

# National Grid donates memento of Bolton's industrial past

National Grid donates historic plaque recovered from gas holder

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- **Three maker plaques from the Bolton gasholders have been donated to a local museum**
- **One of the three gasholders at the Bolton Spa Road site has now been dismantled**

The story of Bolton's industrial heritage will be told for years to come thanks to a donation made by National Grid. Three maker's plates from one of three gasholders at the Spa Road site in Bolton have been handed to Bolton Museum, where they will be safely preserved for future generations.

Made of cast-iron and weighing around 50 kilograms, the manufacturer's plates served as a maker's mark on one of the gasholders. National Grid has donated the plaques where they will form part of an exhibition about Bolton's industrial heritage.

The donation comes as National Grid begins to dismantle the second of three gasholders at the site on Spa Road.

The site and surrounding area has a rich history in securing Bolton's gas supply. The Bolton Gas Light and Coke Co was first formed in 1818, and small site works were built in Forge Street, later known as Gas Street. The site at Gas Street became the main gas making works in Bolton and in 1886 a major reconstruction took place at the site where adjoining land was acquired in order to expand. Right up to 1926 work was taking place to develop and improve the site at Gas Street, which supplied gas across Bolton. However, today the gasholders are no longer needed, as gas can be stored in the transmission system.

Samantha Rendell, Land Regeneration Manager at National Grid, said:

"We're proud to donate three maker's plaques to Bolton Museum and to play our part in preserving Bolton's industrial heritage. While the gasholders are now no longer used, they once played a key role in supplying energy to homes and businesses across Bolton.

"The gasholders have stood empty for years and we're preparing the site for a better use in the future. It will be satisfying to know that the story of the Bolton gasholders will live on at the museum."

Councillor John Byrne, Bolton Council Cabinet Member for Youth, Sport and Culture. said:

"The plaques donated by National Grid will enter the museum collections and serve as a legacy of the iconic gas holders. Generations of Boltonians have grown up under the shadow of the gasholders which have attracted the attention not only of local people, but of famous visitors like Humphrey Spender.

Spender visited Bolton half a dozen times in the late 1930s as part of the Mass-Observation study of the town, and took many photographs of industrial scenes, including two images featuring gas holders."

Work is now starting to clean and take down the second gasholder at Bolton.

National Grid's Community Relations Team are available to answer any questions about the ongoing work and can be reached on Freephone 0808 168 7590 or by emailing [nationalgrid@boltongasholders.com](mailto:nationalgrid@boltongasholders.com).

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Notes for editors

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- 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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