



"As we work towards the decarbonisation of our energy networks and transport in the UK, we're pleased to be supporting Northern Powergrid with its facilitation of the UK roll-out of smart meters and EV charging infrastructure.

Our ability as a direct employer to upskill our people is allowing us to deliver jobs more efficiently while minimising disturbance to Northern Powergrid's customers. Given the ongoing pressures on budgets and labour, implementing these types of efficiencies and better ways of working – all while investing in skills – will become increasingly important for our sector to do more with less".

One Northern Powergrid customer said: "I wish to express my thanks to Clancy for their excellent endeavours to facilitate the renewal of the electrical mains supply to my property. Their work ethic and positive, cheerful approach is well worthy of praise and reflects well on them and your company. Paul and Gavin kept the site extremely tidy and although the site location is awkward, works were carried out without disruption to ourselves, our neighbours or to passing traffic."

Lee Cutherbert, Operations Manager



Driving efficiency to support smart metering in the North East



As investment continues to ramp up to decarbonise our homes and infrastructure, Clancy has been helping to pave the way for Northern Powergrid's sustained low carbon infrastructure investment in the North East.

In readiness for the continued roll-out of electricity smart meters and electric vehicle (EV) charge points as demand for green infrastructure increases, Clancy has been making sure that existing household connections are primed and ready for the expansion of these services, along with regular repair and maintenance.

This involves digging, jointing, reinstating electrical services, which mean digging a hole, usually a metre by a metre, to expose the cables connecting a property to the mains electricity supply, isolating the cables from the fuse board to enable repairs and upgrades of the property's network and then restoring the connection to the grid.



Investing in upskilling

Against the rapidly rising demand for these low carbon systems, Northern Powergrid is facilitating the ambitious UK-wide smart meter roll-out plan which has required Clancy to work quickly and efficiently to prepare properties for installation, when intervention is needed

However, digging, jointing, reinstating services often need multiple teams' involvement – typically one team with civils experience to dig, another with electrical expertise to joint and a final one to reinstate the connection. This can be difficult to coordinate and result in a single job taking up to a week.

To tackle this, Clancy has been investing in multiskilling its people, building teams of two with both the civils and electrical expertise and qualifications to deliver the whole job in a single visit. Each team can now complete a job in under four hours, enabling Northern Powergrid to help more households in the North East to go green, faster, with smart meter or EV charging installations.

Clancy's smaller teams also result in less disruption to individuals and the public. Not only does the site need to be kept clear for significantly less time but this way of working also avoids the need for grab wagons to be brought in to remove rubble – Clancy's teams use hand-dig only for these targeted excavations, meaning minimal waste and disturbance.



Maintaining safety

To make sure teams are kept safe while working with electrical networks, safe dig plans, and cable avoidance tools (CAT) and genny scans are used to carefully trace the cabling and any other utility services and accurately identify the location for the dig. All workers also wear arc resistant and insulating PPE to minimise the risk from arc flashes or sparks. They are encouraged to use ARC blankets, part of a Clancy-led health and safety initiative, to cover exposed services when excavating around them. This provides protection both to the operative and the exposed electric asset.

