

The National Grid

The National Grid is a network of over 7,000 km of cables above and below ground which link together power stations all England and Wales. There is even a power line beneath the bed the English Channel which connects the British grid system to the French grid.

The cables you can see above the ground are carried on pylons. The tallest pylons, which are 50m high, carry the cables which are used to transmit electrical power at 400,000 V (400 kV). These were first erected in 1964. Slightly shorter pylons, first built in 1953 and 41.45m tall, carry electricity at 275,000 V (275 kV). These are known as the Supergrid.

The National Grid, first constructed in 1935, used pylons which were 26.2m tall and carry electricity at 132,000 V (132 kV).