

## The end marks a new beginning: Historic gasworks site in Swindon set for bright future

Historic site in Swindon set for bright future

06 Apr 2016

- End of clean-up work sees former gasworks site ready for future use
- Site once played important role in providing gas for Swindon residents
- Gipsy Lane site regeneration poised to boost local economy

After a major clean up National Grid's former gasworks site at Gipsy Lane in Swindon is now ready for a new lease of life which should benefit the town.

The work by National Grid Property and its contractor Hydrock which started in August 2015 has now been completed. To prepare the land for redevelopment any materials left behind from when gas was made and stored at the site, have been treated or removed. Over the course of the work 11,500m<sup>3</sup> of soil was treated. The treated soil has been reused at the site which reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill and the number of vehicles coming to and from the site.

Samantha Rendell, Land Regeneration Manager for National Grid Property said, "We'd like to thank our neighbours for their patience during our work.

"Our work has finished on schedule and we're really pleased to see the Gipsy Lane site ready for an exciting future and development opportunities."

She added: "The gas industry and this site played an important part in Swindon's past - we're now keen to see the Gipsy Lane site play a part in Swindon's future."

Steeped in history the gasworks have been a part of the landscape in Gipsy Lane since the 1860s. 'Town gas' made from coal was manufactured there by the New Swindon Gas Company and then supplied to the local area.

Gas manufacture at the site stopped in 1968, due to the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea. However gas continued to be stored at Gipsy Lane. Changes in technology mean gas holders are now no longer used and the historic gas holder structures have since been removed. The first was taken down in the 1970s with the other holders being removed by local gas emergency and pipeline service Wales & West Utilities in 2012.

Parts of the site are owned by Wales & West Utilities who are working with National Grid to bring large sections of these areas forward for redevelopment in the coming years. However they will retain an operational base and equipment to ensure the local area continues to receive a safe and reliable supply of gas.

The site is expected to be used for commercial development and the next steps will see National Grid looking for suitable development partners over the next year or so. A planning application for redevelopment is then likely to follow.

Anyone wanting more information 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

Share this page



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>

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.

## Quicklinks

### In Media

- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

## Useful National Grid information

### United Kingdom

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

### United States

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)