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National Grid helps RSPB prepare for bumper year at Bowers Marsh nature reserve

National Grid helps boosts facilities at RSPB Bowers Marsh nature reserve

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- Popular reserve is home to rare species including great crested newts and water voles
- National Grid recently completed vital work in the reserve to keep the region's lights on

Bowers Marsh nature reserve has had a helping hand from National Grid as it prepares to receive more visitors than ever in 2015.

The £5million RSPB reserve, located south of Basildon, is undergoing a revamp to improve the visitor experience, especially for families.

National Grid, which has been carrying out vital work to local overhead lines which run through the reserve, has donated trees, provided new oak leaflet holders and resurfaced a number of footpaths at the site.

Steve Roach, Warden at Bowers Marsh, said:

"We were pleased that National Grid completed their work at the marsh with great care and we are delighted with their contribution to the future of the reserve. Our improvements are making Bowers Marsh better for people and wildlife and we expect to see many more birds visiting the reserve over the next year."

Graham Livings, Project Manager at National Grid, said:

"The wildlife at Bowers Marsh is incredibly rich and we took great care to ensure our work to the overhead lines in the reserve was carried out as sensitively as possible.

"The reserve is a real asset to the area, and we were pleased to help RSPB's work to encourage future visitors."

For more information on National Grid's overhead line refurbishment in South Essex go to <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/In-your-area/Projects/South-Essex/>

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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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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