusing excavated soil across our sites.

Supporting local biodiversity through habitat improvements.

Taking part in community beach cleans.

Donating around 900 kg of timber to local community organisations for reuse.

These activities form part of our wider commitment to protecting the environment while building the infrastructure needed for Britain's future electricity network.



Beach clean at Seaham in September attended by the EGL1 Project team.

EGL1 Local Community Fund

Communities across County Durham and East Lothian are already benefiting from support through the EGL1 Local Community Fund.

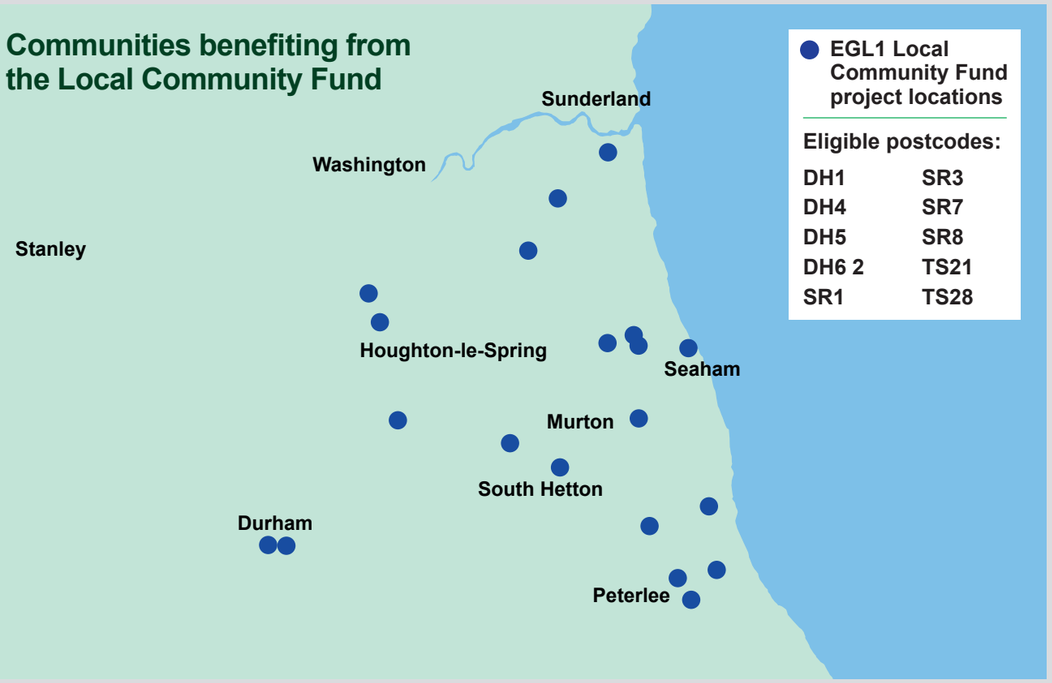
£238,750
awarded so far in England

20 **local projects supported in England**



£8m
in total supporting communities across England and Scotland

Communities benefiting from the Local Community Fund



Apply for funding

Eligible community groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to £20,000.

Applications will remain open throughout the construction period.

Visit:
easterngreenlink1.co.uk/community-benefits

What the fund supports

- **Young people and skills**
- **Community spaces**
- **Environment**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Cost of living and employability.**

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Local projects making a difference

The EGL1 Local Community Fund is supporting local projects that strengthen communities and improve lives across our region.

Burnmoor Cricket Club

Funding from the EGL1 Local Community Fund has helped Burnmoor Cricket Club install solar panels at its clubhouse. This will reduce energy costs, allowing more money to be reinvested in local cricket and community activities.

Martin Thursfield, Club Committee Member, said: *"Installing solar panels will be transformational for our club and the wider community. Savings of around £300 a month on energy bills mean more income can be reinvested into our building and the people who rely on it, helping to future-proof our community venue. These savings will help us keep sessions affordable for hundreds of visitors across our community groups, providing a warm, welcoming space for all."*





East Durham Fitness

Funding has helped East Durham Fitness purchase new equipment, enabling more people to access affordable fitness sessions while supporting physical and mental wellbeing.

Lauren Conway, Coach and Co-Owner, East Durham Fitness, said: *"The funding has made a huge difference, allowing us to provide more support to the local community and improve both physical and mental health. It has enabled us to invest in equipment to run the project and reduce the cost of sessions, making them more accessible to harder-to-reach families. We're very grateful for the help and support provided by EGL1."*





Opening the doors to the future of energy

The EGL1 Visitor Centre was officially opened on Friday 25 September by Grahame Morris MP. The centre will give schools, community groups and local stakeholders the opportunity to discover how one of Britain's largest electricity infrastructure projects is being built.

Visitors will be able to explore interactive exhibits, discover how electricity travels across Britain, and learn more about the engineering and construction skills needed to deliver EGL1 as well as the lasting benefits the project will bring to local communities.

The Visitor Centre reflects our commitment to supporting education, developing skills and helping local people learn more about the project and the role in strengthening Britain's electricity network.







Interested in visiting?

For information about school,community group and stakeholder visits, contact **EGL1VisitorCentre@nationalgrid.com**.



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Creating a lasting legacy for local communities

Alongside construction, EGL1 is supporting skills, local organisations and volunteering in communities near the project.

Across our team and principle partners, we have delivered:

Volunteering

More than **1,300 hours** of volunteering combined

600 hours spent supporting local schools

Financial support

Over £46,500 has been awarded in grants and donations to community groups and projects. Over **£14.44 million** has been spent with Small and Medium Enterprises

Employment

105 local people hired

Among these, **12** entered via apprenticeship or placement

Tree Planting

Over **340** trees have been planted since the start of the project. This will absorb up to **365 tonnes** of CO_2 across their lifetime

Need to speak to us?

You can call or email us at:
contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk

Freephone 0808 196 8405
Our phoneline is open between 9am and 5pm on weekdays

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You can find out more about EGL1 by visiting our website:

easterngreenlink1.co.uk