

Gas holder landmark to disappear from Sheffield skyline

Work gets underway to remove a gas holder in Sheffield as new, more efficient ways found to store gas

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NATIONAL GRID TO START DISMANTLING SHEFFIELD GASHOLDER

- National Grid dismantles redundant gasholder at Effingham Street, Sheffield
- Holder not used since 2011 as new technique now used to store gas
- The wider former gasworks saw an explosion in October 1973 which led to three workers losing their lives
- Work part of a national programme to clear sites for future development

Work to dismantle gasholder on the National Grid site in Sheffield gets underway

The gasholder once played an essential role in making sure local homes had a reliable gas supply. It was filled with gas during times of low demand so that it could feed into the local network of pipes at times of peak demand.

This is the last remaining gasholder in an area that has been associated with gas production and storage since the early 1800s. Part of the wider former gasworks site also saw an explosion in October 1973, with three people losing their lives and many others injured. This October sees the 45th anniversary of the explosion and National Grid would like to mark this by creating a sensitive and appropriate reminder of this part of the gasworks history.

Hannah White, National Grid Project Manager, said: "It's fitting that as we mark the end of the gasholders in the area that we commemorate the people who lost their lives and who were injured there. We'd like to hear from relatives of Patrick Sleight, Cyril Kennedy and William Donaldson and anyone else affected by the explosion to explore ways in which we might do that. Relatives and former workers can contact us via our community relations freephone."

New techniques developed by National Grid now allow gas to be compressed and stored inside gas pipes rather than gasholders. This means that the old holder is no longer needed and can be removed to free up the site for potential future development.

Hannah White, said: "National Grid is committed to finding new ways of making better use of the assets and equipment it owns and operates. The old holder has served the area well but gas is now stored in underground pipes and so we no longer need the vast network of holders we once had.

"Local homes and businesses will still enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply, but we will now be able to dismantle the holder and clear the site ready for it to be reused. In some locations, former gasholder sites have formed a key part of major local regeneration plans.

"Removing the holder will be a complex job, but we will use highly skilled engineers from our contractor partner KDC to carry out the work. We'll keep local residents and businesses informed as our work progresses."

For more information on the project, contact National Grid's Community Relations Team on 0800 8199 071 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

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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