

Location Maps for Powerlines and Mobile Phone Masts

Powerlines

National Grid own the 400kV, 275kV and some of the 132kV lines. They are mainly overhead, with a few (or sections of some) undergrounded. You can find their diagrams and tables from at http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/library/documents/sys05/default.asp?Node=SYS&action=mnchA_1.htm&sNode=11&Exp=Y. As far as we know, no other electricity company has a website showing this sort of information.

The local electrical distribution companies will own the rest of the 132kV lines and those with voltages lower than these. To find your local company, see the Energy Networks Association page at <http://2009.energynetworks.org/distributed-generation/>

They will normally supply a paper plan of these for the locality around your house (at a charge). These will usually be photocopies/prints of their plans on large sheets of paper (A1 or A0). It is not considered to be publicly available information, but they usually will supply the details for the area you live in. Outside your immediate area is highly unlikely, in our experience.

The low voltage lines, 400v (3-phase) and 230v (single-phase), which often result in the highest residential magnetic field levels, have plans which can be a nightmare to interpret. They will almost certainly include historical cabling (that may be present, or may have been replaced), engineering shorthand and inaccuracies. They are where the company thinks the cables are likely to be (though they may not be if the people who dug the trenches many years ago decided otherwise). Plans for newly built areas should be accurate.

1:10,000 (6 inches:mile) Ordnance Survey maps have overhead lines down to 11kV. Some 1:25,000 (2.5 inches:mile) maps also show overhead lines down to 11kV. Standard 1:50,000 scale maps usually only show 132kV, 275kV and 400kV overhead lines.

Mobile Phone Masts

Try <http://www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk> and type in the postcode or street name that you are interested in. The site is maintained by 'Ofcom' (a Government Regulatory Agency) and is updated 3-monthly (more or less).

Mast information is not added until it is integrated into the system and the information is passed on by the operator to the people who enter it onto the website. This process leaves a lot of leeway for errors creeping in. Information about masts in the planning stage, in the process of getting approval, or under appeal, or masts that have not yet been integrated will not be included.

There has been a legal wrangle going on between Ofcom and the telecommunications operators which has meant, we believe, that the sitefinder site information has not always been reliably updated. It is therefore becoming increasingly inaccurate.

Private radio frequency transmitters (amateur radio operators, taxi firms, etc.) are not included, neither are the new digital broadcasting systems, though you will be able to pick up radiofrequency signals from these sources with an Acoustimeter .