

National Grid powers pupils' imagination during school visit

National Grid treats Devon school children to electrifying lesson

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- National Grid treats Stoke Canon Primary School children in Exeter to electrifying lesson
- Pupils enjoy hair-raising experiments with electricity during school science show
- National Grid working locally on £50m project to upgrade power lines

Pupils at Stoke Canon Primary School in Exeter were given a hair-raising insight into electricity through a hands-on education session powered by National Grid.

With the help of engineers from National Grid, a class of 23 Year 5 and 6 pupils were taught about the power used to heat their homes and took part in experiments to make their own electricity. National Grid has been refurbishing a 100km stretch of overhead power line between Landulph and Exeter and organised the session to teach the children about some interesting aspects of the science behind electricity. Pupils also learned about National Grid's role in supplying the local area's energy, both today and historically.

Experts from National Grid were on hand to help facilitate the session, answer questions and to encourage discussion about the role of electricity in modern day life. The all-important safety lesson was given a fun twist, as the pupils were invited to wear florescent vests, try on a linesman's harness and inspect pieces of heavy duty equipment keeping the energy running in their area. The team then handed over to education provider, Mad Science, who continued the workshop with the pupils exploring the subject of electricity through a range of exciting interactive demonstrations which ranged from human circuits to plasma lamps. The Van der Graaf generator was the hair-raising finale, which stood out as a definite fan-favourite.

Robbie Griggs, National Grid Project Manager said; "This is a fantastic way to mark the end of a successful project and we'd like to thank Stoke Canon Primary School for their warm welcome. Using the local pylons as an example can teach them about site safety, local history and the science behind electricity.

"Sharing the knowledge and experience we have at National Grid with the community is an important part of us acting as a responsible business. Using our education sessions to enhance the curriculum for young people in science and technology benefits their learning and inspires future engineers."

Work began on the lines in April and continues until around late December 2017. The work will help to maintain the electricity supply in the area and keep power flowing to homes and businesses for years to come.

Peter Grierson, class teacher, said: "The pupils had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed getting involved in the experiments and learning more about engineering and electricity.

"Our thanks go out to National Grid for organising such an innovative and informative session."

The £50m project is due to finish in a few weeks, a year and half after the work first started. More information is available at nationalgrid.com/exeter.

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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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