

## National Grid's subterranean engineers prep for last big dig on London Power Tunnels

- National Grid will soon begin digging the last 5.5km of London's new 32km electricity superhighway

22 Aug 2014

- **Engineers recently tunnelled under River Thames as part of project**
- **Project will help keep Londoners connected to the energy they use**

National Grid is set to begin the final phase of tunnelling on its flagship London Power Tunnels project.

Manned Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Evelyn recently completed a challenging 3.4km stretch of the tunnel underneath the River Thames between Wandsworth and Earls Court.

This involved the twin challenges of digging below the riverbed of the Thames while staying above the path of the proposed Thames Tideway tunnel. Finding a viable route was further complicated by the presence of depressions in the river bed known as scour hollows which are formed by water currents in the river bed above.

Having successfully cleared the Thames Evelyn – which is manned by a team of expert engineers - is now being prepared for the final stage of tunnelling between Earl's Court and Kensal Green. This is due to start in September and is expected to be completed in early 2015.

National Grid Project Manager John Trounson said: "Digging a tunnel under London is challenging at the best of times due to the presence of so many existing tunnels. However going under the Thames brought further engineering challenges which I'm happy to say our expert team was more than capable of dealing with."

"With the Thames behind us we can now look forward to completing the last phase of tunnelling."

Installation of the electricity cables that will transport power supplies across the capital began earlier this year and the project is due to be fully complete and operational in 2018.

Mr Trounson added: "London's one of the world's leading cities and this project will help it maintain that status by helping to keep the lights on."

For more information on the project go to [www.londonpowertunnels.com](http://www.londonpowertunnels.com)

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**Notes to Editors:**

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- ? We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- ? We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- ? Our gas distribution business delivers gas to around 11 million homes and businesses
- ? We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- ? National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- ? Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- ? In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.
- ? National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.4 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in north-eastern U.S., serving approximately 3.6 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

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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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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