

# Gridline

The magazine for  
National Grid grantors  
Winter 07

**nationalgrid**



## The Great Storm

Recalling the  
events of 20  
years ago

## Working together

The war against  
foot-and-mouth

# Family affair

Father and son team up at the National  
Ploughing Championships

**Also in this issue:** key contacts map, daffodil growing in Scotland, grantor photo competition

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## NATIONAL GRID'S LAND AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP...

is responsible for acquiring all rights and permissions from statutory authorities and landowners needed to install, operate and maintain National Grid's electricity and gas transmission networks. We act as the main interface for landowners who have our gas and electricity equipment installed on their land. Listed below are your National Grid contacts. For individual officer contacts; see pages 16 and 17.

### ELECTRICITY AND GAS

- North west and Scotland 0161 776 0706
- South east 01268 642091
- South west 01452 316059
- East 0113 290 8236.

### WAY LEAVE PAYMENTS

■ For information on way leave payments, telephone the payments helpline on 0800 389 5113.

### ELECTRICITY EMERGENCIES

■ Emergency calls to report pylon damage to National Grid can be

made on 0800 404090. Note 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, call the EMF information line on 08457 023270 (local call rate).

Website: [www.emfs.info](http://www.emfs.info).

### GAS EMERGENCY

■ 0800 111999.

## UPDATE

Key stories from National Grid and its nationwide grantor network

**WELCOME** *It's been an eventful few months since we brought you the last edition of Gridline, so there's plenty to tell you about in this one. First of all, though, thank you to all those who responded to our request for land ownership details. We're continually updating our databases, so please let us know if your details are incorrect. For all grantors, but mainly our rural grantors, probably the biggest issue of the year has been the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the south of England. On pages 6 to 9 of this issue, we examine how the outbreak affected you and National Grid, and we hear from Fred Landeg, acting chief veterinary officer at Defra.*



*This year also saw the 20th anniversary of the Great Storm, which devastated huge swathes of southern England. We hear from those who were affected and those who were working that night on pages 10 and 11. Finally, we'd like to introduce you to Clare White as the new editor of Gridline. If you've got any news you'd like to share with other grantors, don't hesitate to get in touch with Clare. Contact details are on the back page.*

*Hector Pearson, land and development stakeholder and policy manager*

Look out for Open Farm Sunday, a national open farm day co-ordinated by Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF). Farms across the country open for one day in June and invite people on to their farms to see and hear the positive steps farmers are taking to look after the countryside, while producing safe, wholesome and affordable food. To get involved or to find out more about Open Farm Sunday, visit [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).





## Editor's comments



Seasons greetings from the winter 2007 edition of Gridline, National Grid's magazine for grantors from the Land and Development team.

In particular, we welcome the company's gas pipeline grantors, who are receiving this publication for the very first time.

On pages 16 and 17, we provide you with direct contact for answers to any queries or issues you may have regarding any National Grid pylons, pipes or cables on your land.

We also look at the huge investment National Grid is making in its electricity and gas transmission networks. Some of the projects are featured on pages 12 and 13. Thanks

*Clare White*  
Gridline editor

## Quick response rewarded

Sending in details for a new database earns farmer a £50 voucher and paves the way for other grantors to follow suit

Jim Meikle (pictured above left), owner of East Banglour Farm in West Lothian, was among 12 lucky winners who were rewarded for responding quickly to a request for land ownership details, to be submitted for a new centralised National Grid database.

The database brings together information previously held in regional locations and contains details on 11,000 individual owners and occupiers, associated with 26,000 parcels

of land along the route of gas transmission pipelines. The prize for being first out of the hat was a £50 high street shopping voucher.

"It is vital to keep track of owner/occupier details along the entire length of the pipelines, so that we can contact the right person when maintenance is required," said Rob Greaves, National Grid asset protection officer. "It also enables us to communicate our 'safe working in the vicinity of pipelines' message."

### Path of history

A historic Roman road has been discovered during work on National Grid's £840 million gas pipeline in South Wales.

The road was found as digging began in the Brecon Beacons, on the 190-mile pipeline from Milford Haven to Gloucestershire. A section of the road – which is estimated to date from the first century AD – will be lost to the pipeline but other sections will be preserved.

“Despite extensive archaeological surveys, which took more than 15 months to complete, and the close proximity of a Roman fort, there was initially no evidence that a road existed in this particular area of the pipeline,” said Neil Fairburn, archaeology project manager for National Grid (pictured below).

Lying about 18 inches below the surface, the road is in good condition and in places it's possible to see where carts have been pressed down on the stone.

#### DISCOVERING BURIED TREASURE: THE FACTS

» Finders of objects more than 300 years old, and which contain at least 10 per cent of gold or silver, have a legal obligation under the terms of the 1996 Treasure Act to report items to the local coroner.

» Prehistoric precious metal items found after 1 January 2003 also qualify as treasure.



## Caution: Slow vehicle ahead

Massive transformer delivered for new Lincolnshire substation

Two huge 140-tonne transformers have been transported to the site of a new substation at Bicker Fen in Lincolnshire, which is being constructed to secure future power supplies for the East Midlands. The deliveries, which took place in August and September, were made possible by a specially constructed girder frame trailer, hauled by two tractor units, with an overall length of 65 metres and a total of 112 wheels.

The transformers were shipped by sea from

the Continent to Boston in the UK, before embarking on their six-hour journey to their final resting place at Bicker Fen 10 miles away.

“Moving pieces of equipment of this size is a major logistical exercise,” said project manager Terry Collins. “We constructed a haulage road to enable construction traffic to bypass the village of Bicker and upgraded a 3km stretch of road and existing bridge near the substation.”

The completion date for the new substation is April 2008.

### National Grid goes transatlantic

Following regulatory approval of its merger with KeySpan in North America, National Grid is not only the largest utility company in the UK but is also the second largest utility in the United States.

The merger was approved in August 2007,

after a thorough review process by the New York State Public Service Commission, which lasted well over a year. It means National Grid now has around 28,000 employees across its operations. About 65 per cent are based in the US.

### DON'T MISS OUT

National Grid will be attending a number of county shows in 2008, starting with the **Devon County Show from 15 to 17 May**. National Grid will invite grantors affected by its major projects for hospitality. See the next issue for a full list of shows to be attended.



GREEN: Guests plant a rare Chinese Hornbeam at Kew Gardens

### From small acorns

Volunteers and local co-ordinators from the Tree Warden Scheme were among guests at a special reception in Kew Gardens to mark the 20th anniversary of the Great Storm.

The scheme was set up by the Tree Council as a national volunteer network of active local tree champions, who act as the eyes and ears for trees in their local communities.

National Grid has supported the scheme since 1997. Today, there are about 7,500 Tree Wardens in 138 local networks across Britain, together donating 1.8 million hours a year to local trees. See page 10 for the special feature on the Great Storm.



## High profile... by design

Improved marker posts highlight pipeline safety

During the next 12 months, National Grid is introducing a new style of surface marker post to identify the route taken by high-pressure gas transmission pipelines.

To date, there has been no consistency in the design of posts employed for this purpose, and the new version will provide a distinctive National Grid identity for the whole gas transmission system. Made of lightweight plastic, the posts will not cause damage to equipment if accidentally struck during activities such as hedge cutting.

The high-pressure gas transmission pipelines are buried between 1 and 1.5 metres underground and there are more than 7,000km of them nationwide.

“The posts act as a warning and

reminder of the presence of the pipelines, in order to prevent accidental damage,” said asset protection officer Rob Greaves. “Each post is numbered and has an orange sticker detailing the National Grid emergency contact number.”

Any landowner or occupier planning to carry out activities, such as excavation work or tree planting, in the vicinity of a pipeline should contact the Asset Protection team on 0800 731 2961. They should also consult National Grid before carrying out cultivation to a depth of more than 0.5 metres.

Remember that pipelines do not always run in straight lines. If owners/occupiers have any doubt about the location of a pipeline – or if any markers have been damaged – contact the Asset Protection team.



# CRISIS

## in the countryside

Many farmers and rural companies went out of business as a result of the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease epidemic. So the news of another outbreak in August sent shudders through the farming community

Following the outbreak of eight cases of foot-and-mouth disease in Surrey and Berkshire during August and September, a range of controls and restrictions were put in place by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to help prevent the spread of the disease.

As if foot-and-mouth wasn't bad enough for farmers, the past few months have also seen outbreaks of Bluetongue disease and H5N1 avian influenza, affecting large parts of southern England.

Bluetongue is caused by a virus spread by midges and affects animals that chew the cud, such as sheep and cattle. Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease affecting the respiratory, digestive and/or nervous system of many species of bird – including wild

birds and domestic poultry. All three outbreaks have required movement restrictions, biosecurity precautions and other control measures.

Guidelines issued by the National Grid Land and Development team to employees and contractors echoed the commitment in the company's Working for You publication. This states 'take all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of animal and plant diseases'.

National Grid had two substations very close to the foot-and-mouth outbreak in Surrey – Chessington, just outside the surveillance zone, and West Weybridge, in the protection zone.

"Fortunately, we had just finished

## £8 billion

– the estimated cost to the UK of the 2001 epidemic

# 6,000,000

– the number of animals slaughtered during the 2001 foot-and-mouth epidemic

refurbishment work on the overhead transmission line from Chessington to West Weybridge when the foot-and-mouth outbreak was confirmed,” said lands officer Paul Sage. “The line passes through the land of two grantors – whose dairy farms were subsequently placed in the 10km surveillance zone.

“Unless absolutely necessary, we avoid carrying out work within protection and surveillance zones during an outbreak. We

monitor the situation closely via the Defra website for changes in zone boundaries or other developments,” added Paul.

Projects which were already under construction on third party land outside the affected areas went ahead as normal – while also abiding by any requested biosecurity measures. Seven-day notice letters about new work also ask grantors to stipulate any measures that needed taking.

“We fully understand that the recent crisis was a very worrying time for farmers and other landowners affected or threatened by foot-and-mouth,” said Geoff Smale, regional delivery manager for southeast England.

“Our priority throughout is to be sensitive to the needs of grantors in the farming community while, of course, carrying out our statutory obligations to maintain the national gas and electricity transmission system.”



## FACING THE CRISIS HEAD ON



The impact of foot-and-mouth disease has been very real for farmer and National Grid grantor Barry Sutton. He runs a beef, sheep and cereals business at Arbrook Farm in Surrey, which found itself deep in the surveillance zone at the time of the outbreak.

Only eight miles away at Ripley, farm cattle were culled after the virus was found.

Barry, who runs the farm with his son Duncan, took over the 900-acre business 30 years ago.

“The foot-and-mouth outbreak came

along at the worst possible time,” said Barry. “The crisis began in Surrey just as the breeding season started in August, and the restrictions on movement meant we weren’t able to introduce rams, or the bull we bring in from Hampshire, until November.

“That severely damaged our chances of producing a decent lamb crop next year – which is worth £20,000 a year to the business.

“In addition, August and September are when we normally sell the animals, so that had a big impact on cash flow. With the ban in place, we had to keep feeding our livestock, while being completely unable to earn a living.

“And when we were finally able to send lambs for slaughter last month, prices had dropped dramatically due to the sudden surge in supply.”

Despite all the present frustrations, Barry said that farming has given him a good lifestyle over the past 30 years. “I’m sure we will weather this storm as we have problems in the past,” he said.

# Q&A

## TACKLING FOOT-AND-MOUTH

**Fred Landeg**, acting chief veterinary officer at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), outlines the threat from foot-and-mouth disease and the department’s approach to containing this summer’s outbreak

**Q What is foot-and-mouth and why is it so important to control?**

**A** It is an infectious disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, in particular cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, as well as deer and some zoo animals. While foot-and-mouth is not normally fatal to adult animals, it is debilitating and causes significant loss of productivity. In young animals it can be fatal.

**Q How is it spread?**

**A** Animals pick up the virus either by direct contact with an infected animal or by contact with people, vehicles and things contaminated with faeces, urine or other secretions from an infected animal. The virus may also be carried on the wind and may survive in meat or meat products derived from an infected animal.

**Q Why is it so important to cull all affected animals?**

**A** The slaughter of susceptible animals on an infected premises is a requirement under the Animal Health Act 1981. To try to stop the spread of the disease, our control policy is the slaughter of these animals and those identified as dangerous contacts.

Emergency vaccination would be considered if it was thought that additional measures were required to control the disease.

**Q What would be the impact on the economy if the outbreak spread, and how confident are you that it has been contained?**

**A** The consequences to the economy would be very serious. However, evidence at the present time gives a degree of confidence that the disease is currently contained within the restricted area of Surrey, and all current measures are focused on ensuring this remains the case.

**Q What has changed since 2001 that makes it easier to contain an outbreak?**

**A** It is important to learn the lessons from any outbreak and we have done so following 2001. We have a clear published contingency plan with agreed structures, roles and responsibilities to be implemented in an outbreak. Government agencies work closely together from the start of any outbreak, in partnership with local authorities, the police, and industry and other stakeholders. There is also an emphasis on open and transparent information sharing with the public.

Emergency vaccination is another option to us, although the decision so far is it would



“**Our message to farmers, as always, is to remain vigilant and immediately report suspicion of disease**”

not be effective in the current epidemiological circumstances. We also have a clear disposal process and contracts in place for commercial plant incineration and rendering, so that pyres or the burial of carcasses on farms is unnecessary.

**Q What are the key messages that need to be taken onboard?**

**A** Our message to farmers, as always, is to remain vigilant and immediately report suspicion of disease to Animal Health, and to operate the highest standards of biosecurity.

The countryside remains open and there are no restrictions on people going about their ordinary business, unless they are on an infected premises.

**Q Why hasn’t the countryside been ‘closed down’ as it was in 2001?**

**A** The key lesson learned was that the countryside should be left open to the public. There is a balance to be struck between the need to control foot-and-mouth and the need to enable the public to have continued access to the countryside. We also need to ensure that other important industries, such as tourism, are not unnecessarily affected.

# Winds of change

October marked the 20th anniversary of the Great Storm of 1987, which devastated huge tracts of southern England, felled 15 million trees and caused the death of 18 people. Gridline talked to a National Grid employee and a grantor caught up in the day's events.

“**A**nd to the lady from Wales who rang to say she'd heard a hurricane was on the way, don't worry, there isn't, but it will be extremely windy, particularly across the south.” So said weather forecaster Michael Fish on the evening of 15 October 1987, in words that have become one of the most infamous quotes in TV weather forecasting. In the ensuing hours, the most severe storm for nearly 300 years raged across the southern half of the UK.

The storm made landfall in Cornwall in the early hours before tracking northeast towards Devon and up to the Midlands, going out to sea via The Wash. The strongest gust in the country was recorded as 122mph at Gorleston, Norfolk.

Whole forests were left decimated. One third of the trees at Kew Gardens were uprooted, as were six of the seven famous oak trees in Sevenoaks. Fallen trees blocked railways and roads and brought down power lines, leaving hundreds of thousands of homes without power for more than 24 hours, and in some cases much longer.

Despite the devastation, experts say that the storm damage opened up undermanaged woodlands, letting in light and leaving valuable dead wood habitats open, which created opportunities for a wider variety of bird and insect life.

Since the storm, there have been considerable improvements in the capacity of supercomputers, as well as the use of new forecasting models that give a more realistic simulation of how the atmosphere works. As a result, extreme weather events can be predicted much more accurately.

## THE LINESMAN

Phil Burgess, a lands officer in the Southeast Delivery team, was a linesman for the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) back in 1987. He was on the front line of the clean-up operation after the Great Storm.

“I remember waking up in the early hours of the morning to this incredible howling noise. Part of the roof came off the house and I couldn't even get the car out of the drive because of all the debris,” he said.

“We managed to get the CEGB assets back in working order quite quickly, and then we joined the Eastern Electricity Board (EEB) overhead line teams who were working to get the low-voltage distribution lines back onstream.

“There were scores of linesmen descending on the area and I remember meeting people from as far away as Wales and Sunderland.

“Most of our work focused on removing fallen trees using chainsaws and clearing the timber. We had a couple of platform lorries which we used to help us remove

**“I remember waking up... to this incredible howling noise”**



**15,000,000**  
– the estimated number of trees felled during the Great Storm

trees and assist the EEB overhead linesmen carrying out repairs.”

The storm also left a whole row of wooden 33kV poles in the Pitsea Marshes area standing at a crazy angle. “A helicopter was called in to straighten up the poles and we helped to compact the surrounding ground, which had become quite waterlogged after recent rain,” said Phil.

“A lot of trees still had a full canopy of leaves which, together with the soggy ground, must have helped to topple them.

“It was very hard – working from dawn to dusk for two or three days – but there was a very strong team spirit and a determination to get the job done.”

## THE GRANTOR

Commercial willow growers JS Wright & Sons lost at least 2,000 willow trees to the ferocious winds that struck the southeast of England on 15 October 1987. But the full impact of the night did not make itself apparent until much later, according to chairman of the company Nick Wright (pictured right with some of the trees which have grown up since the storm). The business was founded by Nick's grandfather in 1894 and today delivers more than 400,000 'sawn blades' a year to cricket bat manufacturers for finishing. “It was only two or three years after the storm that we discovered the residual damage to the timber, which had occurred from trees being whipped around by the wind,” said Nick. “Thankfully, the Great Storm didn't affect production as dramatically as was feared. In the years after the Second World War, the company established relationships with a large number of landowners, which greatly expanded the number of people growing willow, and this paid off 20 or 30 years later. We also planted a lot of new trees in the aftermath of the storm and these are now at exactly the right age for felling.”



# Making all the right connections

25%

the proportion of New York's electricity needs supplied by National Grid

By 2012, National Grid will have spent £16 billion renewing and expanding the electricity and gas transmission networks. Here are a few examples of the type of work involved

## PELHAM TO WALPOLE OVERHEAD LINE REFURBISHMENT

» **When:** The project was started in 2005 and has recently been completed.

» **Why:** National Grid refurbished the 94km 400kV line between Walpole in Cambridgeshire and Pelham in Hertfordshire to secure power supplies to East Anglia.

» **What:** The work involved pulling more than 1,600km of new line on to 253 pylons, as well as fitting new insulators and line spacers, and carrying out pylon maintenance. The line crosses 40 roads – including the M11 – five railway lines, six waterways, and 99 footpaths and bridleways.

The M11 motorway caused a particular challenge because the project team had to use a system of pulleys, instead of scaffolding, to place the new lines over the carriageways.

» **Lie of the land:** “Twenty-two pylons alone were located on agricultural land belonging to the Audley End estate and the line also runs through a stud farm near Newmarket racecourse,” said Barry Cullimore, lands officer south east.



## IRON ACTON TO WHITSON OVERHEAD LINE REFURBISHMENT

» **When:** August 2007 to December 2008.

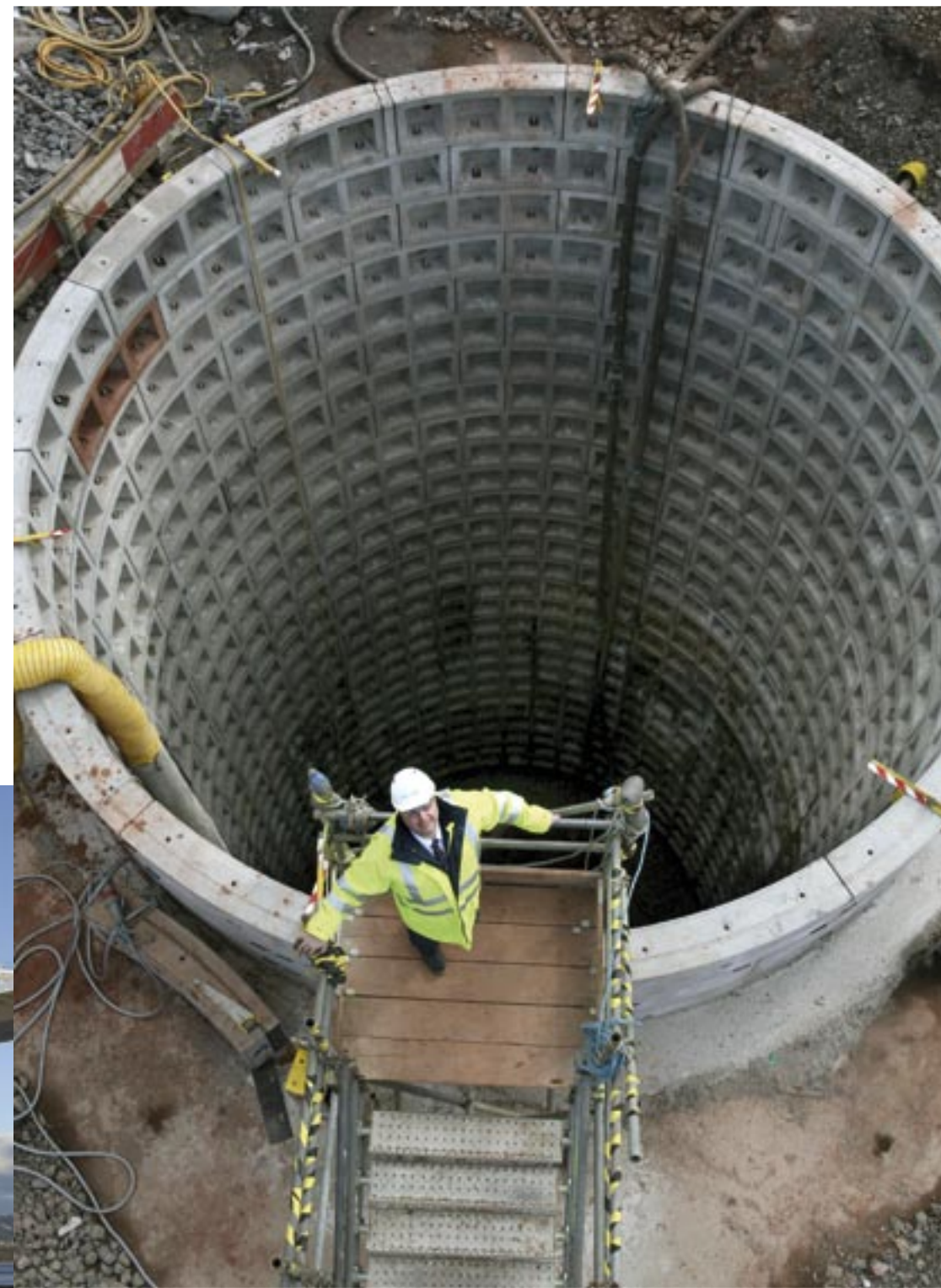
» **Why:** Refurbishment is necessary on the 275kV overhead electricity transmission line that runs between Iron Acton, near Bristol, to Whitson, close to Newport.

» **What:** All 117 pylons on the 30km route are being refurbished.

» **Lie of the land:** So far, most work has

been on the Welsh side of the River Severn, where the route crosses some Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Drainage ditches are a feature of the landscape and they support a variety of aquatic plants and animals including water voles, dragonflies and otters.

“Extensive consultations were held with the Countryside Council for Wales,” said Simon Gronow, lands officer south west. “Special consent is required to work close to creatures like these and we always take care not to disturb their habitat.”



## SOUTH WEST REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

» **When:** The first section of the 73km gas transmission pipeline (Ilchester to Barrington) was laid in 2006 and work on the rest of the pipeline to Lyneham is due to be completed by the end of 2007.

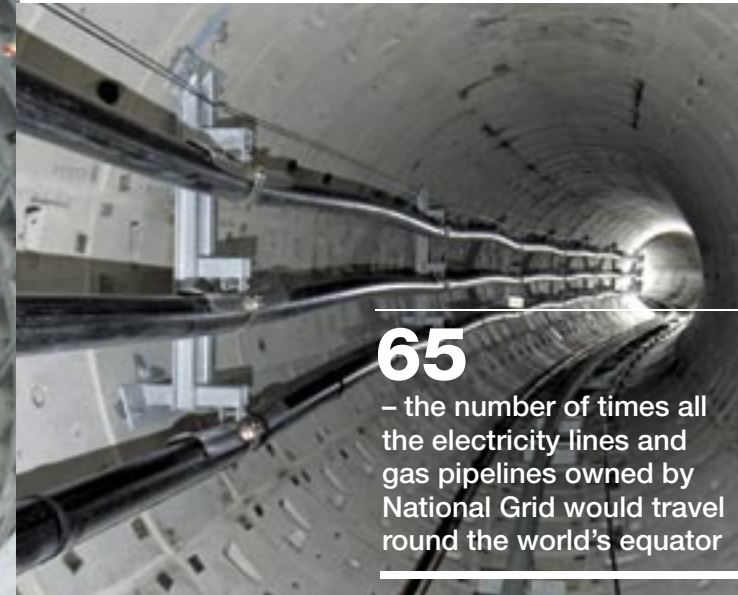
» **Why:** National Grid is constructing a new 600mm diameter pipeline through Somerset and Devon in a multi-million pound project to meet increasing demand for energy in the region, and to supply a new power station at Langage, Plymouth.

» **What:** On the Aylesbeare to Kenn

section, National Grid is working with contractors to build a 1.8km tunnel beneath the River Exe, two railway lines and an SSSI. A 200-tonne boring machine is cutting the tunnel to a maximum depth of 30m below the riverbed.

» **Lie of the land:** The new gas pipe crosses land owned by around 200 individual grantors.

“An extensive consultation process was carried out with the Environment Agency, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Devon Wildlife Trust, and river user groups before the project began,” said senior project manager Ian Sarson (pictured above).



65

– the number of times all the electricity lines and gas pipelines owned by National Grid would travel round the world's equator

## CROYDON CABLE TUNNEL PROJECT

» **When:** Started November 2006 and due to finish in 2011.

» **Why:** A 10km tunnel is being built between substations at Beddington and Rowdown, under the London Borough of Croydon, to reinforce the network in London and the south east. The project is to replace existing 275kV cables laid under the highway in the 1960s.

» **What:** Located at a depth of 30-90m below the surface, the tunnel is cut using a boring machine – with prefabricated concrete sections inserted afterwards.

» **Lie of the land:** The tunnel mainly follows the route of existing roads. The project team consulted closely with the local council, elected councillors, MPs and several community groups before submitting planning applications for the head-houses that sit above access shafts, placed at approximately 4km intervals.

“Constructing a tunnel makes it unnecessary to dig up the highway in an already congested area,” said Simon Pepper, consents officer south east. “Cables are easier to maintain and extra circuits can be added if needed. Due to their relatively high cost, tunnels are not always the best option, but they do provide a good long-term and sustainable solution in dense urban areas, where very extensive road excavations or new overhead lines are not feasible.”

# Furrowly well done

Around 200 of the country's top ploughmen were at Crokey Hill, near York, recently for a highlight of the farming calendar – the National Ploughing Championships, sponsored by National Grid

Organised by the Society of Ploughmen, it was the first time the championships had returned to North Yorkshire for 36 years. Visitors were able to view all types of ploughing, from the conventional and reversible work, to vintage tractors. The

magnificent heavy horses, in their ornate finery, were another big crowd-puller. Meanwhile, at the sharp end of the competition, the leading ploughmen were battling for the supreme honour – the British national title.

## ROBERT MAKES IT FIVE-IN-A-ROW

Travelling to this year's national championships was the easy part for Yorkshireman Robert Laybourn, who had only a short journey to make from his parents' home at Elmsall Lodge Farm, near Pontefract.

Up against him in the National Young Farmers' Conventional Ploughing Championships were 16 competitors from as far away as Devon and Cumbria.

But the 24 year-old, who teaches hands-on farming skills at Bishop Burton college, has previous form in these championships. After finishing third in the National Young Farmers' section four years ago, he won the title in 2004 and 2005 before being pipped to the post last year.

Robert's father – also called Robert – is a National Grid grantor with 950 acres of land which is devoted largely to arable farming.

"There's quite a lot of pressure on the competitors because only the winner goes through to the plough-off next day, against 12 other qualifiers from the other conventional ploughing classes," explained Robert senior.

The competition itself lasts for more than four hours – with the ploughmen frequently stopping their tractors to check their line and adjust plough settings in the quest



PLOUGHMEN: Father and son discuss tactics

for the perfect furrow. The judges look at how straight the furrow is, how uniform the ploughing is, how neat it is, and that all weeds and stubble are buried well.

"You need a lot of patience, a good eye for detail and the ability to maintain your focus over a long period of time," said Robert junior.

Judging of the competition involves a complex scoring system and the results are not announced for another three hours. Robert was placed third – the fifth time he has finished in the top three.

Robert's father, who takes part in local vintage tractor ploughing competitions, said that he was proud of his son's performance, which is all the more creditable because he doesn't get much time to practise.

Robert senior said: "He qualified for these championships in October last year, but has only competed once in 2007 because of work commitments. He is the main tractor driver on the college farm and helps us out at harvest time, but that's commercial ploughing – a different skill altogether."

Robert junior, who is vice-chairman of the Pontefract Young Farmers' Club, admits that eyebrows are sometimes raised when friends from outside farming hear about his ploughing exploits. "But they become a lot more interested when you explain all the complexities involved," he added.



# Your key contacts

**CENTRAL OPERATIONS TEAM**  
TEL NO: 01926 655884

**CENTRAL DATABASE & PAYMENTS ADMINISTRATORS**



**SOUTH WEST TEAM**  
TEL NO: 01452 316059

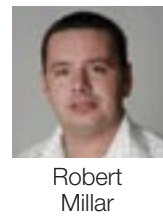
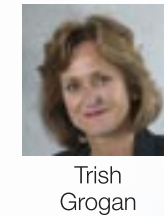
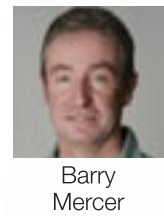
**CONSENTS OFFICER**



**LANDS OFFICERS**



**ADMINISTRATOR**



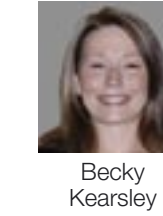
**NORTH WEST AND SCOTLAND TEAM**  
The North West and Scotland team cover North Wales to Scotland, including Lancashire and Cumbria.

**NORTH WEST AND SCOTLAND TEAM**  
TEL NO: 0161 776 0706

**LANDS OFFICERS**

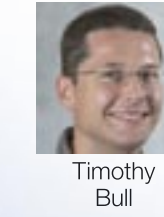


**ADMINISTRATOR**



**EAST TEAM**  
TEL NO: 01132 908235

**CONSENTS OFFICER**



**LANDS OFFICERS**



**ADMINISTRATOR**



**EAST TEAM**  
The East team extend from Buckinghamshire to the Scottish border, including Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

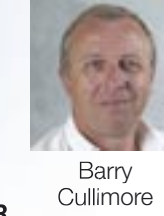
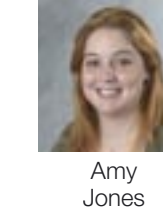
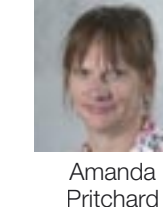
**SOUTH EAST TEAM**  
The South East team cover East Anglia to Kent and Sussex, including London and the Home Counties.

**SOUTH EAST TEAM**  
TEL NO: 01268 642028

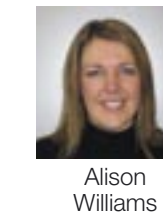
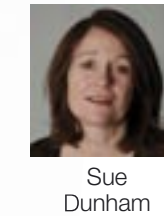
**CONSENTS OFFICER**



**LANDS OFFICERS**



**ADMINISTRATOR**



## PROFILES



**PICTURE THE SCENE:** Examples of winter photography

### Enter our photo competition

Gridline is offering readers the chance to win 12 bottles of wine, courtesy of National Grid grantor Camel Valley Wines. Simply send in a favourite photo taken by you and judges will choose the best image. This month's theme is winter. From frosty fields to snow-clad hills, the possibilities are endless. Send prints\* to: Gridline photo competition, 122 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4QY. Or email images to; [gridline@uk.ngrid.com](mailto:gridline@uk.ngrid.com). Closing date: 1 February 2008.

\*Regretfully submitted prints cannot be returned. Visit [www.camelvalley.com](http://www.camelvalley.com) for more details on their wine.

## Project **Watch:** South West

# Special measures

How are the Marchwood project team ensuring that local salmon are not affected by noise pollution?

National Grid's project team are being careful to avoid disturbing the delicate ecosystem of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) during the Marchwood overhead line refurbishment project, which is taking place near Southampton.

The project involves the refurbishment of a 2km stretch of overhead transmission line and its connection to a new 936-megawatt gas fired power station.

National Grid is refurbishing seven existing pylons, re-routing the line and replacing two existing pylons in the SSSI.

"The route crosses environmentally sensitive areas of salt marsh near the River Test, which act as an over-wintering ground for birds, and support a variety of flora and fauna," said Richard Biggs, lands officer south west. "During the consenting

process, we consulted with Natural England and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to minimise the environmental impact of the work."

Project manager Ian Timms added: "We were given a three-month window to complete the work in the SSSI and during the foundation pile-driving activities, decibel levels in the River Test were monitored to ensure that salmon moving upstream to spawning grounds were not adversely affected."



### IT'S A FACT

Marchwood Power Station will be connected to the main gas hub at Lockerley, Salisbury, by a 14-mile pipeline being constructed by ESB International



"The colder climate means the bulbs are not so susceptible to disease"

**SCOTTISH PRIDE:** (left to right) Ken with Olga the daffodil picker team leader, and Dram the dog

# Riot of spring colour

The 55,000 acres of daffodils grown by Ken Barclay at his Townhead Farm in Aberdeenshire are a vivid sight in spring

National Grid grantor Ken and his brother Brian together farm a total of 2,000 acres in Laurencekirk, near Montrose in Scotland.

Although Scotland may not immediately suggest itself as a daffodil-growing stronghold, the region actually has a lot going for it.

"The colder climate means the bulbs are not so susceptible to disease, while the red sandstone soil holds the moisture well and is ideal for growing daffodils," explained Ken.

The brothers have produced daffodils on their land for 26 years. Their crop is marketed through Montrose-based Grampian Growers co-operative, which exports bulbs to the United States and Europe, and supplies cut flowers to supermarket chains and wholesalers in the UK.

"The cut flower season starts in Cornwall and then moves northwards to Lincolnshire, with

Scottish plants in flower about 10 days later," said Ken.

The farm produces nine different varieties of daffodil, with such colourful names as Golden Ducat and Holland Sensation. Varieties are selected to provide a good mix of bulbs that provide a long flowering season.

Daffodil growing follows a three-year cycle, with stems only picked in the second and third years. During the harvesting years, the stems will be picked on three occasions – it's crucial that the flowers are cut before any colour is showing.

A proportion of the bulbs are dug up between July and September, and undergo a drying process and grading before being dispatched to Grampian Growers. The brothers plant around 10 tonnes of bulbs per acre in August each year to replenish the crop.

## Caught red-handed

Farmer John Townroe and lands officer east Simon Booth were more than a match for thieves, who were stealing cable and other materials from a site where an overhead line refurbishment was taking place.

A total of 124 pylons were being refurbished on the 40km-long High Marnham to Chesterfield route in Nottinghamshire. At the time of the incident, contractors were working in fields containing three pylons on John's 500-acre Westfield House Farm at Warsop, near Mansfield.

"After the thefts, we also discovered wheel tracks at the site, which were not those of our contractors," said Simon. "After speaking to John, I arranged for gates and fencing to be installed to block three access roads and secure the site."

As luck would have it, John's 20-year-old son, Alexander – out with friends – later spotted men in a white transit van behaving suspiciously in a local lay-by. The police were alerted and the men were later caught red-handed stealing scaffolding at another site.



**TEAM EFFORT:** (left to right) Alexander, John and Simon

To contact Gridline either:

☎ 01926 654948

✉ gridline@uk.ngrid.com

📍 122 Warwick Street, Leamington, Warwickshire, CV32 4QY.

# Investing in bricks and mortar

Gridline talks to farmer Arthur Watson about his success in property development

Heddon Banks Farm has been the family home since Arthur's grandfather bought it in 1923. It is situated in the historic village of Heddon-on-the-Wall, near Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland.

**Q Why property development?**

**A** We got into it gradually, starting with the refurbishment of a derelict outbuilding close to the farmhouse. From those early days, we now have a total of 14 houses locally that we rent out as short-term lets.

**Q Do you do much of the work yourself?**

**A** I do a lot of the heavy work myself but employ local tradesmen to complete the specialist jobs. We utilise traditional materials as much as possible – we're using some beautiful reclaimed stone from the old Newcastle General Hospital in our current project.

**Q What kind of people rent?**

**A** We're only seven miles from Newcastle and the local airport, which is very convenient for business people. They are also attracted by the beautiful views of the Tyne Valley.

**Q Do you still farm the land?**

**A** We grow wheat, barley and oilseed rape crops,



INVEST: (r-l) Arthur and wife Karen, pictured outside his latest project

but a local contractor now takes care of all the ploughing, sowing, spraying and combine harvesting. Our involvement is limited to loading the crop on the lorries.

**Q What's been your experience as a National Grid grantor?**

**A** We have two electricity transmission lines on our land and a total of eight pylons. National

Grid is very good about giving us advance notice when it needs access.

**Q How do you see the future?**

**A** More people have got into renting property and the yields are not what they were. But as far as farming is concerned, the outlook for arable crops looks rosy as there is higher demand and, therefore higher prices.

**WIN**  
A FABULOUS  
WEEKEND  
BREAK



## GET AWAY FROM IT ALL WITH BRITANNIA HOTELS

Britannia Hotels is offering one lucky Gridline reader the chance to win a fantastic weekend break for two (including breakfast) at one of its 33 UK hotels\*.

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is answer the question below and send your answer to: Gridline Britannia competition, 122 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4QY. Or email; gridline@uk.ngrid.com. Competition deadline is: 1 February 2008.

**Q How much will National Grid have spent on renewing and refurbishing**

**the gas and electricity transmission networks by 2012?**

Britannia Hotels is offering some fantastic January sales rates. Available during January 2008, the offer is two nights, dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation from only £25 per person per night (based on two sharing).

These two-night breaks offer great-value stays across all Britannia hotels. For a full list of hotels and to book, visit [www.britanniahotels.com](http://www.britanniahotels.com).

\*Strictly subject to availability