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## The bee's knees for Bees' Needs

Defra awards National Grid the Bees' Needs Construction Award

09 Nov 2016

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- A partnership with the British Bee Keeper's Association offers the use of National Grid land to local beekeepers
- Nineteen National Grid sites now host beehives on non-operational green land

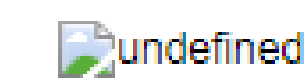
National Grid has received an award for giving bees a new home alongside its energy infrastructure to support Defra's National Pollinator Strategy. Members of the British Bee Keeper's Association have been given non-operational land on nineteen National Grid sites to keep their beehives. These sites are important for providing a safe space for the endangered honeybee, a significant pollinator whose habitats are declining.

Sites are also managed to make land more pollinator friendly. Wild flower meadows have been planted and schedules for mowing sites have been changed to encourage flowers to grow between April and September – providing vital refuelling stations for wild pollinators.

Other pollinator heroes honoured at the awards include the Grow Mayow community garden with its own nectar bar, and beekeepers at the Severn Valley Country Park who harvest mason bee larvae for local fruit growers.

Supporting Defra's National Pollinator Strategy is just one of the ways National Grid is enhancing biodiversity in the areas it operates in as part of its [environmental sustainability strategy](#).

Senior Sustainability Advisor Cirhan Truswell said: "Many of our sites are ideal habitats for pollination. And since we started our pollinator project the response from local beekeepers and our employees has been hugely positive, so it is great to be recognised for our work."



National Grid winners Cirhan Truswell and Alison Fulford outside the beehive at Kew Gardens.

[Find out more about Defra's Bees' Needs campaign.](#)

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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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