

Test holes

The first step in the construction process.

Northwest Nassau Integrity Project - March 2025

What are test holes?

Generally, test holes are the first step before beginning a project and are located in-ground in similar location to the proposed construction site.

What is the purpose of test holes?

- First, to determine the location of the test hole, our team contacts and coordinates with local utilities and mark outs are performed. Contractors then excavate test holes at the mark outs to determine the exact location of any underground utilities that may conflict with a proposed design. In addition to underground utilities, we also look for unknown structures and anomalies.
- Our team proceeds with all excavations in a safe manner which can include hand digging and vacuum excavation to expose the existing utilities without disturbing them.
- Once we complete the survey, measurements and observations, we backfill and restore test holes.
- An inventory and detailed report for each test hole on subsurface structures is prepared.

The process

Trained contractors arrive and secure the area:

Safety is always a top concern. In addition to wearing safety equipment, our team provides maintenance of traffic and coordination with the community.

Preparation and excavation: After carefully removing turf or pavement, we secure the area and set up our equipment.

Measuring: Once a utility is located, careful measurements are made of its exact location. After measuring the precise position relative to landmarks and depth we carefully record the findings. These are incorporated into the test hole report.

Restore the area: After the measurements are recorded, we carefully backfill and restore the area, replacing any turf or disturbed elements.

What happens next?

- Our engineers and project team review the findings from the test hole surveys and make project plan adjustments if needed.
- The team then prepares for the next phase of the project, beginning actual construction.
- The team will be in contact with you prior to beginning the next phase of the project.

In the meantime, for any questions or issues, please contact the Outreach Support Team box.NWN@nationalgrid.com



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