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Art Sheffield 2016 sheds light on Grade II Listed substation

Grade II listed Moore Street electricity substation hosts internationally-renowned artwork in Art Sheffield 2016 festival

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- **First time 'Brutalist' icon has opened its doors to the public**
- **Event hopes to raise funds for charity**

Visitors to Sheffield's most significant arts festival are set for a rare glimpse inside National Grid's Grade II Listed Moore Street electricity substation.

Internationally-renowned artist Steven Claydon will be presenting a new video and sound work in the iconic building as part of the Art Sheffield 2016 festival exhibition. It will be the first time Moore Street substation has been opened to the public.

Working directly with scientists at IBM, Claydon's work draws on research into materiality and matter at an atomic level. Using footage produced by IBM's sophisticated atom-moving technology, Claydon will create a large-scale video work projected within the 18,000 square foot top floor of the substation, accompanied by audio samples of atoms being moved.

Cited as an example of 'Brutalist' architecture, Moore Street substation houses the 275,000 Volt electrical equipment that plays a key role in supplying power to Sheffield. Normally, for safety reasons, only authorised National Grid staff can enter the substation. However, Art Sheffield 2016 coincides with a period when equipment is being taken out of service for maintenance.

David Wright, National Grid's Director of Electricity Transmission, said: "We are proud to support this exciting cultural event for Sheffield and delighted to have this rare opportunity to host a fascinating art installation in this building.

"Moore Street substation not only has an important technological role – providing power to the city – but has been singled out for its architectural merit so it seems a fitting venue for such a piece.

"Steven Claydon's work draws from the world of science and technology. We hope this remarkable art installation will inspire an interest in these fields amongst visitors and encourage local young people to pursue careers in science, technology and engineering."

Mr Wright added: "Sheffield has a proud history of engineering and offers some of the best engineering degree courses in the country. People can find out more by contacting the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and by checking out National Grid's award-winning engineer apprentice and trainee courses at careers.nationalgrid.com"

Art Sheffield 2016 runs from 16 April to 8 May. Steven Claydon's work can be viewed at Moore Street Substation on the following dates:

Tuesday 19 April – Saturday 23 April, 12pm – 5pm

Tuesday 26 April – Saturday 30 April, 12pm – 5pm

Tuesday 3 May – Thursday 5 May, 12pm – 5pm

Admission is free. Visitors are invited to make a charity donation if they wish. Proceeds will be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Entitled 'Up, Down, Top, Bottom, Strange and Charm', the Art Sheffield 2016 exhibition features a carefully selected programme dedicated entirely to sound and moving image. Works by more than 20 artists will be exhibited across Sheffield's galleries, venues, industrial and urban spaces. For more information go to www.artsheffield.org and follow @Art_Sheffield.

The city-wide programme has been developed and delivered in collaboration with Sheffield's leading visual arts venues - Bloc Projects, S1 Artspace, Museums Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and Site Gallery.

Moore Street Substation is sited on Sheffield's ring road. Unlike most National Grid substations, it is in a city, close to houses so it was a challenge to design a building that suited the local environment.

When it was built in the 1960s it gained critical acclaim and was listed in 2013. It was designed by Sheffield architects Jefferson, Sheard and Partners.

Speaking in 2010, former RIBA president Bryan Jefferson explained the design challenge: "In terms of the internal space, it had to be the size of a cathedral, but the heavy loadings of the transformers and switchgear meant that the construction had to be reinforced concrete with special cladding to provide sound insulation."

Since 2010 National Grid has been floodlighting the building in striking red, blue and yellow to mark its design merit and highlight the building as a gateway to the city.

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Notes for editors

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National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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