

Chalking one up: National Grid volunteers rejuvenate Bronze-Age Uffington White Horse

Volunteers from National Grid renovate the historic Uffington White Horse in Oxfordshire.

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- Almost 40 volunteers from National Grid renovate Oxfordshire's landmark Uffington White Horse
- Volunteers came from National Grid's South West Construction Team to ensure historic horse stays whiter than white
- Event latest in long line of voluntary endeavours by National Grid

Volunteers from National Grid took time out from their day job to renovate the historic Uffington White Horse which is etched into an Oxfordshire hillside.

To combat weather related discolouration the historic horse needs to have its chalk scraped out and replaced annually.

Under the supervision of site owners the National Trust, 39 volunteers from National Grid spent Wednesday (July 15) renovating the 110m (374 feet) long feature, scraping out old chalk and replacing it. The team also found time to remove thistles from a nearby field.

The team – from National Grid's South West Construction Team which is based in Fleet, Hampshire – was led by Senior Project Manager Mat Ray.

He said: "Our day job involves building the electricity infrastructure which connects people to their energy supplies, this requires a lot of painstaking planning with projects usually taking months and often years to complete.

"It was great to come and do something which we were able to finish in a day and see a positive result at the end."

He added: "National Grid likes to help out the communities which we serve and activities like this also enable us to get to know our colleagues a little better and improve working relationships."

Andy Foley, National Trust Ranger at White Horse Hill said: "We re-chalk the horse once a year and it's a great opportunity for people to provide real hands-on help in looking after our local heritage. For people who are usually behind a desk, it can give a real sense of achievement to get down on their hands and knees and then step back see the difference they've made.

"Without the help of volunteers like those from National Grid, chalking the horse and many other conservation tasks would be impossible."

The world famous Bronze-Age Uffington White Horse is the oldest of a number of similar white horses in Britain and can be seen for miles away.

It's part of a unique complex of ancient remains in the area which also include the nearby Dragon Hill, where England's Patron Saint St George is said to have killed the dragon and an Iron Age hill fort known as Uffington Castle.

National Grid encourages its employees to take part in a wide range of voluntary activities, and works with the charity Volunteering Matters to run its flagship employee volunteering programme.

For more information go to:

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/Responsibility/Connecting-today/UKVolunteering/>

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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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