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National Grid gears up to demolish West Bromwich gas holders

Work gets underway to demolish two gas holders in Swan Lane, West Bromwich as new ways found to store gas

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- **National Grid dismantles gasholders at Swan Lane, West Bromwich**
- **One holder part of New Swan Village Gasworks established in 1848 but an innovative new technique now used to store gas**
- **Dismantling work part of a national programme to clear sites for future development**

Work to dismantle two gasholders on National Grid's Swan Lane site in West Bromwich gets underway this month.

The gasholders once played an essential role in making sure local homes had a reliable gas supply. They were filled with gas during times of low demand so that they could feed into the local network of pipes at times of peak demand.

Now, new techniques developed by National Grid allow gas to be compressed and stored inside gas pipes. This means that the old holders are no longer needed and can be removed to free up the site for potential future development.

Jonathan King, National Grid project manager, said: "National Grid is committed to finding new ways of making better use of the assets and equipment it owns and operates. The old holders served the town well but we've developed an innovative technique which allows us to store gas in our underground pipes and so we no longer need the vast network of holders we once had.

"Local homes and businesses will still enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply, but we'll dismantle the holders and clear the site so it can return to use at some point in the future."

The site was part of the New Swan Village Gasworks, established in 1848 and one of the gasholders was associated with the early works. It's unclear when the second gasholder was constructed, however Ordnance Survey maps suggest a date between 1938 and 1966.

Jonathan added: "Removing the holders will be a complex job, but we'll use highly skilled engineers to carry out the work. We'll keep local residents and businesses informed as our work progresses."

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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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