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Transformer undertakes epic journey to Kearsley substation

Transformer moved by sea and road to substation at Kearsley near Bolton to help keep the lights on in the town and beyond

23 Aug 2016

- National Grid successfully delivered a 170 tonne transformer to the Kearsley substation in Bolton on Sunday 21 August 2016
- The heavy-load vehicle was accompanied by a police escort from Gladstone Docks, Bootle to the site
- This is part of a national programme to help keep the lights on.

Onlookers in Bolton witnessed an engineering spectacle yesterday as an electrical transformer the size of a house was transported through the town. It was a sight to behold as National Grid moved the 170-tonne piece of kit from Gladstone Docks and Bootle to the Kearsley Substation in Bolton using a specialist, long-load vehicle.

It marked the end of an epic 12,500-mile journey for the kit, shipped from South Korea to the North West. The team made the essential delivery, which will help keep the lights on across Greater Manchester.

People stopped and took pictures of the heavy-load vehicle as it travelled on the M58 motorway with a police escort. It then took the M6, M60 and M61 before exiting onto the A666 and the A667 before arriving at Kearsley Substation, just off Hulme Road, Bolton.

Masud Ahmed, Project Manager at National Grid, said:

"It's a real spectacle to see such a giant piece of kit travelling through communities. People often don't think about where their energy comes from and the work that goes in to maintaining the network. This transformer demonstrates the investment we're making to ensure the lights stay on for generations to come."

"We'd like to thank all those that made sure the delivery went without a hitch, especially the communities and road users along the route, who were patient and co-operative during the day."

National Grid's Community Relations Team are available to answer any questions about the project and can be contacted by Freephone on 0808 168 7590 or by emailing nationalgrid@meadowhallgasholders.com.

Contact for media information only

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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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