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## Excursion to Southall: College students get the lowdown on former gasworks project

College students get peek inside historic gas holder on Southall trip

**15 Jun 2016**

- Students from Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College visit former gasworks in Southall
- Trip included look inside the now disused historic blue MAN gas holder
- Site is currently being cleared to prepare for redevelopment

A group of 10 students visited Southall's historic former gasworks site as part of their studies.

The plumbing students – who ranged in age from 17 to 42 – visited the site to learn more about ongoing work there and the importance of site safety

The site was once home to the local gasworks where 'town gas' was made from coal from the late 19th century until the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in the 1960s. However gas holders continued to be used for storage at the site long after this. The site also found fame as a location in classic TV shows including Doctor Who, The Professionals and The Sweeney.

Today National Grid retains a small operational presence on the site but changes in technology mean the gas holders are no longer needed and they have been decommissioned. The holders are now being dismantled to enable the land to be redeveloped.

One of the highlights of the visit was a trip inside the remaining blue MAN gas holder which is over 300 feet high.

Commenting on the group's visit course leader Allan Canby said: "What an excellent event, thank you National Grid for inviting us on to site."

Nadia Dew, Land Regeneration Manager for National Grid said: "We were delighted to host this visit and hope the students found the visit informative and fun."

For more information on work at the site call 0800 319 6186 (9am to 5.30pm weekdays), email [NationalGrid@SouthallGasworks.com](mailto:NationalGrid@SouthallGasworks.com) or visit <http://www.southallgasholders.com/>

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Notes for editors

**Notes to Editors:**

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

**National Grid in the UK:**

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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