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## Historic occasion: National Grid takes pupils back in time to explore history of gas in Taplow

Kids take a step back in time to learn of historic gas links

**14 Jul 2016**

- Two classes from St Nicolas School learn about the area's historic links with the gas industry
- Removal of the disused gasholder from the site is due to be complete later this summer
- Work will free up the land for future redevelopment

Pupils went back in time with National Grid to learn about the history of the gas industry and its role in Taplow's past.

National Grid representatives spent a morning exploring the history of gas with Year 5 and 6 pupils at St Nicolas School in Taplow recently.

The history of the site dates back to 1834 when the Maidenhead Gas Light & Coke Company was established there. In those days people used 'town gas' which was made from coal. The gasworks were built by the river so coal could be delivered by barge. With the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in the 1960s gas production stopped at the site but the gas holder continued to be used to store gas. Changes in gas storage mean that the holder is no longer needed and it was decommissioned some years ago.

The pupils learned about how gas was manufactured in Victorian times before getting hands-on with an experiment to turn solids and liquids into gas. The children also tried on some of the modern safety gear which workers now use, which taught them about the importance of safety and protective clothing.

Class 5 teacher Jessica Davies said, "The children really enjoyed learning about the history of their local area and particularly enjoyed the picture of the workers having tea on top of the gas works. They also had fun experimenting with gases and had lots of fun!"

Nadia Dew, Land Regeneration Manager at National Grid, added: "We want to thank the pupils and staff at St Nicolas for letting us come in to talk about our work at National Grid.

"Our educational programme is important because it promotes science and other STEM skills among school children. We hope that our educational sessions will inspire the next generation of engineers. We really enjoyed meeting the pupils and delivering the lesson."

National Grid began work to remove the disused gasholder and other associated buildings from the Mill Lane site earlier this year and is scheduled to complete the work next month (August 2016). The work will clear up the land for future development.

Anyone wanting more information on the work can contact the National Grid Community Relations team on 0800 073 1047. The line is open from 7am -7pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm on Saturday.

Contact for media information only

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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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