

GridLine

Newsletter for National Grid Transco electricity grantors

Summer 2004

Safety first

A FATALITY in Ireland involving a materials handler who made contact with an overhead line has underlined the dangers involved with large machinery.

Safety at National Grid Transco is always given the highest priority and the drive for safe working practices includes advice to our 19,000 or so electricity grantors.

“Our wayleave team is always willing to help with safety issues, and our partners the Farm Energy Centre can offer advice on agricultural safety issues,” said field wayleave manager Alan Naylor.

“As agricultural machinery gets bigger much more care and awareness is required if accidents are to be avoided.

“It only takes a few minutes to remind your staff and other visitors of the route of any cables and the need to stay well clear of them.”

Clearances from machines to overhead cables have been continuously eroded to the extent that one of the new combines, at 5.18 metres high, is just two centimetres short of the minimum clearance recommended by the Health and Safety Executive

Fatality underlines the dangers of large machinery

(HSE) for overhead lines up to 33,000Volts. Uneven ground, radio aerials and grain tank lids can mean large vehicles can be operating very much within the danger area.

A free explanatory leaflet on clearances is available from the HSE* and copies can be obtained from the Farm Energy Centre**.

More agricultural fatal accidents occur during the late summer months according to the HSE's figures. While these figures cover all accidents, incidents involving overhead lines are more likely to occur because of the high level of activity in the fields and around the farm.

“Be aware that overhead electricity cables are often not insulated and in certain conditions electricity can ‘jump’ across a gap,” said Alan.

“Mark out areas where cables go across your land and use notices and ‘goalposts’ (physical barriers) where appropriate.

● **Turn to Page 2**



Henry's willow winner

FARMER Henry Wilson has powered into renewable energy. After 35 years rearing animals and cultivating crops, he's working on willow to produce biomass — agriculturally-produced fuel. See full story in centre pages.

Easement payment help

NATIONAL Grid Transco reminds grantors they do not need to be out of pocket when employing an agent to act on their behalf when granting an easement.

Reasonable agents' fees, based upon an appropriate fee scale, are paid by NGT upon completion of the Deed of Grant. Reasonable solicitors' fees are likewise paid upon

completion. Both adviser's fees are paid by NGT in addition to the easement consideration agreed. If you need more information about your existing arrangements with NGT, or wish to consider converting your wayleave to an easement in return for a one-off payment, please contact your local wayleave officer as listed on the back page of this publication.

Your guide to dealing with potential hazards

AN INCIDENT in the North West has vividly highlighted the need for grantors to know exactly what to do if they identify a potential hazard.

Sheeting protecting an early crop of potatoes became tangled up on the 400kV overhead line on the Daines-Deeside circuit.

“It had probably been swept up by a very violent gust of wind,” said NGT network operations manager Adrian Lewis.

“Fortunately, the line was actually out of service — otherwise the consequences could have been far more serious.”

Anything, of any length, wrapped around, or in proximity to, a conductor constitutes a hazard and could cause an electrical flashover.

To ensure your safety and that of others, certain precautionary actions should be taken, said Adrian.

These are shown in the box below:



The sheeting caught up in the overhead line on the Daines-Deeside circuit which, fortunately, was out of service

WHAT TO DO

- Do not approach any hazard, even at ground level. Keep as far away as possible
- Warn anyone in the vicinity to evacuate the area
- Contact NGT on our Emergency Number 0800 40 40 90. This number operates 24 hours a day
- Give your name and contact phone number
- Explain the nature of the issue/hazard
- Give as much information as possible so that we can identify the geographic location ie town/village; numbers of near-by roads, postcode and, only if it can be observed without putting you or others in danger, the tower number of an adjacent pylon
- Await further contact from an NGT engineer.

WHY NOT CUT OUT THE ABOVE ADVICE AND KEEP IT NEAR YOUR TELEPHONE?

NGT puts on a new Crown

National Grid Transco has acquired Crown Castle UK — the UK’s leading independent provider of infrastructure to the mobile telecommunications operators — in a £1.1bn deal.

NGT is merging the company with Gridcom, its wholly-owned subsidiary, to

create a combined business with almost 5,000 active sites. It will make NGT a leader in the growing mobile and broadcast infrastructure markets while exploiting its core skills of owning, managing and maintaining network infrastructure.

Safety is the highest priority

● From Page 1

“Farm contractors are particularly at risk as their machinery tends to be large and they will often be operating on unfamiliar ground,” he added.

“Don’t assume that delivery drivers and contractors know, or have remembered, the route of overhead electricity cables. It takes no time to remind them of cable routes when they come on to your premises — and it really could save someone’s life”.

* The HSE website is www.hse.gov.uk

** See pages 14/15 for contact details.

Countryside safety list

- Never fly kites near overhead power lines
- Keep fishing rods away from overhead lines
- Keep children away from substations
- Never camp near overhead cables
- Never go near a fallen power line.



Wayleave officer Mark Thomas with Dorothy and Stan Greenhalgh from Pilling near Fleetwood at the Royal Lancashire Show

Shows are serving up winning lunch recipe

THIS year's agricultural relations programme is well under way. Since May nearly 1,700 grantors have joined us for lunch at the various agricultural shows around the country.

We have also welcomed many Grantors' Club members who have enjoyed free refreshments at our hospitality facility.

The programme started at the Devon County Show and since then we have visited the South of England Show, Cereals 2004, and the Cheshire, Royal Highland, Great Yorkshire and Royal Lancashire Shows.

Our visitors had a chance to view the Gas Emergency Safety Unit sited next to our marquee.

The South of England event at Ardingly enjoys considerable support from



Wayleave officer Brian Mead, second right, presents the Leconfield Challenge Cup to winner Mr P Dawes at the South of England Show

National Grid Transco.

We sponsored cattle breed classes for Charolais and Sussex and also the National Grid Transco Inter-breed Beef Progeny Group Championship. The

trophy — the Leconfield Challenge Cup — was presented by wayleave officer Brian Mead to Mr P Dawes from Dinmoor, Hereford, for his group of three Limousin.

Remember, if you are a member of our Grantors' Club, please wear your swing badge when you visit a show and enjoy free refreshments at our marquee (not available between 12-2.30pm).

There are still some show dates left.

Come and meet us at the:

- **Pembroke Show**, Haverfordwest, August 17-19

- **Dorset Show**, Dorchester, September 4-5

- **National Ploughing Championships**, Goring, near Reading, October 9-10.

Nesting falcons create a flap on £35m line project

PLANNED work on a £35 million overhead line refurbishment scheme in Dorset had to be hastily reorganised at the eleventh hour — because of the breeding activities of peregrine falcons.

National Grid Transco and its contractors Eve Transmission and Balfour Beatty Power Networks had spent months planning the scheme to replace conductors and insulators along a 33-mile stretch of 400kV overhead line between Mannington substation in Wimborne, and Chickerell substation in Weymouth.

The appearance of the peregrines, however, threw the plans into disarray, forcing changes in work schedules and an application to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for special licences.

Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, though, the project team managed to work with nature to overcome the problems and get the scheme off the ground.

"Before the project was due to start in April, we carried out a full environmental impact survey," said NGT project engineer Andrew McKenzie. "A local resident told us there had been peregrine activity on one of the towers for some years, so ecologist Colin Shawyer, from our environmental consultants Nicholas Pearson Associates Ltd, investigated, taking advice from an RSPB ornithologist. However, he didn't find any signs of peregrine activity at that time.

"The day before the outage was due to start, the same resident got in touch to say that there was definitely a peregrine on the tower. Wayleave officer Richard Biggs and Colin met him and confirmed his sighting. It turned out that the peregrine had laid two eggs directly on the crossarm — it didn't even make a nest!"

"Peregrines are protected by law* so we knew we had a problem — the courts can

now impose custodial sentences of up to six months as well as fines of up to £5,000 for anyone convicted of interfering with them," said Andrew. "We had just two days to change our work pattern and reprogramme the scheme to make sure we kept away from the tower."

The project team, headed by Robbie Griggs, the project delivery engineer, decided to do another survey along the line which spans 158 towers — what they found was even more worrying.

"Although there are only six known pairs of peregrines nesting in Dorset, Colin found that there could be up to nine pairs on our towers. At this stage, we decided to approach Defra for help," said Andrew.

Defra granted the team two special licences. "It was the first time they had done this," said Andrew. "The first allowed us to climb the towers in question to confirm nesting sites. The second licence was granted on safety grounds and allowed the contractors to start work at one tower where the conductoring had already been disconnected.

"The proviso was that they withdrew every two hours for a two-hour break to allow the birds to feed their young. We used a webcam to check progress and our film is apparently the first recording of peregrine chicks being reared on a man-made structure. One of our consultants from Pearson Associates, Nick Dixon, studied peregrines for his PhD, so he was particularly excited!"

The work on the stretch of overhead line, was due for completion in September. Because of the hold-ups, the project is around three weeks behind schedule, so additional work will be carried out next year.

*Peregrine falcons are protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended by Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2001.

Peregrine factfile

- the peregrine (*falco peregrinus*) is the fastest animal in the world. It is believed to achieve speeds approaching 124mph when plunging from the sky after prey. To enable it to breathe at this speed, it has special baffles on its nostrils which control breathing

- the name peregrine comes from the verb to peregrinate, meaning to wander — out of the breeding season, the peregrine has the habit of moving to where food is plentiful

- peregrine falcons have a bodylength of 34-50cm and a wingspan of 80-120cm. Females are much larger than the males

- they feed almost exclusively on birds, including small ducks and pigeons, but occasionally hunt small mammals including bats, rats, voles and rabbits

- females lay two to four eggs in a scrape made on cliff edges or on the ground. They sometimes nest in tree hollows or in the disused nests of other large birds

- the birds are typically silent, but when alarmed, they emit a high-pitched "kek-kek-kek-kek" call.



Working with nature... NGT project engineer Andrew McKenzie and consultant Nick Dixon

Pupils learn not to waste Earth's vital resources

IF YOUNG people — the decision-makers of the future — want to keep the Earth's life-support systems intact, they need to learn to live in ways that increase the quality of life without destroying the planet's precious resources.

That is why Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has become a priority in recent years and why National Grid Transco is a keen supporter.

Gareth Llewellyn, NGT's Group Corporate Responsibility Director, speaking at the Council for Environmental Education's national conference, confirmed the importance of sustainable development to business success and the importance of business investment in community regeneration.

He also highlighted the role of the 12 environmental education centres NGT runs across England and Wales in partnership

with a variety of organisations, including local education authorities, Groundwork Trusts, BTCV, Wildlife Trusts and the Field Studies Council. About 80,000 children visit the centres each year to learn about sustainable development, the environment and energy.

Gareth told delegates: "It shows the long-term commitment we have to environmental education. It is very difficult for corporates to commit long term, but certainly in our context we feel it's important we do so. We want a population that has a general understanding about the environment and sustainable development so that when decisions have to be taken about the expansion of infrastructure in this country, there is an informed debate."

NGT has supported the work of the CEE* for several years, sponsoring the annual conferences and various forums. It also

gave funding to a recent CEE project that encourages a culture of evaluation among organisations involved in education, the environment and sustainable development.

Nick Jones, CEE's head of Policy and Programmes, said: "We very much welcome having support from an organisation that has clear environmental and sustainable development goals and demonstrated its commitment over many years, at a local and national strategy level."

CEE's core funding comes from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its mission is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the heart of education policy and practice and that education is recognised as central to sustainable development.

It was set up in 1968 and is now an umbrella body representing about 75 national organisations committed to

environmental education and ESD.

The CEE recently contributed to the consultation on the review of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy that outlines a strategic framework for sustainable development to 2020. A working party came up with a number of recommendations to the Government, and these were also passed to member organisations to encourage them to respond to the consultation.

Nick says that the idea of sustainable development is controversial, because there are different understandings of it.

"Some people see sustainability as a goal, an end state or Shangri-La. Others say there are no end states, and sustainable development can only mean a constant process of learning to manage the co-evolutionary process between humans and nature," he said. "The idea that we can understand nature and human activity and manage those two in a state of bliss is clearly a fanciful notion."

"What we don't know about the world and how it works is phenomenal — almost 60 per cent of the planet's surface, for example, is up to three miles below the waves, but almost none of this region has been studied so the thought that we could ever twiddle a few knobs and twist a few levers to make everything all right doesn't make sense."

"It is therefore very appropriate that sustainable development is taken on board by educators because there is so much we need to learn."

"Centres like those run by NGT are hugely valuable. The outdoor classroom — the world out there — is where science, geography and history come from. It's about getting back to the real world and exploring some of these subjects and issues together rather than seeing the world in a compartmentalised way."

"Developing centres on substation sites was an inspired idea by NGT — what better use of parcels of secure and protected land than for children to learn about the environment and energy and how electricity is distributed. It would be great if other organisations took a similar long-term approach."

There was a time, said Nick, when there was greater provision for outdoor and environmental education in this country. But cost restrictions, anxieties about health and safety, fear of litigation and delegated funding to schools have reduced the opportunities.

"NGT support gives many young people a chance to develop their understanding of the environment, themselves and each other. You can't put a price on that."

*To find out more about CEE, visit www.cee.org.uk

Young minds tackle energy problems

THE team at West Boldon near South Shields has launched a new sustainable energy education package.

"Sustainable Solutions" introduces children to the environmental, social and economic problems associated with energy production and use.

Activities involve the design and assembly of solar-powered cars, and investigating the best ways to insulate buildings to prevent energy loss.

It was created by National Grid environmental placement Victoria Lascelles.

Groundwork South Tyneside, NGT's partner at West Boldon, hosted the launch at the Eco Centre, Hebburn, during this year's Environment Week.

Pupils from a South Shields school were the first to undertake the challenge.

Centre head Sarah Dinning said: "We plan to incorporate the new course in our permanent programme from next year. We hope it will play an important part in helping teachers to meet curriculum requirements."

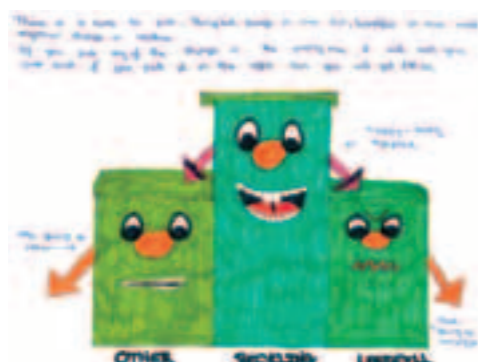


Sort bin buddies... made by children during a waste workshop



A school assembly session with Spike the Sort Bin

Too much rubbish? Sort it!



Artwork produced by children taking part in the "Sort it" project



SKELTON Grange environmental education centre in Leeds joined forces with Leeds City Council and Groundwork Leeds to boost waste education to schoolchildren.

It ran a 14-week test project called "Sort It" to provide fun, interactive and memorable sessions to hundreds of youngsters to raise their awareness of waste minimisation.

The project supported the council's recycling initiatives that includes kerbside recycling around the city.

Skelton's education and training manager Helen Pearson said: "We took various waste minimisation and recycling-based activities into the schools; research has shown that the recycling rate increases when children are educated on what can and cannot be recycled."

"The test scheme was very successful — now we are seeking further funding from Leeds City Council and CRED* so that we can roll out the project to all Leeds schools."

*The CRED programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Grants are available to community-based recycling, reuse and composting initiatives for up to three years.



Children from St Nicholas Primary School, Pirvin, join waste minimisation promotions assistant Amy Bayliss to decide what household rubbish can be put to good use

Rich pickings in Green Street

A MOCK-UP street at Bishops Wood Centre in Worcestershire is helping schoolchildren get into the habit of recycling.

Green Street — with houses, shops, a bottle bank and a dust cart — allows children to rummage through a dustbin full of the kind of waste thrown away by the typical household and decide whether any items could be reused, repaired or recycled.

"We use Green Street to introduce

children to kerbside recycling," said centre head John Rhymer. "There are kerbside collections of recyclable material across the county, but many people are unsure of what can be recycled and what can't."

"Green Street shows how different types of household waste can be put to good use, whether it means sending glass to a bottle bank or unwanted clothes to Oxfam. We hope the children take the message home to their parents."

Diversify to survive and thrive on the land today

DIVERSIFICATION earnings by farmers in England have topped the £100 million mark for the first time, says Defra.

The news was revealed in a Farm Business Survey published early this year.

It reveals that:

- 56 per cent of full-time farmers have diversified
- average earnings in 2002-3 from diversification were £1,800 per farm, up 30 per cent on the previous year.

If YOU are a National Grid Transco electricity grantor who has successfully met the challenge of diversification, tell us your story. Write to *GridLine*, Papers Publishing, Stirling House, College Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 7HY or e-mail john@paperspublishing.co.uk.



Willow coppice... Henry Wilson made an early move into biomass production

CATTLE and sheep, pigs and poultry, once roamed Henry Wilson's 240-acre Market Place Farm, at South Cave, Brough on North Humberside.

Today there are just acres and acres of willow, for the 56-year-old farmer has turned over his site to the production of biomass, seen by many as having the greatest potential in volume among all renewable energies.

Biomass, in the renewable energy context, refers to agriculturally derived material that can be used as fuel. There are two categories — wastes, (animal slurries, chicken litter, forestry and arboricultural residues, surplus straw, organic municipal waste etc) and energy crops (grown as fuel rather than food, such as fast-growing "woody" crops like willow or poplar).

The wood grown by Henry is destined for Drax power station in Selby, the largest coal-fired power station in UK that has developed the capability to burn biomass fuels.

As Henry has discovered, energy

PLANNING problems, a salmonella scare, pig disease, difficult soil conditions, plummeting wheat prices and soaring overheads.

These are just some of the tribulations faced by NGT grantor Henry Wilson in more than 35 years of farming.

Instead of throwing in the towel, he adapted to change, grasped new opportunities and today is contributing to electricity generation in the UK and the government's target to produce 10 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2010...

crops are offering a new commercial opportunity for farmers and growers. Short rotation coppice (SRC)* production offers substantial environmental benefits compared to intensive arable farming, including reduced use of agrochemicals.

It's all very different from the late 1960s when Henry, fresh out of Bishop Burton College in Beverley, joined the family farm run by his father Robert since 1942.

"Initially, we had a mixed farm with a dairy herd and sheep, but by the time I joined the business, we had moved into poultry and fattening pigs," said Henry. "The problem was that we couldn't develop — the farm is in the centre

of a village and we found it impossible to get planning permission to extend and improve our farm buildings."

Henry took over the farm in the 1980s when Robert went into local politics. "The salmonella scare hit the business badly in the late 80s and on top of that, I had a disease problem with the pigs that I couldn't get on top of, so I decided it was time for a change," he said.

"I sold about 10 acres of land for a housing development and I sold all my livestock and concentrated on growing wheat, linseed and rape. I was making just enough to survive until the price of wheat dropped to below £100 a tonne.

That really got me worried!

"About 100 acres of the farm is chalky wold and wasn't yielding well, so I took advantage of Defra's Countryside Stewardship Scheme that paid me to take it out of production. At about the same time, the ARBRE project was looking for people to grow willow to be used at Europe's first wood-fuelled power station being built at Eggborough in North Yorkshire. It seemed like a good deal — I would get staged payments to grow willow for the next three years as well as set-aside payments from the Government."

Henry started in 1998 with just 14 acres of willow. The crop took so well that the following year he got rid of more overheads — labour and machinery — and put his remaining land into biomass production.

"But in 2002 ARBRE failed — and I was left with acres of willow and no market!" said Henry. "I wasn't alone, because by this time, I had got together with other growers who wanted to represent farming interests in the project.

Suddenly this informal little group found itself propelled into setting up Renewable Energy Growers Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation which represented most of the original ARBRE growers. We imported a sugar cane harvester from Australia and started off by harvesting 7,000 oven dry tonnes of SRC.

"Today, we represent 42 growers and are at the forefront of providing willow for the power industry, controlling around 85 per cent of the willow grown in the UK for renewable energy," said Henry. "We recently signed a contract with Drax power station for 5,000 tonnes year — but as they want to get that up to 500,000 tonnes a year by 2009, there is enormous potential for other farmers to get involved."

*Short rotation coppice consists primarily of densely planted willow shrubs harvested on a three year cycle.

● To find out more about Renewable Energy Growers Ltd visit www.energycrop.co.uk or email info@energyrop.co.uk.

Couple turn to ostriches and milking sheep

WHEN BSE* threatened grantor Gary Gamblin's livelihood, he took drastic action.

He sold his herd of beef suckler cows and nearly 1,000 Dorset ewes and launched himself into — sheep dairying.

Three years ago he and his wife Claire took another bold step — they started commercial ostrich farming, capitalising on the public's demand for low fat meat.

Today, Gary, 30, has the only dairy sheep farm in Hampshire, and one of the largest in the UK. The ostrich business has also taken off, particularly in the last 12 months thanks to the Atkins Diet that restricts carbohydrates and encourages dieters to eat more meat.

The move away from conventional farming hasn't been easy. "It's been a long and hard upward struggle and it's only recently that we have been able to employ someone full-time," says Gary. "But things are gradually coming together. The future looks bright and we have lots to aim for."

Gary is a fourth generation farmer at the 250-acre Tapnage

Farm, Wickham near Fareham. It is crossed by NGT's Fawley-Lovedean 400kV overhead line.

"Because of BSE, the public started to go off red meat and the price of lamb fell. I had to do something different to survive."

Gary sold most of his livestock. He started off in sheep dairying with just 30 animals. Today he has 300 milking sheep and plans to more than double that number within the next three years. The sheep — Dutch Friesland, Black East German Friesian and French



Gary and Claire Gamblin rearing ostriches on their Hampshire farm

Lacaune — are bred for milking and each animal can produce between two and three litres a day.

"The hardest part was finding a market for the milk, but we got there in the end," said Gary. "A dairy in East Sussex makes Flower Marie, a Brie-like cheese, while another in Kent produces Crockhamdale, a hard cheese. We have just bought a local dairy in Alresford where Walda, a mild hard cheese is made along with a Swiss-style yoghurt. One of our ambitions is to get a local

supermarket to take our cheeses, yoghurts and milk; for now, we sell it in our own farm shop."

The couple's 35 ostriches and nine emus provide high protein, low-fat meat which also goes on sale at the farm shop.

"Ostrich farming has had a bit of bad press in recent years. Some protesters believe the birds should be in Africa, not in the UK. But our ostriches are born and bred here and are perfectly happy in the British climate. The animals have shelter if they want it, but you will often see them sitting happily in the rain."

Gary and Claire have been quick to take advantage of public interest in their ventures. They hold regular open weekends when, for a small entry fee, families can come along to see the ostriches, watch the ewes being milked and enjoy a picnic at the farm. "During one weekend last year, we welcomed 1,000 visitors," said Gary.

*Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, sometimes known as "mad cow disease".

● For further information, visit www.ewetreefarmsheepdairy.co.uk

Naturally rich

● sheep's milk has a rich, bland, slightly sweet taste; compared to cow or goat milk, it contains up to twice the amount of minerals like calcium, phosphorus and zinc and the all-important B group vitamins.

● cheese has been made from sheep's milk for thousands of years. Some well-known varieties are roquefort, pecorino romano, feta and ricotta.

Lean meat

● per 100 gms, ostrich meat has 2.2 gms of fat and 114 calories; beef has 18.4 gms of fat and 276 calories.

● an ostrich egg weighs about 1.4kg. One egg is equal to about two dozen hen's eggs and takes 1hr 30mins to hard boil!

● ostriches are fast runners, reaching 16-23ft per stride and running as fast as 30 to 50mph.

Amazing idea draws in tourists!

WHAT do you find in a maize field — apart from maize?

You find a maze of course — well you do at the Ranson's maize field in Cornwall.

Chris Ranson and his wife Christine are the tenant farmers at Smeaton Farm, Pillaton, near Saltash.

The couple have run the 450-acre farm for 18 years. They have a dairy herd and beef cattle, and grow wheat, barley and some maize for fodder. And they are NGT grantors — the Landulph-Indian Queens 400kV overhead crosses their land.

"Like many farmers these days, we were looking to diversify," said Christine. "My husband hit on the idea of a temporary maize maze to attract visitors. We grew the first one in 2001, featuring a Cornish shield design, and welcomed 10,000 visitors! In 2002, I came up with a Cornish tin mine design and visitor numbers swelled to 20,000. Last year, when the design was Cornish piskie



This summer's maze at Pillaton, near Saltash

a toadstool, visitor numbers reached 30,000."

This year, her design features the Tamar Bridge with boats underneath.

The field is planted at the end of April. When the maize gets to four inches high Chris walks the field removing plants to form the maze walkways.

This year's seven-acre maze is open every day from 10am-6pm until the middle of September.

And it's a sustainable

enterprise: when the maze closes the crop is harvested and the site made ready for next year's challenge.

NGT is planning to refurbish the overhead line, starting in August, but as access to three towers is via the maze the company has built a new entrance in the field so that work doesn't affect the maze business.

● For more information and how to find the maze, visit www.cornishmaizemaze.co.uk



Tree Warden for West Malvern Janet Whittlestone with, from left, Wade Muggleton, wider countryside officer for Worcestershire County Council, Jon Stokes, director Community Projects for The Tree Council, and Sean Regan, community relations manager National Grid Transco

Joy as backing goes on

NATIONAL Grid Transco (NGT) has reaffirmed its commitment to a greener future for Britain by renewing its sponsorship of The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme.

It has supported the initiative since 1997 and the announcement it will back the scheme for a further five years highlights the company's role as a leader in the area of minimising the environmental impacts associated with its operational activities.

Pauline Buchanan Black, director-general of The Tree Council, welcomed the news. She said: "The Tree Council's relationship with National Grid Transco goes back a long way and we are absolutely delighted our partnership is to continue for another five years.

"Tree Wardens are an important force in the conservation and improvement of Britain's treescape — the eyes and ears of their local communities.

"This sponsorship will enable them to go on playing a major part in our drive to make trees matter to everyone and supports



National Grid's commitment to minimising its environmental footprint.

"It is particularly satisfying to be working with a commercial organisation that has been named Britain's most socially and environmentally responsible company in the Corporate Responsibility 2003 Index* of best business practice."

NGT's group corporate responsibility director Gareth Llewellyn said: "We are delighted to be able to renew the sponsorship.

"Our association not only helps the protection and planting of trees in communities nationwide but also enables us to access expertise in sensitively managing tree growth near our assets.

"Managing tree and vegetation growth near overhead lines, underground cables and pipelines is an important area of NGT's work and The Tree Council continues to

provide independent expert support and advice for this.

"We have an excellent working relationship with The Tree Council and we look forward to continuing to build on that relationship over the next five years."

There are more than 7,500 Tree Wardens in 130 local networks, covering a third of the UK, from Perthshire to Guernsey, and Lowestoft to Belfast.

They each devote an average of 213 hours a year, which amounts to a total of 1.5 million hours, the equivalent of about £10 million in volunteer time (based on the Heritage Lottery Fund volunteer labour rate of £50 a day) conserving the UK's trees.

*139 companies, including 56 FTSE 100 companies, participated in the Index compiled by Business in the Community. National Grid Transco was also one of 28 companies placed in the "Premier League" of the 8th annual Business in the Environment (BiE) Index of Corporate Environment Engagement. This means the company scored over 95 per cent.

Kit to help save hedge trees

FARMERS and landowners are being urged to support The Tree Council's Hedge Tree Campaign.

The campaign, run in partnership with National Grid Transco, is a crusade to help reverse the decline of the hedge tree — a threatened feature of the British countryside.

It was launched last year by Ben Bradshaw, the Minister for Nature Conservation, and tried out by many of The Tree Council's 7,500 volunteer Tree Wardens who have worked with farmers and landowners to tag young trees in hedges. This way they are more visible to anyone cutting hedges and can be avoided.

Phase one of the campaign helped The Tree Council to test the easy-to-see hedge tree tags and generally get people discussing and thinking about the scheme.

The campaign moved into a new phase at a House of Commons reception with the unveiling of a kit that should help as many people as possible to get involved.

Central to the kit is a 96-page colour *Hedge Tree Handbook** that underlines the value, history and management of hedge trees. It also explains how everyone can help to care for them and introduce more into the British countryside. Postcards have also been produced that Tree Wardens can use as calling cards to encourage more farmers and landowners to get involved.

Hedge trees are part of the British countryside and an important haven for wildlife — but there are fewer every year.

The campaign, supported by environmental organisations, aims to ensure there is no net loss of the trees in the UK and is playing a major role in meeting a National Biodiversity Action Plan target.

The reception was hosted by Tree Council vice-president Brian Donohoe MP who told guests he was impressed with the energy and commitment shown by The Tree Council and all those involved. He said he had sympathy and support for the campaign and felt that Tree Wardens should be applauded for their enormous contribution.

Guests were welcomed by Tree Council director-general Pauline Buchanan Black and chairman Sue Roe. Sue said: "We are



Sue Roe with Gareth Llewellyn, left, and Brian Donohoe at the House of Commons

very pleased and proud to be making a positive contribution to Defra's Biodiversity Action Plan for hedgerows, and being passionate about trees, we are particularly pleased to be doing something really positive for hedge trees."

Armed with the kits, the Tree Wardens will be able to work with their local landowners to find and mark trees in hedges that have the capacity to grow into big mature trees. "The kind," said Sue, "that gives such pleasure, especially at this time of year and contributes so wonderfully to the habitat a hedge provides."

Sue said The Tree Council was "immensely proud" of its partnership with NGT. The company's sterling support had allowed the Tree Warden Scheme to blossom and had also helped it develop projects like the Hedge Tree Campaign.

Gareth Llewellyn, NGT's group corporate responsibility director, said NGT, and before it National Grid, had enjoyed a successful partnership with The Tree Council for 14 years, seven of them with the Tree Warden Scheme.

"Tree Wardens play a very important role

in encouraging planting and their experience is of great value to us," he said. "As an organisation, we have to manage trees and vegetation to ensure continuity of our services and to extend our gas and electricity networks to meet the needs of society for reliable sources of energy.

"It is always our intention to do this in a sympathetic manner and the ability to access the knowledge of the Tree Wardens is a great help to us.

"We are also pleased to be associated with the Hedge Tree Campaign. It is all too easy to take a uniform approach to vegetation management, and the campaign is an important reminder that a more intelligent approach will pay dividends for the future of the British landscape."

* Copies of The Hedge Tree Handbook are available from The Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YT. Please send a cheque payable to The Tree Council for £7.99 to include p&p.

● To obtain free hedge tags (while stocks last) and a new leaflet of tips on tagging, contact The Tree Council as above or email hedgetreesmatter@treecouncil.org.uk

A message from the Minister

Ben Bradshaw was unable to join guests at the reception, but he sent his best wishes to The Tree Council for the new phase of its Hedge Tree Campaign in partnership with National Grid Transco.

He said: "I also congratulate the Tree Wardens on their many years of valuable work. It is important that Tree Wardens should continue their hedge tree work, together with farmers, landowners and the

public, to help us meet the important Biodiversity Action Plan Target for hedgerows. Their contribution will be significant in ensuring that there is no net loss of hedgerow trees.

"For its part, the Government has a continuing commitment to provide farmers and landowners with the necessary financial incentives for the management and planting of hedgerow trees."

Courses get them back in the groove...

DOZENS of ploughmen — and one ploughwoman — have been back to school to brush up their skills.

They were taking part in the Society of Ploughmen's two-day courses for reversible and conventional ploughing.

The Ploughing Academy has proved so successful that one ploughman flew in from North Carolina in the USA to attend and there have been enquiries from as far afield as Africa and Japan.

Champion ploughman Ken Chappell, the society's secretary and executive director, is one of the instructors, along with fellow champions Phil Barriball and Desmond Jenkin.

"We were asked to organise the courses because young ploughmen — and some older ones — get to a certain level of skill, but can't really progress and improve without help," said Ken. "Good ploughing, of course, is part of sustainable agriculture, because by preparing a good seed base, there is much less need to use weedkillers.

"We are delighted by the response to the Academy, and look forward to welcoming many more keen ploughmen and ploughwomen in the future."

The courses are held at the Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington in Cornwall. The first two were held in 2002, with another two last year. There was one this July and a further course is planned for later in the year.

As part of the Ploughing Academy, the society is also organising seminars for

ploughing judges in a bid to boost the quality of judging throughout the country.

"The aim is to help the judges to work on the same level and learn from the others' experience. This will make the standard of judging less varied in the level of points awarded for different aspects," said Ken.

More than 160 judges from throughout the country have attended seminars since the first in South Yorkshire in February 2003.

The most recent was in February in South Yorkshire and six more are being planned over the coming winter.

● For further information, call Phil Barriball on 01579 370784 or Ken Chappell on 01302 852469 or e-mail info@ploughmen.co.uk. There is also information on the Society's website.



Instructor Phil Barriball, right, explains the secrets of good ploughing to Ian Brewer from Wadebridge



Getting the low-down from Phil are, from left, Graham Soper from Totnes, Peter Kitchin from Ystrad Mynach and Michael Prendergast from Warminster

... ready for the big one



Phil checks furrow depth and width with, from left, Peter Kitchin, Michael Prendergast and Andrew Eastley from Totnes

MEANWHILE... the countdown is on to the 54th British National Ploughing Championships in Berkshire in October.

National Grid Transco is again a main sponsor, and the company looks forward to meeting its grantors at this premier event in the agricultural calendar.

Champions from throughout the UK, including past and present British, European and World ploughing champions, will converge on South Stoke near Goring, Reading.

More than 15,000 visitors are expected and competition will be fierce as ploughmen and women fight for the supreme honour of taking the British national titles, and representing their country in 2005 at the

World Ploughing contest in the Czech Republic.

Ken said: "Clearly the decision to bring the national championships back to the area was a good one and the enthusiasm and support we are getting from our main sponsors — National Grid Transco, Total Butler, Goodyear and Firestone — and from local people, organisations and the agricultural trade is very encouraging. It will add up to a ploughing spectacular and provide a great rural day out for all the family to remember."

As ever, there will be something for everyone. There will be an extensive trade stand area and a taste of the past will be supplied with steam ploughing engines, vintage

machines at work, rural craft displays, a static display of vintage tractors and agricultural engines and magnificent shire horses at work demonstrating their ploughing skills. Top machinery firms will be demonstrating their most up-to-date, powerful, multi-furrow ploughing units which can turn over in far less than an hour what it takes the horses a day to achieve.

Car parking is free. Admission: adults £6 per day; children and senior citizens £3.50 per day. Special rates for coach parties (on application).

Membership of the Society of Ploughmen includes free admission to the event. Visit www.ploughmen.co.uk for further information.

THE Farm Energy Centre (FEC) is the UK's leading source of information on the application of energy-based techniques in farming and horticulture.

It works with farmers, utilities — including National Grid Transco — research institutes and manufacturers, providing expertise on energy applications and efficiency.

Energy auditing and brokering, energy efficiency planning and product testing and evaluation are just some of the many activities it covers.

For more detailed information about the work of the FEC, visit www.farmenergy.com

If you would like to know more about any of the issues featured on these pages, contact the FEC at Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LS. Tel: 024 7669 6512 or e-mail: info@farmenergy.com

Use the same numbers to obtain a list of FEC publications, including technical guides, and technical notes.



Bright idea that brings benefits by the double

RELUCTANT to spend £5 to £10 on a low energy light bulb, even though you know it makes sense?

Well, think again, says the FEC's Stephen Bettany, who highlights two very good reasons for buying the light bulbs, also known as compact fluorescent lamps (CFL, pictured below).



"They use around 80 per cent less energy (see table) and last six to 15 times longer than a normal tungsten lamp (ordinary bulbs)," he said.

"The variations in cost and lamp life tend to go together — the more you pay, the longer the rated life of the lamp."

Standard tungsten lamps are rated at only 1,000 hours and are prone to failure if knocked or subjected to high voltages. CFLs have life ratings of 6,000 to 15,000 hours, which saves on the cost and inconvenience of replacing tungsten lamps.

So what is the payback of replacing a 100W lamp with a 25W fluorescent? At a cost of

6p/kWh the payback on a £7 lamp is about 200 days (based on the lamp running eight hours per day). It would be less than 150 days for a £5 lamp.

Cheaper imported lamps are available but they appear to have an inferior lamp life, said Stephen.

"A good indication of quality is the energy efficiency symbol of the Energy Savings Trust because they carry out independent life tests on lamps and authorise use of the symbol only if the lamp is approved.

"As energy costs look set to rise, changing over to compact fluorescents will give good long-term savings and you will be doing your bit to reduce the country's carbon emissions."

Comparison of lamp sizes which give equivalent light output	
Tungsten lamp	Compact fluorescent lamp
25W	5W
40W	7W
60W	11W
75W	15W
100W	20W
120W	23W

Switch off – and cut your costs

SWITCH off and save money! That's the advice from the FEC's Stephen Bettany who is keen to dispel the myth that switching off computer equipment is bad for it.

"This may have been true 10 years ago, but switching off saves energy and prolongs the life of your computer," he said. "Heat and mechanical stress are actually two leading causes of computer failure."

The energy used by computers, screens, peripherals and other office equipment represents a huge load on the electricity network.

Stephen said: "A typical computer and screen will use between 120 to 200 Watts depending on the manufacturer and the age of the machine. Add on to this printers, scanners and other computer peripherals and the energy use starts to become significant. It's common for

machines and particularly peripherals to be left on permanently and while the power consumption is not huge, leaving them on 24 hours a day, 365 days a year costs a significant amount of money and is a 'pure waste' of energy."

Here are some energy efficiency facts and tips to help you reduce your office or home energy costs.

- The screen uses about 50 per cent of the total energy.
- Your monitor is not saving energy while the screen saver is running.
- Arranging for the monitor to go to standby mode reduces power consumption from about 60W to 2W. Monitor power down can be set in 'Windows', Control Panel by clicking on Power Management/Options, you can set the monitor turn off time (15 minutes is often used. Moving the mouse or hitting a key will power the system back up.
- The computer system standby time can also be set which powers down the rest of the system to about 25W. If you are on a network, ensure that network connection will not be lost in this mode.
- Switch off when not in use. A monitor can still use 9W and a printer 12W in sleep mode.
- A common sequence of events to save energy on Windows XP is 15 mins monitor power down 30 mins hard disc power down 60 mins system in standby



The computer intelligent mains panel. See how to get one, below right

on 6p/kWh or unit of electricity (1000W = 1kWh) .

Computer on and running software, 150W x 8 hours x £0.06 x 210 days = £15.12

Computer left on all night, monitor on standby, 92W x 16hours x £0.06 x 210 days = £18.55

Computer left on all night, 7 days a week, monitor on standby, 92W x 16hrs x £0.06 x 365 days = £32.24

● Laptops are designed to use very little power so the batteries last. A typical energy consumption is 15w to 25w in use, and a fraction of a watt in sleep mode.

● Windows NT machines can not be put into sleep or standby mode (except by altering the BIOS).

"One new piece of equipment that saves energy is the computer intelligent mains panel," said Stephen. "It is an

extension lead, which you use to plug in your computer and peripherals. The computer is plugged into a master socket that senses when you have switched off your computer and switches off power to all the other sockets. It also works in reverse, switching the peripherals on when the computer is switched on."

And a final bit of advice — "Don't forget other equipment such as scanners, photocopiers, phone chargers, printers and fax machines — office hours generally represent only 24 per cent of the hours in a year so leaving equipment on at night, weekends and lunchtimes seriously adds to running costs."

● THE FEC can supply the computer intelligent mains panel by mail order for £28.20. Contact the FEC for an order form.



A little learning could save a life

IF A vehicle makes contact with an overhead electricity cable it can be fatal or result in serious injuries so ensuring that it never happens must be a priority.

But knowing what to do if it DOES happen could save your life and the life of others.

The greatest danger is if someone makes contact with the vehicle and the earth because this makes the person part of the circuit. The driver will usually remain safe in the cab.

Here is what to do if it does happen:

- do not touch the vehicle or anything attached to it
 - phone your local distribution company to disconnect the power as soon as possible
 - if not entangled in the wires, lower or back the vehicle away
 - if the tyres melt or blow, or the vehicle catches fire LEAP away from it. DO NOT step down, because you will become the conductor between the ground and the vehicle
 - keep everyone clear as the vehicle may stay LIVE
 - do not rely on rubber tyres or wellingtons to protect you from shock
 - NEVER return to the vehicle until the electricity distribution company say it's safe.
- If you are in any doubt about electrical safety issues, contact your local distribution company.

Make those spuds last better

POOR insulation in potato stores significantly increases the risk of frost damage — affecting quality and profitability, says the Farm Energy Centre.

The experts' advice is to incorporate correct insulation and draught-proofing at the design stage to give better temperature control, extend the storage season and improve quality.

Insulation prevents frost damage to the crop and prevents heat transmission into the store during warmer months.

Where possible, temperature differences must be eliminated between the internal air and all exterior surfaces in the store to avoid condensation. The potato crop gives off moisture and heat, so condensation will occur when this warm moist air hits a cold



Insulate stored potatoes properly and they will last much longer with improved quality

surface. This can be a real problem, because the condensate will drip back on to the crop causing wet tubers and soft rot. It is, therefore, very important to insulate all internal surfaces of the store including the air ductwork, fan-house and any structural steelwork.

The FEC says fibrous material is not considered suitable insulation because of its susceptibility to saturation by water vapour. Polymer insulation materials such as spray-on foam

or boards are less susceptible to moisture contamination. It is advisable to protect the insulation from mechanical and pest damage, for example, plastic coated steel is often bonded to insulation boards. (Recommended insulation values for different circumstances are given in the table.)

Where condensation is a problem two other solutions can be effective — covering the crop with a purpose-made insulated quilt or providing warmed air to lift the temperature in the roof space.

● Engineers at FEC have carried out trials and research on potato storage and offer a guide on all aspects of production. More detailed advice on energy consumption is available if required from the FEC.

Recommended insulation values		
Purpose of insulation	Roof	Walls
Prevent frost damage	1.00 W/m ²	1.00 W/m ²
Reduce solar gain	0.45 W/m ²	0.50 W/m ²
Refrigeration minimum	0.3 W/m ²	0.35 W/m ²

Are you all doing your bit to help us keep cool?

HOW much are you doing to help prevent global warming? To find out, read on!

The production of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is seen as one of the main contributors to global warming.

The Government's climate control strategy centres on reducing the burning of fossil fuels which produce CO₂.

Cutting down on energy use reduces the amount of carbon produced but the relationship between kilowatt/hours (kWh) and litres of fuel to savings in CO₂ production is often not apparent.

To convert your energy savings to CO₂ savings, use the table below.

Simply convert your fuel use to kWh and then convert to the CO₂ equivalent.

Fuel	Unit of purchase	Conversion to kWh (multiply by)	Conversion to CO ₂ (multiply by)
Electricity	kWh	1	0.43
Natural Gas	kWh	1	0.19
Liquid			
Petroleum Gas	Litres	7.04	0.23
Petrol	Litres	9.6	0.24
Gas/Diesel Oil	Litres	10.6	0.25
Heavy Fuel Oil	Litres	11.4	0.26
Coal	Tonnes	8,500	0.30

Contacts

For further information contact your local wayleave teams on:

North: 0113 2908236

South: 01245 592028

Your wayleave teams and their contact mobile phone numbers

North East

Wilson Holmes

07836 543539

Scott Stephenson

07836 543541

North West

Mark Thomas

07887 825073

Martin Bretherton

07786 021086

North East (South)

Mike Rockett

07836 364634

Janet Clarke

07770 645599

North West (South)

Alan Whitmore

07836 629530

Bob Tute

07836 668504

East Midlands

Robin O'Brien

07836 293137

Simon Booth

07786 021088

West Midlands

Richard Evans

07776 225888

Paul Ganley

07836 549748

East Anglia

Barry Cullimore

07836 217478

Amy Jones

07836 200761

South East (North London)

Brian Mead

07836 217520

Phil Burgess

07836 222051

South East (South London)

Paul Sage

07836 638823

Alison Williams

07788 568678

South Wales

Simon Gronow

07836 207262

Sandra Stevens

07776 161429

South West

Richard Biggs

07785 716961

Jane Bishop

07771 864528

Wayleave payments

▼ For information on wayleave payments telephone the payments helpline on **0800 389 5113**.

Emergencies

▼ Emergency calls to report pylon damage to National Grid Transco can be made on **0800 404090**. Make a note of the tower's number — found just below the property plate — to help crews locate it.

Electric and magnetic fields

▼ For information on electric and magnetic fields, ring the EMF information line **08457 023270** (local call rate).



Pull... a grantor gets expert advice from instructor Trevor Forster at the Cheshunt clay pigeon shoot

Clay shoot is a surefire hit

CLAY pigeon shooting is a popular countryside tradition and a great way to enjoy a few hours of friendly competition.

Dozens of our grantors, who have been NGT's guests at clay pigeon shooting events around the country, would heartily agree.

The shoots have given them the opportunity to hone their marksmanship — or try shooting for the first time.

"The company arranged clay pigeon shoots for the first time last year and they proved very successful, so it was decided to run another series this year," said field wayleave warden Sandra Stevens, one of the hosts at the Bristol event.

"Clay pigeon shooting is becoming increasingly popular and it is a great opportunity for us to get to know our grantors better, in a social environment, and enjoy a day's sport. We had an excellent day — everyone enjoyed it."

There have been five regional events this year and the countdown is now on to the grand final at the NAC at Stoneleigh on September 21, when finalists will enjoy a celebration dinner and overnight accommodation.



Grantors at the clay pigeon shoot at Cheshunt

Regional Results

BRISTOL

Experienced: Mike Reddaway, Cowley, Exeter

Runner-up: Graham Andrew, Sutcombe, Devon

Novice: Phil Booy, Easter Compton, Bristol

CESHUNT

Experienced: Bernard Tubby, Arkesden, Essex

Runner-up: James Lodge, Terling, Essex

Novice: Peter O'Connell, Greenford, Middlesex

NANTWICH

Experienced: Idris Roberts, Flintshire

Runner-up: Paul Rosbottom, Manchester

Novice: Peter Jones, South Wirral, Cheshire

HARROGATE

Experienced: James Sagar, York

Runner-up: Richard Baker, Sheffield

Novice: Mark Percival, Farmoor Services

COVENTRY

Experienced: Gerald Needham, Lincoln

Runner-up: Robin Smith, Sutton Coldfield

Novice: Richard Grant, Coventry