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Pride Park gas holder site set for new lease of life

National Grid completes work to take down two disused gasholders at Pride Park, Derby

03 Oct 2016

- Redundant gas holder site set for regeneration
- Derby College construction students were invited to watch the gasholders dismantled

Two gasholders that once formed part of Derby's skyline have been removed, with National Grid completing work to dismantle the structures on Pride Parkway.

Once a fundamental part of the city's gas network, the gasholders haven't been used since the turn of the millennium, and have been dismantled to make way for future regeneration of the site.

National Grid embarked on the engineering challenge of taking down the structures in March. The work involved pumping over 88,000 cubic meters of water out of the gasholders and recycling more than 4,000 tonnes of steel – weighing more than the Blackpool Tower.

The team was delighted to welcome students from Derby College to site for a behind-the-scenes view of the heavy machinery bringing down the steel structures. The students, all studying Construction and Built Environment, were shown around the site and had an up-close view of the gasholders being taken down and learnt more about project management.

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

"The gasholders will feature strongly in local people's memories. However, they hadn't been used for many years, and this fantastic site - right at the centre of the busy Pride Park - can now be put to good use."

"It was great to show eager construction students the work taking place on their doorstep and give them an insight into all the factors to consider when taking on a task like this."

Will Lambert, Lecturer in Construction at Derby College, said:

"At the end of term it was great for the students to get out of the classroom and on to a site like this to see the gasholders being taken down."

"The students plan to go on to do a variety of things, from architecture to project management, so it's useful for them to see something a bit different like this project."

Now at the centre of the successful Pride Park business district, the site was once home to the vast Litchurch gasworks. Established at Pride Park around 1860 and

expanded further in 1915, Litchurch produced gas for Derby and beyond for years, until the discovery of North Sea gas meant the site became used for storage alone.

The gasholders were built in the 1950s and 1960s to store gas before it was distributed to homes and businesses in the surrounding area. Improvements in the national network mean that gas can now be stored in the underground pipes and gasholders are no longer needed. The Pride Park site will soon be put onto the market via agents BNP PRE, and a high level of interest is anticipated. For further information, contact Andrew Cosnett on 0121 237 1235.

Anyone with questions about the work can get in touch with National Grid's Community Relations Team on Freephone 0808 168 7590 or by emailing nationalgrid@derbygasholders.com

Ends

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Notes for editors

- The work at Pride Parkway, Derby was to remove two disused gasholders.
- National Grid has no current plans for the future use of the site.
- The work will be undertaken by one of National Grid's contractors.

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.
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- 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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