

## Memorial unveiled at Sheffield gas works

Memorial unveiled to mark explosion at Sheffield gas works 45 years ago

25 Oct 2018

- **National Grid unveils memorial to those who died and were affected by an explosion at the Evingham Street gas works in 1973**

**National Grid has unveiled a permanent memorial to those who died and were affected by an explosion 45 years ago, which saw six men lose their lives and scores injured.**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1973 there was an explosion in a disused petroleum tank at the then East Midlands Gas Board works in Evingham Street, Sheffield.

Forty five years to the day Jean Taylor, from the Retired Employees Association, unveiled a memorial plaque at an event held at the Royal Victoria Holiday Inn attended by relatives of those who died or who were affected by the explosion.

National Grid has recently started work to dismantle the last remaining gasholder in an area that has been associated with gas production and storage since the early 1800s.

Hannah White, Land Regeneration Manager at National Grid, said: "We are grateful that so many relatives who were personally affected by the explosion chose to get in touch with us and were able to attend. We also had people who helped in the rescue efforts including fire and police officers.

"It's fitting that a permanent memorial is now in place at the site. As our works progress to dismantle the last unused gasholder at the site it is a sobering reminder that our constant and rigorous focus on health and safety must never wain nor be taken for granted."

The six men who died were William Donaldson, Cyril Kennedy, John Lomas, Patrick Sleight, Harry Smith and Harry Wilson.

The memorial plaque has been permanently sited next to the existing war memorial within the Effingham Street site.

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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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