

## National Grid volunteers pave the way for Markeaton Park visitors

Volunteers from energy company National Grid will be building a new path and sprucing up the historic Yew Walk area of Markeaton Park.

**05 Jul 2016**

Big-hearted National Grid volunteers will be rolling up their sleeves this week and enhancing Derby's most visited park.

Employees from the energy network company normally work on major construction projects such as overhead powerlines, underground cables and electricity substations.

But on Wednesday and Thursday (6 and 7 July) they'll be swapping the day job for a different kind of infrastructure venture – building a new path at Markeaton Park and sprucing up the historic Yew Walk area.

Over the two days, National Grid volunteers will create a smart new, log-lined path through the high profile Yew Walk, close to the Craft Village. The new path will steer walkers away from the roots of the ancient Yews, preserving the trees for future generations. Clearing overgrown areas, mulching shrub beds and putting in new plants will put the finishing touches to the new-look area.

The event is part of National Grid's community volunteering programme. The programme encourages staff to use their existing skills – or learn new ones – to support worthwhile community causes.

Mumta Ladwa of National Grid said: "We're delighted to be making such a popular park even more accessible for Derby residents and visitors.

"We are thrilled that so many of our staff have stepped forward to help out. Giving our time is one of the best ways that we can support the communities where we live, work and operate. It's a great opportunity for our staff to develop their own skills and broaden their experiences – it's also hugely rewarding.

"Our day jobs involve developing big energy construction projects so we're feeling the pressure to make sure we do a good job on the path!"

Cllr Martin Rawson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration at Derby City Council, said: "This volunteer make-over of a section of Markeaton Park will be a great benefit to visitors of the Park. It builds on the great work that has already been carried out at Markeaton Park over recent years. It's one of the most popular parks in the East Midlands with so much on offer to enjoy and I look forward to seeing the changes myself in the coming days."

The improvements are part of the £3.4 million Markeaton Park restoration project. The project aims to transform this important and much loved historic park so that it can continue to provide an attractive, welcoming and well used green space that can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

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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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