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COLLETT

EXPERTS IN MOTION

Delivering Willenhall Super Grid Transformer

Collett's third girder bridge project in a four week period, this time they were off to Willenhall Substation.



Having already delivered [Cellarhead](#) and [Lovedean](#) in the previous weeks, this would be the third of Collett's August National Grid projects, and with the 170 Tonne transformer safely nestled in their girder bridge trailer Collett began the first 74 mile leg of the journey.

Under rolling escort from Cheshire, West Midlands and Staffordshire Police, the pre-planned route from the Port of Ellesmere travelled through Chester, Northwich, Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford before coming to rest in the abnormal load layby at Penkrige. Here, the 66m (L) x 5.3m (W) x 4.8m (H) loaded combination would wait until the early hours of Sunday morning before continuing on, minimising disruption and impact on other road users in the more populated areas we were required to navigate.

Working closely with Cheshire, Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Walsall Councils in the pre-planning of the project Collett had already arranged for the removal of any street furniture, which identified in specialist swept path analysis reports, would potentially impede the safe passage of the loaded combination. Another potential pinch point would be the access to the Substation site. With the access on Bilston Lane being a residential area Collett had already notified these residents in advance, as well as local media, to ensure that those living within the affected areas would be well aware of the project before its commencement. At this point there would also be parking restrictions in place and the implementation of a temporary road closure at the entrance to the Substation grounds.

As the early hours of Sunday dawned, Collett departed the layby to continue on the second, and final leg of the journey to Willenhall Substation. Travelling between 10-15mph throughout the route, the convoy steadily navigated the outskirts of Wolverhampton before heading through to the more confined streets of Willenhall. Due to the 66m length of the combination and the tightness of the turns on to the site, the Team were required to circumnavigate two roundabouts on approach, allowing Collett facilitate a left turn to the site road and deliver the cargo to its required destination.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, approximately four hours after departing from the abnormal load layby some 15 miles away, the cargo arrived safely on site. Due to the restricted access to the Substation Collett began transshipment operations to discharge the transformer from the girder bridge to an awaiting 6 axle SPMT, with an adapted operating speed to suit the axle loads. Once loaded, they hydraulically lowered the SPMT and the transformer to a height of 5.6m allowing the cargo to be driven on to the site before manoeuvring into storage position and lowering onto support stools.

With the jacking & skidding system already in place, Collett's Heavy Lift Team began the process of gradually delivering the transformer to its final positioning. After lowering the transformer to the skid track, the hydraulic push pull units were engaged, extending and retracting between the locking points and effortlessly gliding the Super Grid Transformer to its designated plinth within the grounds of the Substation.

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With the Super Grid Transformer safely skated into position that completed the hat-trick, [Cellarhead](#), [Lovedean](#) and Willenhall all safely delivered and bringing to a close an extremely busy four weeks!

- ENDS -

More about [Collett & Sons Ltd](#): Experts in Motion since 1928 Collett have a wealth of experience transporting difficult and abnormal loads throughout the UK, Europe and worldwide. Their specialist fleet operates across depots in Halifax, Goole, the Port of Grangemouth, and most recently Collett (Ireland) Ltd in Dublin. Experts in the transport of abnormal loads, [Collett](#) are your global professional partner for [transport](#), [heavy lift](#), [marine](#) & [transport consulting](#).

We understand that unique projects require unique solutions, that's why we are recognised globally as industry leading multi-modal heavy lift specialists