

Hull man makes history by walking over and under the River Humber through National Grid's 5km tunnel

13 Jan 2020

- **National Grid celebrated the construction of the tunnel by inviting the project team, and very special guest, Graham Boanas, for an exclusive walkthrough**
- **The event was an opportunity for Graham to walk the entire 5km of the tunnel before it gets completely flooded with water ahead of pipe insertion**
- **The work on the pipeline will ensure North Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire and the rest of the UK have a safe and reliable source of gas for the future**

National Grid's construction of the tunnel under the Humber Estuary is now officially complete, and to celebrate this feat of engineering, the project team were joined by local Humberside hero Graham Boanas to walk the full length of the tunnel from Paull, East Yorkshire to Goxhill, North Lincolnshire.

6ft 9in Graham made headlines in 2018 when he waded across the Humber, a challenge that tidal experts deemed virtually impossible at the time. When National Grid contacted Graham, he had already crossed the Humber three times, raising £160,000 for charity, so when he was presented with the opportunity of walking through the 5km long tunnel 30m underneath the estuary, he jumped at the chance.

On the opportunity to walk through the tunnel, Graham Boanas, said:

"I'm thrilled that National Grid's River Humber pipeline project has given me this once in a lifetime experience. It's fantastic that I've had the opportunity to experience the otherworldly environment of the tunnel, walking through it side by side with the team that built it.

"I now must also hold the world record for the number of ways I have crossed the Humber. I've crawled and waded across it at low tide, swam through the high tide in a special suit and walked over the Humber Bridge, but walking beneath the Humber through the tunnel was by far the most unique experience. I'd like to thank everybody involved from National Grid and its partners who made this experience possible for me - it's been absolutely fantastic."

Steve Ellison, Lead Project Manager on National Grid's River Humber Pipeline project, said:

"We're really pleased that Graham could come and join the project team to celebrate the great engineering feat of building the first tunnel underneath the Humber. This is transformational engineering at its best and we're really pleased that we're able to celebrate this with such a brilliant event.

"In spring 2020, we'll push our 5km gas pipeline through the tunnel. This will be a world record breaking event, with our project being the longest hydraulically inserted gas pipeline in the world. On completion, we will have a vital pipeline which can provide up to a quarter of Britain's gas supplies."

National Grid is currently replacing the existing River Humber pipeline, 30 metres beneath the Humber Estuary. In Autumn 2019, the Tunnel Boring Machine completed its journey through the bed of the Humber and the tunnel was officially completed. The work, which will be finished by the end of 2020, will help ensure reliable and

resilient energy supplies in the years ahead to North Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire and the rest of the UK.

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Notes for editors

Photos:

For photos, B-roll and interviews relating to this news release please visit <http://riverhumberpipeline.com/resource-centre/> (Google chrome recommended).

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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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- > [Biographies](#)

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