

# Work starts to take down power lines

WORK is to start on taking down power lines from the Dedham Vale area of outstanding natural beauty.

EDF Energy is investing £450,000 to remove more than four miles of low voltage overhead cables and 75 wooden poles from Constable Country.

It is part of a major £2.9 million scheme for the East of England which will also see work carried out between East Bergholt and Dedham.

The work has been made possible due to a special allowance granted by industry regulator, Ofgem.

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The power lines currently stretch through the Stour Valley, from Boxted Mill past Langham Hall to the River Stour at Stratford St Mary.

Now an underground network is being put in place instead of the overhead cables.

Specialist machinery will be used to directionally drill under the River Stour to bury the network below the river bed.

EDF Energy Networks engineers will also work closely with archaeologists along the route to ensure any unknown buried archaeology is protected. Barry Hatton, director of capi-

tal programme for EDF Energy Networks, said: "This project will clearly have a positive impact on a much-loved local landscape.

"We are delighted to work with Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Project to provide technical expertise and bring this project to fruition."

EDF Energy Networks engineers will use special all-terrain vehicles at the site with low-pressure tyres to have minimum impact on the land while the work is underway.

The project is expected to take about three years to complete.

In the autumn, a second proj-

ect costing £250,000 will remove overhead cables between East Bergholt and Dedham.

Katherine Blake, project manager for Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Project said: "After all the preparatory work and co-operation of the landowners, we are really pleased to see this work to remove power lines from areas of Dedham Vale start.

"EDF Energy Networks have been able to make this investment thanks to a special allowance from Ofgem which will really have a positive impact on our area of outstanding natural beauty."

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