

# Spotter's Guide to Pylons – Wooden Poles

## Issue 12



Some enthusiasts do not include wooden poles in the term “pylon”. However, many do and so this guide would not be complete without them.

In fact, National Grid only own one wooden pole circuit, which runs for 5km between Staythorpe and Newark - it consists of 69 sets of poles carrying 25kV. But other distribution companies own many more.

They are used where a lower voltage is needed, e.g. to supply a small number of houses in the countryside.

Where the row of poles end, next to buildings, a transformer (such as the one shown on the left) takes the place that a substation would serve in a more populated area.

In fact this transformer was seen in the grounds of a service station in Essex, in an otherwise rural location.

There are various different designs seen, but they are generally based around two vertical wooden poles, with metal crossbars.

The small insulator strings tell you that these are not high voltage wires being carried – typically 25kV or 33kV.

Here are some examples: On the left, poles in Essex, and centre is a design seen from the train passing through Somerset.

On the right is an extremely rare sight – a 33kV transposition on wooden poles, in Redruth, Cornwall.



**Notes:**