

Rochdale gas holder dismantling complete

National Grid has finished removing gas holders from its Church Street site in Rochdale. The work is part of an ongoing national programme of dismantling holders to regenerate sites

12 Dec 2016

- **National Grid has finished removing the gasholders at its Church Street site in Rochdale**
- **The work was undertaken as part of National Grid's on-going nationwide gasholder demolition programme to regenerate sites for future use**
- **National Grid would like to thank local people for their patience during the work**

Work to take down disused gasholders at a site in Rochdale has been completed by National Grid. The towering structures once dominated the town's skyline, but advancements in technology mean they were no longer needed and had not been used since 2013.

National Grid has been working at the Church Street site since 2014, dismantling the gasholders piece by piece. The site has been cleared as part of a national programme to breathe new life into redundant sites, although a future use for the land has yet to be decided.

Opened in 1824, the Rochdale Gasworks – which once stood at the site – delivered a vital gas supply to Rochdale and the surrounding area, and was instrumental in bringing the first ever street lights to the town. The gasholders, two of which were built following the war to cope with increased demand, helped maintain a stable source of energy for local homes and businesses.

The engineering challenge to remove steel and infrastructure from the site was carried out considerably, with National Grid keeping nearby businesses and residents updated throughout the work and hosting community drop-in sessions.

The company has donated a manufacturer plaque to Fakenham museum of gas and local history. The museum offers a glimpse at the lives of the one million people who worked in the gas industry between 1800 and 1970.

National Grid has also been able to make its mark on the community, employing local residents; donating manufacturer's plaques to the Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society Ltd; and funding a valuable English language class for Pakistani woman in the area. The donation of over £3,000 means the classes at Sparth Community Centre will continue for another year, helping local women learn essential communication skills that will improve their lives.

Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society Ltd aims to promote and assist the expansion of knowledge of the local area. They hold regular meetings which are open to all and they welcomed some of the team that worked on the Rochdale site along to their last meeting.

Bernard Pratt, a spokesman for Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society Ltd, said:

"The Gas Holders were iconic structures in the Landscape of Rochdale, indicative of the Town's foresight and technological developments. As such, we were pleased welcome National Grid to our meeting to hear all about the works and receive the manufacturer's plaque donation, which will proudly be on show for years to come for visitors to see."

Land Regeneration Manager, Samantha Rendell, said:

"The gasholders hadn't been used for years and by taking them down we've been able to free-up the industrial site for future regeneration. We'd like to thank all those living and working in the area for their patience and understanding while we were on site.

"We've been particularly proud to leave a lasting legacy of our work here in Rochdale. The maker's plates from the gasholders will be preserved at local museums to tell the story of the town's energy past to future generations. We were also delighted to support the Sparth English classes. The skills the women will learn will transform their lives, and we're pleased to have been able to make that happen.

"It's all part of being a considerate business and involving the communities in which we work. Our team on site has worked safely and efficiently while dismantling the structures, with as little disruption to our neighbours as possible."

Residents can get in touch with National Grid's Community Relations Team on Freephone 0808 168 7590 or by emailing nationalgrid@rochdalegasholders.com.

Contact for media information only

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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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