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Power distribution companies hire moles

UK electricity distribution companies have today announced a major innovation in the way electricity cables will be laid underground in the future. From later this year an army of specially trained moles will begin to dig tunnels along which the cables will be laid.



A mole photographed earlier

The Government and the Regulator have long called for innovative solutions to be found to under-grounding electricity cables especially in remote areas, however the costs of doing this have been prohibitive.

The specially trained moles have all undergone a full induction course including health and safety training, which means they now work round any other cables that may be in their way.

Combining British ingenuity with British desperation, the cables will be laid at a depth of six inches below the surface, the maximum safe depth the moles are allowed to operate under RSPCA guidelines.

The UK's transmission companies have confirmed that they are also looking at introducing a similar innovation, but because of the size of the cables moles will be paired into teams to dig wider tunnels.

Andy Maulwurf Head of Training at the ENA said "This is the sort of project for which Ofgem should be showering the companies with IFI money; but it's only the start. Next could be the plugging of leaks in oil filled cables with special mole-friendly gun-gum and then perhaps inspecting the cross-channel link, providing the language and aquatic barriers can be overcome. The potential is limitless and the environmental benefits immense."

Ofgem is expected to make a formal statement on these remarkable leaps forward in technology at midday today.

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