NORTHERN POWERGRID

SAFETY BULLETIN

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE



Operational incident – point of isolation	
Issued to:	All Operational Staff and Service Providers
Date of Incident:	11 March 2026
Location:	Santon – South Ferriby 33kV Fdr
Classification:	Operational Incident
Contact:	Health, Safety & Training
Issue Date:	02 June 2026

OVERVIEW

A planned outage was underway on the Santon – South Ferriby 33kV feeder to enable vegetation management works. The feeder was switched out and a permit-to-work issued to the arborist team with one of the points of isolation and a circuit main earth at Santon substation.

A Technical Services engineer attended Santon substation to undertake protection testing on the 33kV circuit breaker which had been isolated as part of the switching for the vegetation management works. There was not expected to be any conflict in undertaking this protection testing at the same time as the vegetation management works.

On arriving at Santon substation the engineer found that the circuit main earth had been correctly applied to the feeder via the earth switch but the point of isolation had not been locked off as expected. The picture shows that the Reyrolle Hadrian circuit breaker had been locked off with a safety lock and caution notice applied to the foot pedal. Whilst this prevented the movable portion being moved the safety lock and caution notice should have been applied to the feeder shutters.

The vegetation management work was suspended and the permit to work was cancelled whilst the safety lock and caution notice were moved to the feeder shutters under the instruction of the control engineer.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Human Performance Improvement Tools

- **Self Checking** – take time to think about the intended action and the expected outcome.
- **Two Minute Rule** – take time before the start of the job to make yourself aware of the work environment and conditions.
- **STOP when unsure** – when confronted with a situation that creates a question stop and get help.

Corrective Actions

- Line managers to brief operational colleagues on the details of this operational incident.
- Including the requirement of the Operational Practice Manual **AA3.2 Safety Locks Shall** be used, where practicable, at all points of isolation from the **High Voltage** and **Low Voltage Systems** where instructed by a **Control Engineer** to secure other sources of energy and where there is a specific requirement in the Safety Rules.