

# GRIDLINE

*The magazine for landowners*

*Summer 2016*

## Heritage man

The forester born 200 years too late

## Therapy for dogs

How water is giving man's best friend a new lease of life



## *Fancy a* **cuppa?**

## Inside

“I’m restoring the family castle”

**The forest children: new centres take learning outdoors**

WIN one of two unusual getaways

The grantor striving to make sure England's best-loved tradition remains rooted firmly on home soil

## Some useful contact numbers

The Land & Business Support team are 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.

The group acts as the main interface for landowners who have gas and electricity equipment installed on their land. Your local contacts are listed below.

### ELECTRICITY AND GAS

» Land teams – all regions  
0800 389 5113

### WAYLEAVE PAYMENTS

» For information on wayleave payments, telephone the payments helpline on 0800 389 5113

### CHANGE OF DETAILS

» To inform National Grid of changes in ownership or contact details, telephone 0800 389 5113 for electric and 01926 654844 for gas, or email [grantorservices@nationalgrid.com](mailto:grantorservices@nationalgrid.com)

### ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

» 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: [emfs.info](http://emfs.info)

### GAS EMERGENCY

» 0800 111 999

### DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

» Before carrying out any work in the vicinity of gas pipelines, overhead power lines or underground electric cables, you should contact Plant Protection on 0800 688588 so that searches can be made to determine the exact position of any National Grid assets

### CUSTOMER COMMENTS

» Write to Land & Business Support, National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 6DA. Or email [ld.customercomments@nationalgrid.com](mailto:ld.customercomments@nationalgrid.com)



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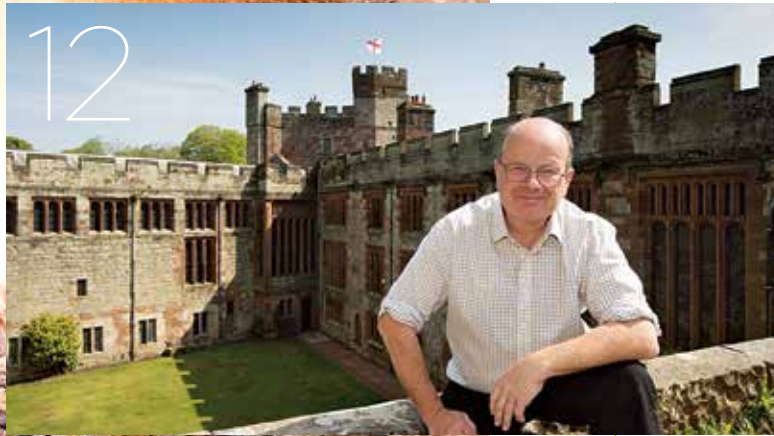
Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place,  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire  
CV32 5AE



16

*If you go down to Simon Damant's woods today you're in for a big surprise. The head forester and grantor is dedicated to keeping tradition alive and sharing his techniques with an increasingly interested public*





# Welcome



**From one of Earl Grey's ancestors growing the nation's only tea to a castle owner restoring hundreds of years of history, England boasts some fascinating characters.**

So once you've read about them in this edition, why not find out more at our new Gridline website, where we'll feature added content and more great

pictures, as well as a host of useful information to make being a grantor even more worthwhile?

We've launched the digital extension of your magazine because there simply aren't enough pages to do the great stories our grantors have to tell full justice.

So, for example, if you like the Cornish

tea story, then why not find out how the first example of flat-pack furniture inspired the grantor and his gardener to plant here in England?

Or if the heritage work of National Trust forester Simon Damant interests you, then find out about his ambitious tree-planting programme at **gridline.nationalgrid.com** – once you've read the magazine, of course.

The Gridline website will also have all the useful information you need to stay in touch with National Grid, update your details or find out about wayleave payments... all in one place.

Turn the page to find out about tea, eco-classrooms, traditional woodcraft, a medieval castle restoration and even paddling pups... then visit the website.

And don't forget, I'd love to hear your ideas for stories so you can feature in the magazine or Gridline online.

**Dawn McCarroll**  
Editor, Gridline

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## ONE-MINUTE INTERVIEW

Glenn Townsend,  
Business Support  
manager, regional land

**BACKGROUND** I joined National Grid on an apprenticeship scheme from school in 1996. I took up my current role in March this year.

**CURRENT FOCUS** Driving efficiencies in the grantor changes process through the introduction of performance excellence methodologies. I'm also getting out to meet the Land teams.

**LEISURE INTERESTS** Football, golf and the gym.

**GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?** My first car at age 17, a Peugeot 205 GTI.

**NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW** I'm a qualified remedial sports masseur.

**FAVOURITE FILM?** Shawshank Redemption or The Usual Suspects.

**DREAM JOB** Professional golfer because you get to travel the world.

**WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?** When I was a child, it was Grotbags from kids' TV programme Emu's Pink Windmill Show (Google it).

**BEST BIT OF ADVICE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN** Put whatever you can afford into the National Grid share save scheme.

**IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME** I'd watch England win the World Cup in 1966.

### BEST AND WORST CHARACTER TRAITS

I'm laid-back and don't often get stressed about anything, but the missus says I have very good selective hearing.

**IDEAL DINNER GUEST** David Attenborough: he'd have so much to say about the world we live in.



National Grid project manager Chris Card with local residents and centre users

## Cash boost for growing community

A community centre has had a makeover, thanks to a £4,000 donation from National Grid.

The money has been used to buy new furniture and equipment for the Yew Tree & Tamebridge Community Centre in Walsall, West

Midlands. Run by residents, it already provides services, activities and classes for local people, but the improved facilities will help attract more private bookings. This will increase the centre's income and help start a year-long gardening project, for the benefit of local children. The donation is from National Grid's Bringing Energy to Life scheme, which provides grants to community projects and charities in areas where it works. The company has been carrying out extensive overhead power line work in the area.

"Maintenance work can cause some disruption and our community grants are our way of saying thank you to residents for their patience," said National Grid's project manager Chris Card.

# NEWSLINE

*The latest news from National Grid and its landowner partners*



### FALSE START FOR PIPELINE WORK

When National Grid engineers realised a charity fun run was set to take place at the same time as work on replacing gas pipes in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, they met council bosses and Great Midlands Fun Run organisers and agreed to postpone the town centre work. The seven weeks of work to replace worn out pipes with maintenance-free ones started later and is due to run until September.

## Keeping a lid on carbon

An ancient peat bog is being restored as part of a project to construct a new substation in South Wales. The National Grid facility at Rhigos will provide a connection for a new 228MW onshore wind farm in Pen y Cymoedd. The condition of the Hirwaun peat bog had deteriorated through historic peat extraction and drainage. A healthy peat bog absorbs and stores carbon, but if it becomes dried out, it will release carbon. Small dams have been installed by consultants Rivage Ltd to restore the bog, by raising



water levels and helping to create new peat-forming bog vegetation, which helps keep the water level close to the surface, making sure the carbon can be stored.

Actively managing our most valuable natural assets through partnerships and guided by local stakeholders is an essential part of our 'natural grid' strategic approach.



## Flower power

**National Grid** employee Caroline Forbes is using her passion for growing eco-friendly flowers to raise funds for her local community centre.

Caroline started growing her own flowers at home after having concerns about how supermarket flowers are produced and the number of miles they travel. In 2013 she started growing on a larger scale and set up a Facebook page called Flowers to the People, with details of flowers for sale, as

well as growing tips and photos.

Last year, Caroline – a process specialist in Gas Distribution – held a wreath-making workshop at St Francis Community Centre, raising £480, which was matched by National Grid to enable the purchase of 80 new chairs.

“It’s a lovely community centre and I used it a lot when my children were little,” she said. “People love hearing about the growing journey and how the flowers are feeding the bees.”



Take a look at Caroline's displays at [www.facebook.com/FTTPhinckley/](http://www.facebook.com/FTTPhinckley/)



## A ground-breaker

**The longest** gas pipeline river crossing in a tunnel anywhere in the world is set to be constructed by National Grid in East Yorkshire.

The new 5km section of pipeline under the River Humber will replace an existing one. Strong tidal currents are moving the protective layers of silt and mud over time. Due to start in summer 2016, the Feeder 9 Humber Replacement project will involve a year of tunnelling using a large tunnel boring machine to create the 3.65-metre diameter tunnel.

An eco-friendly solution has dramatically reduced the carbon footprint of the project and delivered a potential £8 million saving. Instead of using grout to fill the tunnel void around the pipeline, sea water will be used. National Grid will adopt off-shore practices to place a protection system on the pipeline to prevent corrosion and create a safe environment.

## LET'S GO BANANAS!

Fancy joining in with a ballad about broccoli or a song about salad? The BarrowBand is a group of professional actors and musicians from the Environmental Arts Theatre Company who write, perform and sing songs about fruit and veg. The aim is to raise awareness about the need for people – particularly children – to improve their consumption. BarrowBand performs at family events, food and music festivals, children's events, schools and other venues. Their recent album, *Vegetables and Fruit Too*, includes a punk garlic song and the power ballad *Cauliflower*. **For more information go to [thebarrowbandlive.co.uk/wordpress/](http://thebarrowbandlive.co.uk/wordpress/)**



*"Tea has an almost mystical quality and everyone who comes here says the place has a spiritual feel to it"*

# TIME FOR *tea*

.....  
WITH COFFEE  
CULTURE TAKING  
OVER OUR HIGH  
STREETS, A  
CORNISH  
GRANTOR IS  
MAKING A STAND  
BY CHAMPIONING  
THE GOOD OLD  
BRITISH CUPPA  
.....

Whatever possessed a genius to pour hot water over the dried leaves of an evergreen shrub almost 5,000 years ago, we will never know.

The fact that he or she did means we'll mercifully never be short of a cure-all for shock, stress, tiredness and even hangovers.

A cuppa, brew or drop of Rosy Lee, tea is now pretty much the answer to everything and the mainstay of life on our small island, whether it's grey and overcast or uncharacteristically hot.

With the big producers' names and television ads of chimps shifting pianos a part of the nation's identity, it's British to the core.

Or is it? Tea originated in China and was only brought to Europe by the Dutch in 1609. It would be another half a century before diarist Samuel Pepys tried and loved it in a London coffee shop.

Despite its Oriental roots and necessity for a tropical climate, a grantor in Cornwall is now 16 years into a groundbreaking and startlingly successful venture to create the most British tea in history in Tregothnan.

Head gardener Jonathon Jones put the then fantastical suggestion of a tea plantation to The Hon Evelyn Boscawen,

the latest in the family line who have owned a sprawling estate near Truro since 1334, and were the first to import the *Camellia sinensis* shrub into Britain 200 years ago.

Jonathon, now the MD, travelled to plantations around the world to learn why things went wrong. When he noticed that a Magnolia tree planted in the acidic soil and moist, humid air north of the River Fal estuary was flowering earlier than one in Indian tea capital Darjeeling, he knew he was on to something.

"People said it would have been done before in England if it could be, but we weren't deterred," he said: "I'd bring back cuttings from wherever I went, sometimes leaving my clothes behind to make room for them."

The 100-acre plantation silenced its critics with a sip of its first aromatic taste of success, five years after planting the first evergreen – the usual growing rate – and is now propagating 6,000 new bushes a year, all in small tranches as an insurance against damage and disease.

Tregothnan's rolling slopes and tree, bush and palm-lined avenues are adorned with a near constant riot of 400,000 red and pink flowering *Camellia* bushes, alongside giant rhododendrons, bluebells and wild primroses, redolent of a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*.

"There's definitely a special aura about the place and >>



### BE-LEAF IT OR NOT

## 1904

The Americans invented tea bags in 1904

## 60.2bn

Brits drink a staggering 60.2 billion cups a year

## 10,000

Slurp don't sip. The tongue is made up of 10,000 taste buds, so experts suggest we spread the joy

## 3-4 mins

Ideal time tea should be left to brew, but 80% of us can't wait that long!

## 3,200

Tea grows in 52 countries. The oldest tree, in China, is 3,200 years old

## 7%

People can be so fussy about how they take their tea that 7% won't let anyone else make it for them

## 93%

Adding tea to milk began because tea drinkers didn't want to stain or crack their porcelain. Now 93% of tea is taken with milk in the UK

The world's biggest tea drinkers are in Turkey, followed by Ireland and the UK



The tips make white tea, and the lower leaves are used for black and green tea or blended with estate-grown berries for a fruity twist



# British tea



that's enhanced by the product that's produced here. Tea has an almost mystical quality and everyone who comes here says the place has a spiritual feel to it," said Marketing Officer Bella Percy-Hughes.

More than 30 different varieties of tea and infusion are grown from tens of thousands of plants, which flourish in a microclimate almost identical to that enjoyed at the nearby Lost Gardens of Heligan. They include Earl Grey, named after 19th century prime minister and relative Charles Grey, and a single estate tea that will set you back a cool £187 for 125g at Fortnum & Mason.

An army of pickers works between March and October, plucking the tip and bud for the delicate white tea and the lower leaves for black and green tea, which are then rolled to begin the oxidizing process before drying. The total process from picking to teapot takes little over 36 hours.

Bella said: "The single estate is our premium tea because it's pure and not blended with anything else, but in others, such as the English Breakfast, we have to use a percentage of Assam to get the flavour right. None of our teas have added tannins, which are commonly used to darken the colour in most other teas."

The estate boasts Red Berry, Echinacea and Manuka – Tregothnan is the only place outside New Zealand with bushes to create the honey infusion – among its catalogue



## VERDICTS OF THE TEA TEAM & STARS

**1. Bella Percy-Hughes**  
 "Tea is the perfect present for every occasion. Echinacea for a get-well gift, red berry for a baby shower or just the classic for any time you like."

**Anonymous**

"Tea is liquid wisdom"

**2. Poppy Rogers**

"Nothing really beats a cup of tea. It always hits the spot, whatever the time of day."

**John Milton, poet**

"One sip of tea will bathe the drooping spirits in delight"

**3. Alison Cameron**

"There's something magical about tea. It's as if time stops briefly and you regain perspective when you have a cup."

**C.S. Lewis, playwright**

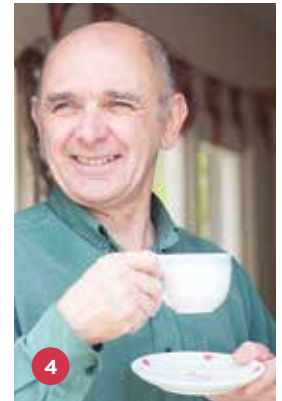
"You can't get a cup of tea big enough or a book long enough to suit me"

**4. Alwyn Keenor**

"I like a nice strong cup, so I go for Churchill's Finest. It's blended to commemorate the lives of the 'few' that fought during the Battle of Britain and 10p from each packet goes to the RAF Benevolent Fund."

**Billy Connolly, comedian**

"Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cosy, doesn't try it on"



and contributes a small but uniquely English-grown 10 of the planet's three-million-tonne harvest.

Its bestselling Classic tea is now taken by Waitrose, high-end hotel chains and is a popular pre-flight purchase for international travellers at airports.

"Despite the fact that tea originated in China and spread to Japan, it is still strongly associated with England, so it's something of a surprise that until Tregothnan started 16 years ago, there was not a single plantation here," said Bella.

"Now we're exporting tea around the world and even to China, after a British government trade visit opened links with traders there and our tea featured in a documentary seen by 600 million viewers."

Jonathon has encountered difficulties along the way as the cynics suggested he would. But the combination of a robust crop and a growing awareness that the English can grow as well as drink the revitalising brew we've adopted as our own would suggest this is more than just a flash in the pan.

We'll drink to that!





# NURTURING NATURE

VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ARE SET TO GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THANKS TO AN EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL GRID AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY

A charity boasting a network of 20 residential and day centres, and a 70-year record of delivering environmental learning opportunities has become a partner of National Grid.

The day-to-day running of Bishops Wood centre was handed over to the Field Studies Council (FSC) charity by Worcestershire County Council in March, paving the way for an exciting new chapter.

Next to an existing substation, the centre near Stourport-on-Severn is the largest of National Grid's four environmental educational sites, set in 70 acres of mixed woodland and meadow areas.

The land and buildings at Bishops Wood continue to be owned and maintained by National Grid. But drawing on the management expertise of FSC is in line with its commitment to operate as a socially and environmentally responsible business, working with specialist partners who can protect and enhance the biodiverse value of the land.

National Grid's network of environmental education centres showcases how the company's energy infrastructure and the environment can co-exist, bring energy to life and provide opportunities for learning about the environment, as well as teach the next generation about energy production, the work of National Grid and its role in inspiring young engineers.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Gill Frankling, head of Bishops Wood centre since 2014, said: "We will continue to deliver creative outdoor learning in support of the National Curriculum, but will also explore new opportunities offered by FSC."

Last year, Bishops Wood hosted around 200 day visit classes from primary schools, as well as greenwood craft and horticulture programmes for 11 to 19-year-olds with challenging behaviours who aren't engaged in traditional schooling.

The centre also organises training courses for teachers, environmental professionals and Forest School leaders, and is a venue for Youth Offending Service work.

Future plans include extending its offering to secondary schools and the provision of nature appreciation and recreation courses for adult learners and families. These are both areas where FSC has particular expertise and a network of experts to lead courses and talks.

The Forest School ethos permeates everything the centre does: that all children should have the opportunity to learn



Above: Young and old will find out more about the countryside when they visit Bishops Wood  
Below: The new eco centre built with sustainably sourced wood has a turf roof and reed bed sewage treatment system



through a hands on-experience within a woodland setting to develop their self-esteem, confidence and other life skills.

"There's more pressure than ever on outdoor learning in a time of financial cutbacks, congested school timetables and emphasis on academic results," said Andy Pratt, who runs FSC's Slapton Ley centre in Devon and is supporting Bishops Wood's transition. He added: "But the work of centres like this are vitally important because children who learn outdoors have a greater incentive to take positive action to protect the natural spaces that we all love."

**Visit [field-studies-council.org/bishopswood](http://field-studies-council.org/bishopswood)**

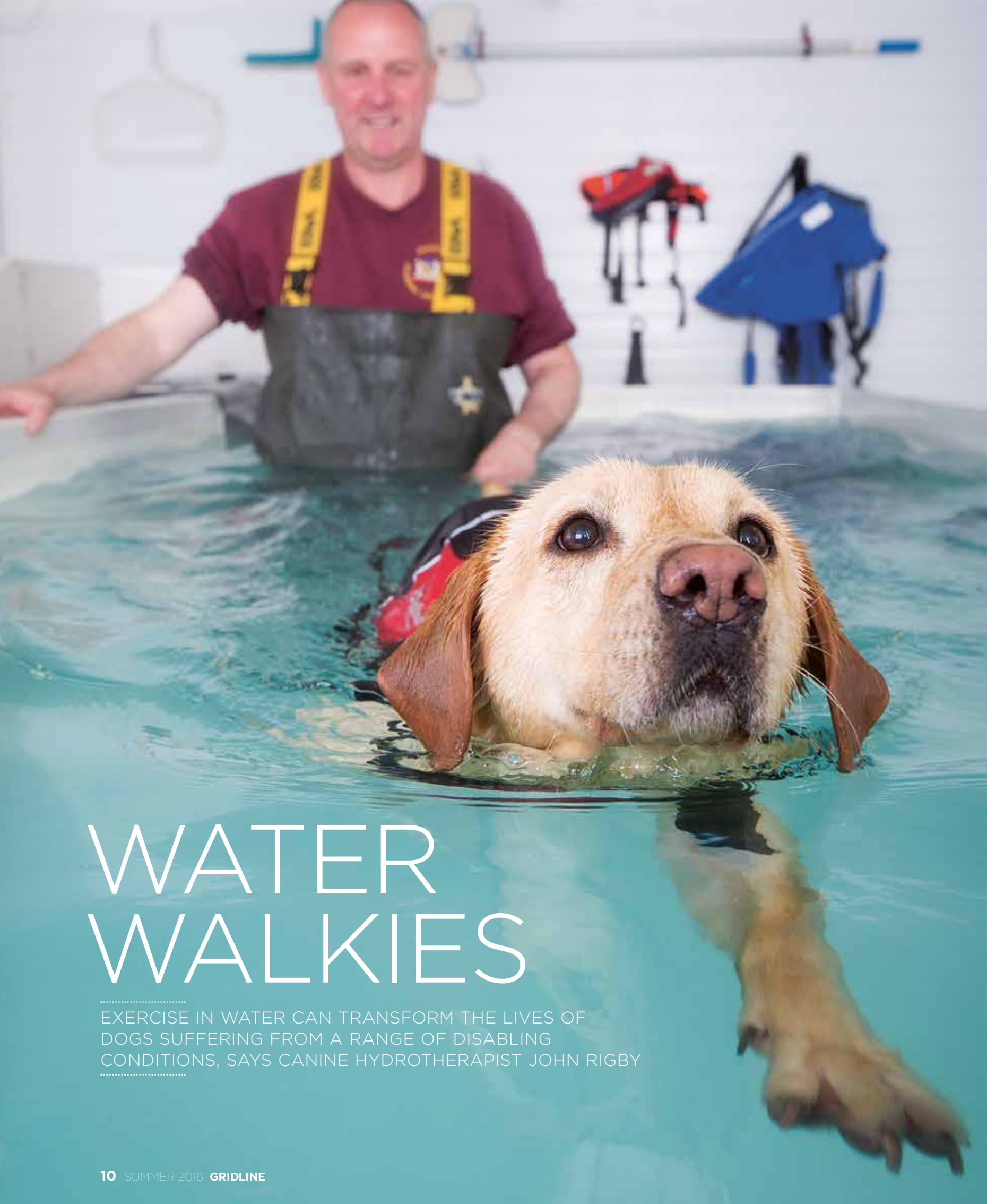
## NATIONAL GRID'S CENTRES

Bishops Wood,  
Worcestershire  
Operated by: FSC  
Size: 70 acres

Iver Environment Centre,  
Buckinghamshire  
Operated by: Groundwork  
South  
Size: 2 acres

West Boldon Environmental  
Centre, South Tyneside  
Operated by: Groundwork  
South Tyneside  
Size: 32 acres

Skelton Grange  
Environmental Education  
Centre, Tyneside  
Operated by: The  
Conservation Volunteers  
Size: 29 acres



# WATER WALKIES

EXERCISE IN WATER CAN TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF  
DOGS SUFFERING FROM A RANGE OF DISABLING  
CONDITIONS, SAYS CANINE HYDROTHERAPIST JOHN RIGBY

The excited, happy expression on the face of Golden Labrador Winnie says it all as she doggy paddles furiously up and down the pool, aches and pains forgotten.

Offering gentle encouragement is John Rigby, who traded in a full-time job as a tanker driver delivering industrial acids in 2005, to open a canine hydrotherapy centre at his family's existing kennels business.

"The family relocated here from Leeds nearly 40 years ago when my dad took up a new job in Liverpool," explained John. "In 1980 we converted the outbuildings and former milking parlour into kennels."

Today, Birchdale Boarding & Grooming, near Frodsham in Cheshire, can accommodate up to 50 dogs and 20 cats, while the grooming parlour run by John's wife Sophie takes up to 60 appointments a week.

"Hydrotherapy for dogs was quite new when we put in the pool, but we knew it would complement our existing services," said John.

"Elite racehorses and greyhounds have enjoyed the benefits for years, but it's now become much more accepted by owners and vets as a treatment for pets. It's also widely available on pet insurance."

A non-weight bearing, zero-impact form of exercise, hydrotherapy provides an ideal way of providing relief from pain and stiffness, building muscle strength and joint mobility, and a better range of movement and increased fitness. It

benefits dogs with conditions from arthritic joints to limbs recovering from injury or surgery and obesity, as well as cardiovascular conditions and some neurological diseases.

"It enables a dog to take part in an enjoyable, controlled swimming exercise in a carefully monitored setting," said John. "The resistance of the water stimulates muscles to work harder, while the hydrostatic pressure promotes circulation and healing."

### POOL MANAGEMENT

Golden Retriever Mandy is a regular visitor. Once so obese that she had to be helped into the back of a car, the weight has fallen off in the pool and she loves outdoor exercise again.

"She's like a new dog," said Ron Poole, who brings her swimming on behalf of the owner. "She loves the pool and can't wait to get in."

Other dogs that have attended include a collie who is a member of the Runcorn flyball team and swims for fitness, and a mixed-Labrador police dog who snapped a cruciate ligament after picking a fight with a bigger dog. Although now retired from the force, the Labrador has regained full mobility.

Before setting up his business, John trained in all aspects of canine hydrotherapy, including first aid, dog anatomy and pool management at the renowned Hawksmoor Hydrotherapy Centre in Warwickshire. He also does 20 hours of refresher courses each year.

Incredibly, there are no statutory training requirements for canine hydrotherapists, but John is registered with the Canine Hydrotherapy Association, which provides self-regulation for the sector, establishing benchmark quality standards and a code of practice. Its 120 members must also have full public liability and professional indemnity insurance.

The 12-foot pool at Birchdale has adjustable anti-swim jets and is equipped with a ramp for easy access, as well as a hoist for animals with reduced mobility, while the dogs wear lifejackets as buoyancy aids.

The water is maintained at a comfortable 28°C to improve muscle efficiency and reduce stiffness, and is tested at least twice a day and treated with chlorine to keep it free from harmful bacteria. Dogs are showered before and after swimming, and air-dried before leaving.

Before a dog attends, the owner is asked to obtain a referral from a vet, detailing any underlying conditions so that John can work with them for the benefit of the patient.

"Treatment is individually tailored to the dog,



*"She's like a new dog. She loves the pool and can't wait to get in!"*

according to the condition being addressed, fitness level, age and breed," said John.

"Initially, swim sessions are kept short while the dog becomes used to the activity, building in duration over time. It may take 10-12 sessions for improvements to become evident.

While some breeds, such as Labradors and Newfoundlands, are natural swimmers, some dogs have to learn how to swim. Squat-nosed breeds such as bulldogs can struggle to get enough breath when working hard in water, while large muscular dogs tend not to float well.

"It gives you a massive buzz when you see dogs getting better with every session – you feel you're making a real difference to the quality of their lives and that of their owners," said John.

"Hydrotherapy is certainly not a passing fad and many dogs have reason to be grateful for its existence, as they would tell you if they could talk," he laughed.



For more information go to [birchdaleboardingandgrooming.co.uk/hydrotherapy](http://birchdaleboardingandgrooming.co.uk/hydrotherapy)



# AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME

RESTORING THE FORTUNES OF A ROMANTIC MEDIEVAL CASTLE ON THE BORDER BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND HAS BECOME THE LIFE'S WORK OF OWNER PHILIP HOWARD

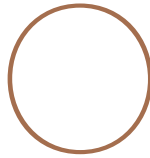


1335

The earliest parts of the castle are built by Ranulph, Lord Dacre of Gilsand, with a licence to crenellate from Edward III

1513

Thomas Lord Dacre is granted estates around Lanercost Priory, recognising his exploits at the battle of Flodden. His new wealth enables him to extend the castle's living quarters



n a rocky promontory above the River Irthing where England meets Scotland, Naworth Castle looks every inch the border stronghold.

The imposing towers, gatehouse and quadrangular courtyard, surrounded by curtain walls up to 8ft thick, must have been a daunting sight for prisoners brought here.

For more than 300 years the Dacre and Howard families dispensed justice as Lord Wardens of the Marches from the fortress in the turbulent border country near the Cumbrian town of Brampton.

“Ranulph Dacre was granted a special licence by Edward III in 1335 to crenellate the walls,” said Philip Howard, the present owner, whose ancestors have lived at Naworth since 1560, when Thomas Howard, the 4th Duke of Norfolk, married into the Dacre family.

“There’s still a tree stump in the grounds where reavers were hung – lawless family gangs for whom raiding and extortion was a way of life,” said Philip. “One of my hero ancestors, Lord William Howard, is said to have strung up 63 Armstrongs in two years.”

Power politics continued to figure large in the Howard story. Six generations spent time in the Tower of London and two were beheaded, while the castle faced its own trials, including a disastrous fire in 1844.

### REVERSING NEGLECT

Philip bought the property and its 2,000-acre estate in 1994 from his father the 12th Earl of Carlisle, a decorated WW2 war hero. Charles Howard had faced ruinous losses as one of Lloyds of London’s ‘names’ when the insurance giant was brought to the brink of collapse.

“To keep the castle I had to buy it,” said Philip, who has invested a huge amount of money and time to remodel the estate and make it commercially viable for the modern era.

After the 12th Earl’s death in 1994, Philip sold heirlooms to pay inheritance tax, including fine tapestries and the Dacre Beasts, six-foot-high heraldic oak carvings of a bull, gryphon and ram that stood for 400 years in the Great Hall.

As the custodian of the castle, Philip is determined to restore it to ‘good heart’, reversing a century or more of relative neglect. In his study is a framed quote from German philosopher Johann Wolfgang Goethe that reads “that which Thy fathers bequeath thee, earn it anew if



thou wouldst possess it”. Not that he is sentimental about landed estates. “It can be a shame if historic collections are discarded and estates broken up, but if owners can’t look after them, they should get out and let somebody else get on with it,” he said.

Naworth is not open to the public, although Philip has been happy to host pre-arranged private tours, as well as visits by schools and charity events. The castle has also been hired as a wedding and corporate event venue, and for films.

The courtyard was used for a scene in the 2005 TV mini-series *Elizabeth: The Virgin Queen*, where Latimer and Ridley are burnt at the stake. “I played the executioner, which was fun,” said Philip.

The property costs £150,000 a year to maintain and well over £2 million is required on future restoration, including repairs to large areas of the roof. A grant from Historic England has recently helped restore the Grade I-listed gatehouse.

There are at least 84 rooms at Naworth, including the Great Hall, which stretches for nearly 100ft. Many retain fine decorative features, including wood panelling, William Morris patterned wallpapers, tiles and paintings.



The Illustrated London News of 1844 showed the castle in flames

1560

The castle passes to the Howards when the Dacre family becomes extinct in the male line. Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk, weds Thomas Dacre’s widow – and marries off his three sons to her daughters

1572

The Duke is executed by Elizabeth I for his involvement in an ill-advised plot to marry Mary Queen of Scots

1602

Lord William Howard, the Duke’s third son, purchases back his wife’s confiscated estates from King James I

1661

Charles Howard is made the first Earl of Carlisle, having helped install Charles II. He had ditched Catholicism for Cromwell and Puritanism during the Civil War, before swapping back to the Royalist cause



## Restoration project



Far left: A beautiful painted ceiling, fine wood panelling and paintings adorn one of the restored interiors.

Left: The 100ft-long Great Hall has a majestic vaulted wooden ceiling

*"I love it here and not a day goes by when I don't think how lucky I am"*

Other parts, such as the old Victorian kitchens, are described by Philip as 'knackered'. Here, workmen have stripped back the wood and plaster to the bare stone to remove generations of dry rot.

To raise funds for his restoration projects, a key priority has been to maximise the estate's rent roll.

### 'HIGH-END' PARTIES

Philip has split the 1,400 acres of farmland into larger, more efficient, economic units, which have since been successfully re-let.

He has also gone into the 26 properties on the estate, reroofing them and putting in amenities such as central heating. These are now re-let separately, some as commercial ventures, including B&Bs and a livery.

A flagship project, completed in 2009, was the £1.5 million redevelopment of a former farmstead at Lancercost into residential cottages, a five-bed B&B, tea

room and shop, none of which look out of place against the backdrop of the 12th-century Lancercost Priory, managed by Historic England.

Currently, he is ploughing his energy into a new venture, which he hopes will generate additional income: hosting 'high-end' weekend parties at the castle for well-to-do American tourists.

He is now creating eight bedrooms for transatlantic guests, equipped with luxurious ensuite bathrooms, period decoration and wood-burning stoves.

Despite the challenges, Philip remains upbeat. "I love it here and not a day goes by when I don't think how lucky I am.

"I'm determined not to be the first Howard to sell up after 650 years. It would be wonderful if one of my children were to take it on, and part of my motivation is that I don't want to bequeath them something that would ruin them. But neither would I like them to ruin it!"

### ROOTS IN THE FUTURE

Over the last 10 years, Philip has planted 200 acres of hardwood trees on poorer areas of land. "The Forestry Commission has been brilliant, providing grants to enable me to reverse decades of relative neglect," he said.

A £94,000 grant from the Woodland Grant Scheme in 2012 enabled the creation of 50 acres of woods to improve water quality in Carling Gill and the River Irthing, which feed into the River Eden. Planted through watercourses, the trees keep livestock out of rivers, reduce sediment and soak up rainfall, which could cause flooding downstream.

Existing spinneys and copses have been linked, creating wildlife corridors and diversity-rich habitats, while established forestry has been thinned and new ponds excavated. The total area of forestry is now 650 acres.

Philip has also restored the historic Lord William's Wood near the castle. "A map from 1730 proved it had been part of an approach to a Bronze Age earthwork," he said. "I wanted to create something in memory of my late wife, Elizabeth, so it's very special."



1844

A devastating fire destroys a large portion of the castle. Restoration begins six years later under the architect Antony Salvin

1870s-80s

George Howard, the 9th Earl of Carlisle, commissions his Pre-Raphaelite friends William Morris, Edmund Burne-Jones and Philip Webb to refurbish the interiors

1911

On the death of the 9th Earl, who was opposed to primogeniture (the right of the firstborn to inherit everything), the eldest son (the 10th Earl) receives the smaller share of the family estates, including Naworth Castle

1994

Naworth Castle is purchased by Philip Howard from his father, the 12th Earl of Carlisle

# Planting near pipelines - simple as 1, 2, tree

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WHEN PLANTING TREES AND BUSHES IN THE PROXIMITY OF GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINES

**With the arrival of summer, many people enjoy getting out into the countryside to enjoy the shrubs and leafy trees planted in the landscape.**

But how many of us are aware that National Grid sets out specific minimum distances for different species of tree and shrub that can be safely planted near gas pipelines?

“Despite our best efforts, infringements continue to take place within pipeline easement strips, including some due to vegetation issues on grantor land,” said Richard Howard, asset protection team leader at National Grid. “A proportion of this may be down to self-seeding.”

**ROOT OF THE PROBLEM**

A tree’s roots generally spread much further than its branches – with around 90% of the roots contained in the first 3ft of soil depth.

But roots will also follow the path of least resistance in search of water and nutrients and grow easily in the less compact soils that surround pipelines.

Large trees growing above a pipeline can have an adverse impact because of their sheer weight and root growth, with potential to represent a significant safety hazard. Roots can also damage the protective coating of the pipeline, which helps to minimise corrosion.

By following straightforward guidelines on tree planting, the potential for an expensive and hazardous incident can be easily avoided,

**AT-A-GLANCE**

- 1 Large-growing species of poplar and willow must not be planted within 10m of the pipeline’s centre.
- 2 Large conifers and deciduous forest trees (including pine, cedar, ash, beech, sycamore, elm, oak and fruit bearing) must not be planted within 6m, and only as individual specimens or a single row between 6m and 10m.
- 3 Dwarf stock fruit trees, such as field maple, wild cherry, birch, elder (amenity trees) and mountain ash, whitebeam, false acacia (ornamental), cannot be planted within 3m.
- 4 Shrub-planting bushes, such as holly, laurel, privet, dogwood and spindle, and fruit such as gooseberries, raspberries and roses should not be planted within 1.5m.
- 5 Hedge plants and ground covers may only be planted across a pipeline to screen or mark boundaries.

**Emergency**

If you hit a pipeline, whether damage is visible or not, or in the event of an emergency, call the National Grid Emergency Service immediately on 0800 111 999.

**REMEMBER**

Before tree planting, you must have written approval from National Grid, which is subject to retaining the rights to remove trees that may become a danger to the pipeline in the opinion of National Grid engineers in the future.



so it’s important to work with National Grid for the long-term security and safety of your family and business.

“If you are planning any work on the easement or have any doubts about trees and distances, contact us and we will come out free of charge to work with you to ensure your safety,” Richard said.

**GET OUR HELP**

If you are planning work or have a query about the dos and don’ts of tree planting, call Plant Protection immediately on 0800 688 588.



**Willow**

No planting within **10m**



**Oak**

No planting within **6m**



**Wild Cherry**

No planting within **3m**



**Birch**

No planting within **3m**



**Poplar**

No planting within **10m**

# A MAN OF HIS TIME

MEET THE GRANTOR WITH MANY TALENTS,  
MOST OF THEM FROM A BYGONE ERA

Forester Simon Damant is a man born into the wrong time, almost as if he's woken from a deep, two-century-long sleep.

He's got a smartphone and grudgingly catches up on admin or a spot of social media to shout loud about his work in the countryside, but the modern world isn't really for him.

"If you gave me all the technology and money in the world to make this work," he said, taking in the wide open landscape he manages, "I'd be bored rigid because I could buy it all in. I want to do it by being economical and resourceful."

He's good to his word. Time-saving modern machinery is used only to complement traditional countryside techniques that thrive under his tutelage around the 2,500 acres of the National Trust's Wimpole Estate, a stone's throw from Cambridge.

Dreamy and haphazard in turn, he comes alive with illuminating clarity when espousing the virtues of 'doing the right thing'... and that means forestry the tried-and-tested old-fashioned way.

From horse-logging, hedgelaying or smithy work at the estate's 1840-built forge, he's unequivocal in his belief that the demise of fossil fuel will one day justify his sustainable no-waste approach to the countryside, unless humanity can find the key to renewable fusion energy to save the day.

"I'm keeping these old techniques alive because it makes a difference inside," he said, pausing to pump his chest in-between rhythmic hammer beats on a red-hot slither of steel, which will become a ram's head

wall hook in an hour. "Problem is," he continued, "the time it takes to make something like this means it isn't economic to sell, so I end up making all sorts of objects for Christmas presents.

"It's sad because ironwork like this lasts an eternity and it's a one-off. People say they could get a hanging hook or knife from Tesco for a quid and I say 'go and get one from Tesco then, but it won't be as elegant'. Everything is disposable these days."

A former Special Air Service soldier – "only the TA version," he stressed – Simon's observations are like rustic machine gun bursts, skipping from one idea to another in quickfire succession, forcing you to listen in case you miss a gem. His mind works at 100mph, but there's a more methodical, long-term vision in there too.

"I don't like waste and want to use everything the countryside offers to be as self-sufficient as I can. I have a mobile, but it's only so I don't have to sit in an office so often and can stay outdoors for longer," he said.

He shows us how John, a 900-kilo Dutch Trekpaard horse, still drags the logs from the woodlands surrounding the sweeping Capability Brown landscape to the rear of the 1640-built hall that hosted Queen Victoria in 1843.

Giant piles of wood are dotted here and there, some destined for a rudimentary, but no less effective, steel charcoal burner, complete with chimneys and inlets, that Simon uses to create a tonne of charcoal for every six tonnes of tree that he has, probably reluctantly, cut with a chainsaw.

## WIMPOLE WONDERS

- ▶ A moated manor house in 200 acres of deer park at Wimpole was listed in the Domesday Book of 1086.
- ▶ Politician Thomas Chicheley, one of Britain's finest tennis players, rebuilt the house in 1650 after his family had owned the original one for 250 years.
- ▶ After passing through the hands of several aristocratic families, it was bought by the Earl of Hardwicke in 1740.
- ▶ Captain George Bambridge and his wife Elsie, daughter of Rudyard Kipling, purchased it in 1938 and used the inheritance left to them by her father to refurbish the house and grounds.
- ▶ Passed to the National Trust in 1976 when Elsie died.
- ▶ Four architects and six landscape designers have worked on the property and its grounds.
- ▶ Wimpole's Folly, a false Gothic tower, was built in the late 18th century.





## Tradition lives on

### COURSE YOU CAN

As well as blogging about his work, Simon offers a host of courses for the uninitiated.

#### Gentleman's favour

Don't know your Welsh Fan from your Gentleman's Favour? The corn dolly making course will enlighten you in the art of using sheaves of straw to make straw dolls and a corn maiden.

Simon said: "In the sheaf to bread course, we use a traditional flail, made at Wimpole, to thrash the sheaves, remove the straw and winnow the residue. If the grain is dry enough, it's ground using manual tools and machines to create flour to make into bread."

#### Make hay

"I show people how to set up the scythe ready for mowing, how to mow efficiently and how to cure the cut grass to make hay, as well as grassland management and making hay," said Simon.

#### See the wood for the trees

"We make charcoal, convert trees to firewood to fire the forge and make tools, such as axes and two-man saws, to turn timber into useful items. It's a neverending circle."

Find out more at <https://sadeik.wordpress.com>



*"I've always had this overwhelming urge to explore, maybe because I'm very curious about things"*

"I use charcoal for the fire in the 1840's estate forge. You can see how easy it is to operate using purely traditional methods. Blacksmith work is a great skill and you find that everyone who comes here wants to stand in the forge – there's something very primal about it all," he said.

Simon has been maintaining the 800 acres of wood and parkland at the Wimpole Estate since the mid-90s, after a 'childhood and early career spent climbing trees', a pastime that led to a fascination with flora and fauna and a degree in forestry, soils and water engineering.

"I've always had this overwhelming urge to explore, maybe because I'm very curious about things. I did my degree, climbed all over Europe, the Himalayas and mountains in Peru. Then at 35 I knew for sure I didn't want to be stuck in an office, started here on a six-month contract and I'm still here," said the tanned Simon, just back from a fortnight's tree surgery work for the Jordanian royal family.

"We do use modern machinery because you have to be practical about things due to the sheer scale, but by running courses, I want to share the long-established tried-and-tested countryside skills, such as keeping the forestry work alive, and encourage people to do the same."

Simon, reigning English national scything champion, runs courses in the blacksmith's art, cider making, woodland management and pole lathing, among a host of other rural skills, to give a holistic view of the work that goes on behind the scenes at Wimpole.

He says: "When I first came here, the attitude was that there was little of interest beyond the hall and farm. People said there was no wildlife, but there's absolutely loads of it. The estate is home to rare barbastelle bats, there are thousands of species of invertebrates, numerous



English scything champion Simon insists a trip to Wimpole wouldn't be complete without a tour of its wildlife haven grounds

uncommon woodland birds and a haven for flora, and that's just in the woods.

"By maintaining the forest, we get wood to make stakes to do the hedgelaying or to make charcoal to fire the forge to make tools to make the stakes, so you can see from that chain alone how everything is inter-related."

The woods he's happiest in have been designated a Special Site of Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, and are now as much a part of the attraction for day trippers as the hall and its organic arable Home Farm, which accounts for the remainder of the acreage.

Simon added: "If fossil fuel runs out, I'll be sitting pretty. If it doesn't, I'm happy anyway, keeping the old skills alive."



# GRIDLINE: NOW ONLINE

A LITTLE  
BIT EXTRA  
More stories,  
pictures &  
videos

## NEW STORIES

The site will cover the exciting new success stories of landowners and bring you updates on some of the people we've featured in the magazine's last 10 years

## ADDED VALUE

... like the locked up case of the English tea



... the woodsman who wants to leave a legacy



... National Grid news, Humble video & more



## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

Read stories about innovative, diversifying landowners that you won't find anywhere else



## LANDOWNERS ONLY AREA



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# LASTWORD



Be part of  
Gridline

Share your stories.  
Call 01926 656325 or email  
gridline@nationalgrid.com

*A break with a difference or a shopping spree*

## WIN!

### AN UNUSUAL BREAK

Go glamping (that's glamorous camping), spend a night in a renovated chapel, get cosy in a luxury yurt, laze in a remote lodge or choose from a huge selection of unusual locations to spend a one-night break.

We've got TWO one-night breaks for two at locations around the UK, from ruggedly beautiful Cornwall to the peaceful and breathtaking Scottish Highlands, to give away.

The winner of last edition's hotel getaway was Janet Baker from Rotherham in South Yorkshire. To get lucky like Janet, just answer the question below.



What's the address of Gridline magazine's new sister website?

Email your answer, name and contact details to [gridline@madebysonder.com](mailto:gridline@madebysonder.com) or send it to Sonder Gridline Luxury Break Competition, Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5AE. Closing date is 19 August 2016.



### GLYN PLOUGHS HIS OWN FURROW

When the first cut was made at the start of a horse ploughing competition on a sunny morning in Wales, grantor Glyn Jones ran for his camera to send us this winning shot.

We asked for pictures that captured the theme of 'what we do on our land' and this snap from Glyn, on his farm in Cowbridge in South Wales, fitted the bill perfectly to land him a £150 M&S voucher.

Now the Gridline website has gone live, you can catch up on some of the superb shots that grantors have entered for competitions down the years.

### SEND US YOUR GELFIES TO WIN A £150 SUMMER SHOP

You've all heard of selfies: the mobile phone craze for taking a picture of yourself with an interesting background.

So let your imagination run wild and send us your gelfie – grantor selfie – on your land to be in with a shot of winning a £150 high street Love2shop voucher you can spend at 20,000 outlets.

Send your high resolution shots to [gridline@madebysonder.com](mailto:gridline@madebysonder.com) by 19 August 2016 to enter.



DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE WEBSITE  
[GRIDLINE.NATIONALGRID.COM](http://GRIDLINE.NATIONALGRID.COM)

**COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS ONE-NIGHT BREAK** The winners will be the first two entrants selected at random who correctly identify the answer (to be featured in the next edition) and who are National Grid grantors at the time of the draw. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without prior notice. The prize is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Closing date is 19 August 2016. **PHOTO** The winning image will be the one judged to be the most visually appealing, original and relevant to the theme and will feature in the next edition. The winner must be a National Grid grantor. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without prior notice. The prize is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. The closing date is 19 August 2016.

**nationalgrid**