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National Grid donates two historic gasholder crests to the Battersea Society

Relics of London's engineering past have been donated to the Battersea Society by National Grid.

22 Apr 2015

- National Grid donates two cast iron crests to the Battersea Society
- Work to dismantle the disused gas holders is nearing completion
- Site will accommodate much needed homes as part of Nine Elms on the South Bank redevelopment

Relics of London's engineering past have been donated to the Battersea Society by National Grid.

Two crests from the disused Battersea gas holders were presented at a special ceremony held at the Bandstand of Battersea Park in south London earlier this month.

One crest dated 1882, bears the name of Robert Morton – the gasholder engineer – engraved over a St George's Cross. The other crest features a St George's Cross alone.

The crests were salvaged from the now disused gas holders which are currently being dismantled which will enable the land to be redeveloped.

Sara Milne, Chair of the Battersea Society, said: "National Grid's generous donation of two gasholder crests to the Battersea Society has been a real delight and I can't thank them enough for letting us be the custodians of these mementoes of our industrial past. It is important for us to remember that Battersea was once a major power supply base for London providing energy and fuel for millions of homes."

Keith Johnston, Land Regeneration Manager at National Grid, said: "As the work to dismantle the Battersea Gasholders nears completion, the crests will remain as a reminder of the site's importance to the industrial heritage of London and Battersea in particular. Donating these two crests to the Battersea Society ensures that the history of the site lives on even as the site is redeveloped as part of the wider regeneration work in Nine Elms."

The gasholders originally stored so called town gas which was made from coal produced at the local gasworks. The discovery of natural gas in the North Sea, bought the era of town gas to an end and the gasworks closed. However the gasholders continued to be used to store natural gas. Improvements in the national gas network mean the gas can now be stored in the pipe system, making the gasholders redundant.

Work to dismantle the holders began last year, freeing up the land for new homes, shops and public space. National Grid has sold the site to developer St James, a subsidiary of the Berkeley Group who will be taking the lead in taking the site forward into redevelopment.

This month's handover follows other crest donations National Grid has made including to St George's Primary School in Battersea, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, the National Gas Museum in Leicester, and the Museum of London.

For more information on National Grid's work at Battersea call 0800 319 6165, email info@BatterseaGasholders.com or write to Battersea Gasholders, Local Dialogue, RTLA-GHRX-SSXA, 77a Tradescant Road, London, SW8 1XJ.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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>

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