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## Sarah's charity pylon climb takes fundraising to new heights

Coventry woman scales 150-foot pylon for charity

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- Daredevil climb generates £24,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support
- National Grid staff in two-year partnership to raise half a million pounds for Macmillan

Plucky Coventry resident Sarah Sale took charity fundraising to new heights when her white-knuckle climb to the top of a 150-foot electricity pylon helped generate a whopping £24,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Sarah, who works for National Grid's European Business Development team in Solihull, joined an intrepid band of office-based colleagues as they scaled a National Grid training pylon taller than Nelson's column.

Donations poured in for the adrenaline-fuelled fundraiser, held at National Grid's Eaking training academy in Nottinghamshire, on Thursday (4 June).

Thanks to generous colleagues, friends and family, the team doubled their original charity target to more than £12,000. National Grid has pledged to match their efforts, with £24,000 set to be handed over to Macmillan to pay for heating grants for people with cancer.

Climbing electricity pylons is a routine part of the job for National Grid's force of overhead line engineers but Sarah and her colleagues are more used to having their feet firmly on the ground.

Sarah said: "I'm proud of working for National Grid and when the opportunity arose to climb a pylon and for a very worthy cause I leapt at the chance.

"My grandparents received fantastic support from Macmillan when my granddad was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer five years ago, so I was thinking of him the whole way – he was never one to shy away from a challenge either. It's something I'm very happy I've done, but never again!"

In a two-year fundraising partnership with Macmillan, National Grid staff are aiming to raise half a million pounds to fund heating grants for people with cancer.

Full safety precautions were taken for the climb. The eight-strong team donned protective equipment before being harnessed to the training pylon, which is connected to non-live wires, and is used to train linesmen. They were accompanied by qualified National Grid engineers throughout the event.

Members of the public should never attempt to climb pylons. It is extremely dangerous as they risk death or serious injury from high voltage electricity or falls.



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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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