

# Gridline

spring 06

The magazine for National Grid grantors

Our picture shows National Grid wayleave warden Jane Bishop with Rob Ballard in Stover Park

## Park life

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6&7



10&11



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18&19



20&21

## Contacts

nationalgrid

### Land and development group

Is responsible for acquiring all rights and permissions from statutory authorities and

landowners needed to install, operate and maintain National Grid's electricity and gas transmission networks. We act as the main interface for

landowners who have our gas and electricity equipment installed on their land. Listed below are your local land and development team contacts.

### electricity

#### North and North West:

0113 2908224/8235

**South East:** 01268 642028

**South West:** 01454 222044

Your wayleave teams and their mobile numbers

#### North East

Wilson Holmes 07836 543539  
Scott Stephenson 07836 543541

#### North West

Mark Thomas 07887 825073  
Martin Bretherton 07786 021086

#### North East (South)

Mike Rockett 07836 364634  
Janet Clarke 07770 645599

#### North West (South)

Alan Whitmore 07836 629530  
Bob Tute 07836 668504

#### East Midlands

Robin O'Brien 07836 293137  
Simon Booth 07786 021088

#### West Midlands

Paul Ganley 07836 549748  
Lee Durant 07776 121429

#### East Anglia

Barry Cullimore 07836 217478  
Sue Dunham 07766 785684

#### South East (North London)

Brian Mead 07836 217520  
Phil Burgess 07836 222051

#### South East (South London)

Paul Sage 07836 638823  
Alison Williams 07788 568678

#### South Wales

Simon Gronow 07836 207262  
Robert Miller 07836 743236

#### South West

Richard Biggs 07785 716961  
Jane Bishop 07771 864528

#### Wayleave payments

• For information on wayleave payments telephone the payments helpline on 0800 389 5113.

#### Emergencies

• Emergency calls to report pylon damage to National Grid can be made on 0800 404090.

Make a note of the tower's number — found just below the property plate — to help crews locate it.

#### Electric and magnetic fields

• For information on electric and magnetic fields, ring the EMF information line 08457 023270 (local call rate).



### gas

#### Gas Distribution (UKD)

John Cunnington  
Senior land and development officer  
Tel 0113 2908236  
Fax 0113 2908530  
Mobile 07836 364633

#### North London and East of England

Simon Dando  
Land and development officer  
Tel 01452 316078

Fax 01452 316092  
Mobile 07976 259211

#### North West

Charles Miller  
Land and development officer  
Tel 0161 7760706  
Fax 0161 7760601  
Mobile 0797 6510120

#### West Midlands

Barry Mercer  
Land and Development Officer

Tel 01452 316049  
Mobile 07785 290457  
Fax 01452 316092

#### Administration

Sue Makin  
Tel 0191 2163519  
Fax 0191 2163484

#### Gas emergency

0800 111 999

## Booklet puts you in the picture

A NEW BOOKLET has been produced by National Grid to provide helpful information to landowners and occupiers.

It outlines the company's role as an international energy delivery business and highlights its commitment to the environment and safety.

*Working with You* amalgamates information formerly contained in National Grid's Grantors Charter, and a TRANSCO brochure giving information for farmers and landowners.

"Now we are one company, we wanted one publication to inform people affected by works on our electricity and gas equipment," said Aileen Smith, National Grid land and development officer.

"It will be given to anyone touched by a new project or major refurbishment scheme, although any grantor can obtain a copy by contacting their local wayleave officer. It can also be downloaded from the land and development area of National Grid's website, [www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity)

"We hope people will find it useful. If anyone has a query about any subject in the document, we would encourage them to contact their National Grid representative or the

appropriate helpline."

*Working with You* describes the process involved in planning routes for National Grid's gas pipelines, overhead lines and underground cables and the essential survey work that has to be undertaken. It confirms the



company's commitment to landowners and occupiers when it has to enter their land to construct, renew, inspect, maintain, repair or remove equipment.

Easy-to-understand drawings and diagrams are used to explain the works that might take place on grantors' land.

Other issues included are landowner and occupier agreements for electricity apparatus, and easement payments for electricity lines and underground cables.

There is also a useful section to explain technical terminology, and a list of contact numbers.

## Don't lose out

Are YOU losing out when signing an easement contract?

There are a number of agents offering to negotiate easement claims on their behalf in return for a significant percentage of any compensation payments they obtain on the owner's behalf.

National Grid, The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and the National Farmers' Union would like to remind grantors again that they do not need to be out of pocket when using an agent — reasonable agents' or solicitors' fees are paid by National Grid upon completion of the Deed of Grant in addition to the easement consideration.

The standard payments recommended by CLA and NFU to farmers and landowners for National Grid electricity equipment relate only to their effect on farmland.

Whenever electricity equipment affects the value of residential or business property held in the same ownership as the land on which a pylon stands, there may be a separate claim for "injurious affection", the impact of the equipment on the value of the property.

The recommendation is to seek professional advice from a qualified chartered surveyor or agricultural valuer. Trusted local agents should be able to secure any reasonable fees incurred as part of the compensation.

• Contact your local wayleave officer — details on Page 2 — for further advice in the first instance. CLA members can find advice on this and many other matters on the Guidance Notes page at [www.cla.org.uk/guidanceNotes.php](http://www.cla.org.uk/guidanceNotes.php)

# Devon gets the show on the road

May sees National Grid on the road again during this year's agricultural show season.

Our first visit is to the Devon Show – the largest event in the county calendar and the perfect place to enjoy a virtual tour of rural life.

Every show has a distinct character – Devon reflects the reality of the county's own geography, culture and rural environment.

"We look forward to reflecting National Grid's role in the countryside when we meet grantors around the country," said field wayleave manager Alan Naylor. "Once again we are inviting electricity and gas

grantors together and we hope the shows will be a useful opportunity for them to discuss future projects in their areas.

"As usual, we'll be inviting some grantors for lunch – unfortunately, we can't welcome as many as we would like as space is limited, so we try to invite those directly affected by major works.

"But I do urge members of our Grantors' Club to make good use of their badges – wear it when you come along to our stand and enjoy free morning or afternoon refreshments. We look forward to meeting you and discussing any concerns you may have."

## The show programme

- Devon County Show, Exeter: May 18-20
- East of England Country Show, Peterborough: June 16-18
- Lincolnshire Show, Lincoln: June 21-22
- Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells: July 24-27
- United Counties Agricultural Show, Carmarthen: August 9-10
- Pembrokeshire County Show, Haverfordwest: August 15-17
- National Ploughing Championships, Guildford: October 14-15.



Wayleave officer Richard Biggs with Devon Show secretary Ollie Allen

**NATIONAL GRID** has stepped in to ensure the immediate future of an important agri-environment award scheme.

It has agreed to sponsor the scheme, run jointly by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society with support from the Young Farmers' Clubs, for the next three years.

The awards have been running for around five years and last year attracted 47 entries. This year the awards will be presented at the Royal Welsh Show on Monday, July 24.

There are three categories with cash prizes of £2,000 each and £300 for runners-up.

They recognise farmers, young farmers and suppliers or contractors who make an outstanding contribution to environmentally-sensitive farming in Wales.

CCW chairman John Lloyd Jones said: "The agri-environment awards give recognition to some of those people who, through their work, make a contribution to the success of agri-environment practices in Wales.

"Schemes like Tir Gofal\* and Tir Cymen\*\* have played their part in helping farmers to run economically successful farm

# SOS is answered

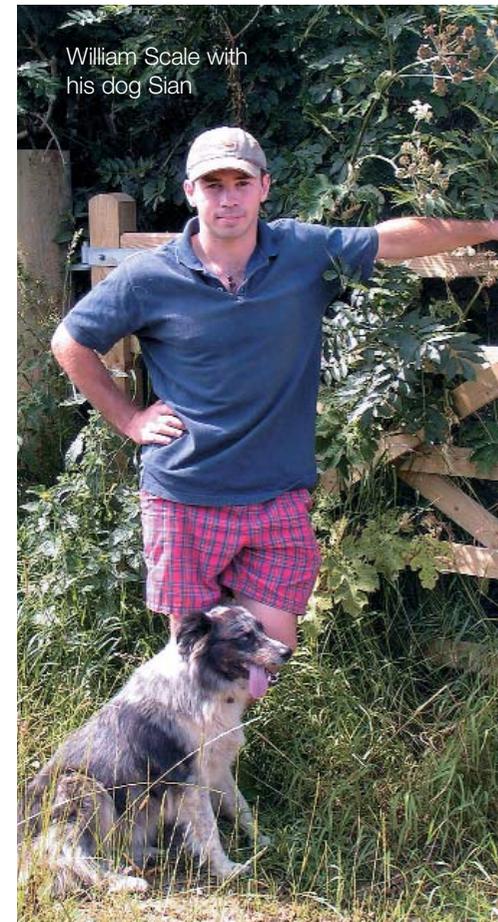
businesses while producing very high environmental outputs. This award is an opportunity to reward those making great strides in this area."

National Grid works closely with many farmers and landowners in Wales. The company's group corporate responsibility director, Gareth Llewellyn, said: "We always aim to protect and enhance the environment when we work on the land.

"The Agri-Environment Awards support this principle, and therefore National Grid is delighted to support the award scheme."

\* Tir Gofal is a whole farm agri-environment scheme which has been available throughout Wales since 1999. It comprises four elements – land management, creating new permissive access, capital works and training for farmers.

\*\* Tir Cymen – which closed to new entrants in 1998 – involved agreements designed to cover the whole of the farm, and included basic conservation requirements as well as a commitment to positive management on all areas of wildlife habitat.



William Scale with his dog Sian

"In previous generations, if you worked hard and produced as much as you could, you would prosper. A bit more lateral thinking is needed these days. The concept of agri-environment could be the future lifeblood of the industry. "It is not just about protecting wildlife for its own sake, it's a new mindset too. We farmers are providing a special service for biodiversity and the public that no-one else can provide."

William Scale  
Great Nash  
Farm  
Llangwm near  
Haverfordwest.  
Winner of the  
2005 young  
farmer award

## Shooting stars wanted for clay pigeon events

Many of our grantors and their guests have enjoyed National Grid clay pigeon shooting events in recent years.

If you would like to test your marksmanship in this increasingly popular sport, then please contact

your wayleave officer or warden – or your nearest wayleave admin office – asap. You'll find contact details on page 2.

We will be organising some events later in the year – so apply now for a chance to take part.



National Grid wayleave warden Jane Bishop with Rob Ballard

## Project is a walk in the park

**NATIONAL GRID** has been working closely with the management of one of the nation's top country parks during a multi-million pound refurbishment scheme in Devon.

The company's contractor AMEC is undertaking the replacement of insulators and tower fittings on the 400kV overhead line from Abham substation in Buckfastleigh to Exeter. It's the last leg of a major refurbishment project in the South West.

Three of the 156 towers along the 44-kilometre stretch of overhead line are sited in Stover Country Park near Newton Abbot.

Stover Park is in the top tier of country parks nationwide – it won a Green Flag Award in both 2005 and 2004. The Green Flag scheme, managed by the Civic Trust and the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment, is the national standard for parks and greens spaces.

Owned and managed by Devon County Council, the park and local nature reserve has six distinct habitat types – mixed woodland, coniferous woodland, lowland heathland, marshland, open water and grassland – in 114 acres.

"The park is a very popular place, attracting many visitors and walkers," said National Grid wayleave warden Jane Bishop. "We worked closely with the head ranger John Avon to ensure work on the

three towers was carried out with the minimum of disruption to the local environment. Every precaution was taken to ensure the safety of park visitors."

John said: "We have always enjoyed a good working relationship with National Grid. In fact, maintenance of the vegetation under the line and around the towers has been a big bonus for us because it has secured the habitat for a number of species, including the nightjar, reptiles and butterflies."

The overhead line refurbishment project in the South West started in 2004 and is due for completion later this year.

### FACTFILE

#### About Stover Country Park...

- The park was part of the 80,000-acre estate purchased in 1765 by James Templer. It includes Stover House, now a girls' school, and the landscaped grounds of the house
- The country park, created by Devon County Council in 1979, was added to the register of historic parks and gardens in 1995 by English Heritage
- The main feature of the park is a 10-acre lake and marsh used by a variety of wildfowl over the winter months. The park is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest primarily because of the dragonfly population
- The 18-mile Templer Way from Haytor to Shaldon and associated Heritage Trail passes through the park. Templer Way traces the route by which granite was exported from Dartmoor to the coast via the Haytor Granite Tramway and the Stover Canal.

The overhead line refurbishment was completed in one year rather than the expected two



# In the line of duty

National Grid workers pulled out all the stops to complete a major overhead line refurbishment in one year rather than the expected two.

The £40 million refurbishment of the overhead transmission line running between National Grid substations at Walpole in Cambridgeshire and West Burton in Nottinghamshire was not meant to be completed until the middle of 2006. National Grid and its contractors came up with new ways of working and planning to improve performance over the course of the refurbishment.

Wayne Hewson, project engineer, said: "The Walpole-West Burton refurbishment is a story of superlatives – record lengths replaced, using the heaviest conductor system in record time, and by a record number of contractor's wiring staff.

"An exceptional team effort was required to achieve the scheme's objectives. The team comprised the principal contractor Balfour Beatty Power Networks led by Jas Harrar and Neil Sanger and his staff and Engineering Services' Jim Brown and Tony Dyas.

"Also, National Grid wayleave officers Robin O'Brien, Barry Cullimore and Simon Booth managed to wayleave 200 circuit kilometres of line in extremely short timescales, ensuring timely and consistent access to the site."

The overhead line work is part of National Grid's ongoing national refurbishment programme and represents a substantial investment in the East Midlands' power network.

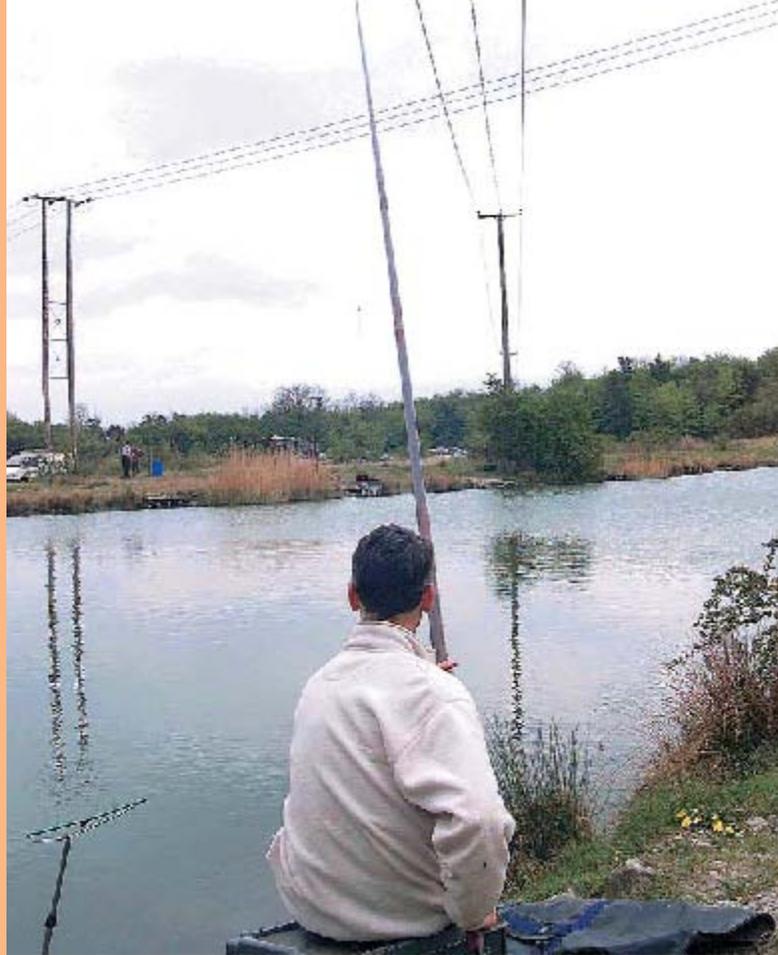
## Olympic work begins

Work is already under way to underground the existing overhead lines (OHL) between National Grid's substations in Hackney and West Ham as part of the preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Engineers are busily working to prepare the maintenance shafts at West Ham, Hackney and Carpenters Road to the east of London. Work to construct the cable tunnel, which will house the cables replacing the existing OHL, was due to follow in April.

National Grid's lines are rarely put underground but an exception is being made because of the national importance to the UK of this site for the Olympics. The London Development Authority is responsible for the total funding, for the construction of the tunnel and the associated maintenance shafts with support and guidance provided by National Grid who will be responsible for installing and commissioning the cables.

National Grid director Geoff Singleton said: "The work in the Lower Lea valley represents an exciting challenge for National Grid and we are committed to working with all parties to ensure a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games."



If you own, lease or make waters available for fishing where overhead power lines are present, you must ensure anglers are made aware of the dangers

## New guidance to keep anglers safe

There have been a number of tragic accidents involving anglers when fishing near to overhead lines – injuries sustained have either been fatal or permanently disabling.

The risk of inadvertent contact with the lines has grown with the increasing development of carbon fibre fishing rods and poles.

With summer approaching, and more anglers out and about, National Grid is anxious that people are aware of the dangers.

Guidance\* has been produced by the Energy Networks Association (ENA) Angling and Overhead Power Line Working Group – the ENA represents member companies from across the electricity transmission and distribution companies, including National Grid.

The working group had previously established guidance including the *Look Out! Look Up!* information sheet, which recognises the need to conduct risk assessments, the 30-metre default exclusion zone and warning and

prohibition signage systems. This information has been updated and is now embedded in the new guidance document.

The guidance highlights the fact that if you own, lease or make waters available for fishing where overhead electric power lines are present, you must ensure anglers are made aware of the dangers.

This can be done by erecting suitable safety signs and where possible by providing written and/or verbal instructions on where to and not to fish. Local distribution companies or National Grid should always be consulted on issues arising from overhead power lines. \* "Angler Safety – managing risks associated with angling in close proximity to overhead electric power lines" can be downloaded from the ENA website, [www.energynetworks.org](http://www.energynetworks.org) or call the ENA on 020 7706 5100.

● Kite flying is also dangerous near overhead lines – make sure people keep well away from them.

## Climate change pledge

The production and use of energy is one of the major factors contributing to climate change – but a safe, reliable and efficient energy supply is essential to economic growth and quality of life.

National Grid is committed to delivering energy while playing its part in minimising the impact of its operations on the climate. It has set up a Climate Change Strategy Group to help the company meet this aim and published a position statement on energy delivery and climate change.

"Our position statement identifies 13 ways we are minimising our impact on the climate while improving the delivery of our services," says Di Booth, National Grid group environment manager.

We are also targeting losses of sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) from high voltage transmission equipment and emissions at our liquefied natural gas sites and 22 gas powered compressor installations.

"We are committed to doing more to improve on our performance. Climate change is not going away, but by reducing our impact we can reduce how severe it will be for future generations."

## Team has all the safety answers

**DAMAGE TO** overhead electricity lines, underground electricity cables and underground gas pipelines can cause fatal or severe injury.

Land and Development's 15-strong Transmission Enquiries Team (TET), based at National Grid House, Warwick, is responsible for ensuring that farmers, developers, contractors etc proposing to work near to lines, cables and pipelines are aware of their existence and location, and work safely around them.

Sean Stokoe, TET manager, said: "National Grid has around 4,300 miles of gas pipeline and 410 miles of underground electricity cable that farmers, developers and contractors can't see. It is critical National Grid responds to those proposing 'to put a spade in the ground' quickly and comprehensively."

"For electricity and gas, enquirers now need to make three separate applications, one to National Grid's TET, and one each to their regional electricity and gas companies," says Jackie Wilkie, who is supervising the processing of such enquiries – which are running at over 30,000 a year but are predicted to increase sharply as the new national/regional structure of the gas supply industry is understood.

Enquiries, including a clear, appropriately scaled plan(s) showing the proposed works, should be sent to: **Transmission Enquiries Team, Land and Development (B1), NATIONAL GRID UK TRANSMISSION, PO Box 3484, National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick CV34 6TG.** TET can be also be contacted on freephone number



Rob Greaves, Jackie Wilkie, Sean Stokoe and Julie Ulliott, part of the Transmission Enquiries Team

0800 731 2961. TET is also responsible for gas communications, under Rob Greaves, and NRSWA coordination and licensing under Julie Ulliott.

Rob is developing a database of all landowners and occupiers who have gas transmission pipelines running across their land.

"This will enable us to get safety and environmental awareness information out to owners and occupiers on an annual basis," says Rob, who is also starting to liaise with local planning authorities to ensure they include National Grid's gas transmission pipelines on their development plans.

## A flying start

It's more than 40 years since National Grid took to the air. The then Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) formed a Helicopter Unit in 1965 with two helicopters and two pilots who began undertaking infrared thermal imaging\* of overhead lines.

The Unit's work has expanded and developed greatly since those days, and it now operates as a totally integrated part of National Grid's condition monitoring system. The work carried out by the highly-trained and experienced pilots and their crews is vital to the company's efforts to improve efficiency and safety.

## Advice to grantors

National Grid's pilots don't fly low just for kicks – they do it for legitimate engineering reasons to ensure the safety and integrity of overhead lines.

They have a job to do, but the pilots are very conscientious and do their best to avoid areas where there is livestock – pigs, cattle, horses and chickens for example, said Pete.

"We regularly update our records of sensitive areas, so any grantor who would like us to keep away from a particular area should contact their wayleave officer.

"If it's essential for us to fly low over a particular area, we contact the grantor in advance so that they have the opportunity to move livestock."

# The eye in the sky

**EVERY JOB** has its boring moments – even the job of a National Grid helicopter pilot.

"A lot of our work involves hovering beside, or moving very slowly along a power line. Which can be pretty tedious!" said chief pilot Pete Gibson. "It's a case of telling Air Traffic Control when they call us requesting our current position, 'Oh, about 100 yards from the last time you asked half an hour ago!'"

Pete, a former RAF pilot and instructor, has been with the Helicopter Unit for 23 years. His fellow pilots are former Army pilot Dave Hemmings and ex-RAF engineer Liam Hughes who went on to take his private pilot's licence and qualify as a flying instructor.

The small team is completed by observers Ian Pettitt, Matthew Ward and Simon Gudgeon. Ian and Matthew are both former overhead linesmen – Simon formerly worked in HR with National Grid at Penwortham.

In the past 12 months, the team has flown about 1,300 hours and in one year, they can check about 60,000 overhead line spans during various patrols. The unit has used various helicopters over the years, but currently has two twin-engined Squirrels, one of which is powerful enough for live-line working.

The bread-and-butter work involves visual patrols, which are carried out in the spring with trained observers from local overhead line teams who use a high magnification video lens to monitor the condition of equipment. Thermal imaging is done during the winter months on selected overhead lines.

The bulk of the unit's work is part of the condition monitoring process, when the pilots use a stabilised daylight camera fitted underneath the helicopters to check overhead lines. Their skills are also a vital part of pre-refurbishment



The helicopter team, from left, pilots Liam Hughes, Dave Hemmings and Pete Gibson, with observers Ian Pettitt, Simon Gudgeon and Matt Ward, at Oxford Airport

planning. "It makes the process more effective and cost-efficient if we can identify what really needs to be done – and what doesn't," said Pete.

The helicopters have an important role to play in helping to protect land and wildlife from

possible damage by essential engineering projects, by ferrying men and equipment to isolated or environmentally sensitive areas.

The unit also plays an important part in network mapping. A laser attached to the aircraft scans the ground 50,000

times per second and is reflected back into the equipment and recorded. This information is used to create a computer model of the terrain. It maps obstructions such as buildings, encroaching vegetation and sagging overhead lines, giving a very accurate survey. A normal ground survey with a theodolite would record about 400 points per mile – the laser records six million points per mile. The system is useful when new gas pipe routes are being planned.

Working with the live line team is a particularly demanding role for a National Grid pilot. Normally circuits have to be switched off when linesmen work on the system. With live line working, they wear protective suits and work with the circuit on – either from a basket suspended from the helicopters in a trolley attached to the line.

Pete, who has logged up 14,000 flying hours during his

career, said learning to do live line flying was the most demanding thing he has faced in his flying career.

"I was taught in France in 1995 by a French pilot using hand signals and broken English! Live line working involves intensive

\* Ultra sensitive thermal imaging cameras can identify "hot spots" at joints on overhead lines – an indication of potential problems that could lead to faults if not repaired.

periods of concentration to keep two and a half tonnes of machine in one spot with two guys suspended in a basket 30 to 50 metres below.

"You can hover at a fixed point fairly readily – but as soon as you put that basket underneath the helicopter you are psychologically tethered by the fact that you can't just move away."

## Fleet highlight

Pete's most enjoyable flying experience was taking part in the Loch Fleet Project in Scotland in 1985, a joint operation involving the CEGB.

"The loch had turned acid and killed all the fish – my job was to help dump tonnes of lime from the air on to the surrounding hillside so that it would wash naturally into the loch," he said.

"It was great fun – and very rewarding when fish returned to Loch Fleet just two years later."





Diversification gives many farming families the scope to boost their income and reduce their dependence on agriculture.

In previous issues, *Gridline* has focused on a number of National Grid grantors who have diversified, including an ostrich farmer in Hampshire and a former poultry farmer in North Humberside who now grows willow as an energy crop. We've also featured a hemp grower in East Sussex and a grantor in Bedfordshire who produces ginseng. In this issue, we highlight Sherwood Forest Farm Park, a Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) Approved Centre run by grantors Simon and Felicity Shaw Browne, at Lamb Pens Farm, Edwinstowe near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. The Park celebrates its 20th "birthday" this year.



**IT ALL** started with potatoes and sweetcorn. It was the early 1980s and a farming crisis was looming even in those days. For several summers, Simon and Felicity had boosted their income by selling potatoes and sweetcorn from a stall at the end of their farm lane.

It was a mini venture – but it gave them food for thought.

"We thoroughly enjoyed meeting the public and began to think about ways of welcoming the public to the farm," said Felicity. "Simon knew about livestock, his brother Tim knew about arable farming and, as a primary school teacher, I knew how to deal with people and schoolchildren. Simon and I could run the farm park while Tim took full responsibility for the arable side.

"We wanted our new park to be different from others, so we decided to get into keeping and breeding rare and protected farm animals, many of which haven't been seen on farms for generations. It took us nearly two years of planning and organisation before we were able to open as Sherwood Forest Farm Park. I spent about eight months on the phone just tracking down various species of animals. We will always remember our first arrivals – two gorgeous red Tamworth pigs, called Gloria and Dolores, Fudge the donkey and an orphaned Saanen goat called Gruff.

"We opened for just 11 weeks in 1986 and welcomed 6,000 visitors. They seemed very enthusiastic, so we knew the venture had a future."

Last year, the farm park welcomed about 35,000 visitors and it now opens from April 1 for six months, seven days a week. It contains more than 40 breeds, many within RBST categories, as well as more unusual additions, including exotic birds, wildfowl, ornamental ducks, wallabies, water buffalo and a family of delightful kune kune pigs – fat and round, people-loving pigs from New Zealand, much prized by the Maori.

Among the rare farm animals are seven



Simon with Aries the Longhorn and, inset, Simon and Felicity introduce Pygmy kids Hansel and Gretel to the Anglo Nubian

breeds of cattle, eight breeds of sheep, four breeds of goat, two horses – a Shire and a Suffolk Punch – and five breeds of British pigs, including Tamworth and Gloucester Old Spot.

Lamb Pens Farm was originally part of a much larger farm, Clipstone Park Farm, which has been in the Shaw Browne family for more than 70 years. Simon's grandfather became a tenant in 1932, and bought it as a single unit in 1945. On his death the farm passed to his two sons, Robert and Anthony, who farmed it as two separate holdings and are now both retired.

Within the 27 acres of Sherwood Forest Farm Park, there is a small gift shop and tea-room, picnic area, picturesque water gardens and many facilities for children including play areas, an activity barn, tree house and pets' corner. Sherwood Forest Steam Railway, the only 15-inch gauge railway in Nottinghamshire, meanders round the site. School, playgroup and toddler group visits are a bread-and-butter part of the business and birthday parties are a speciality.

# Diversify – and survive

## FACTFILE

- The RBST is the leading conservation charity working to restore Britain's native livestock breeds to their rightful place in our countryside. It receives no government support – its work is funded entirely by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies
- Its purpose is to secure the continued existence and viability of the United Kingdom's native farm animal genetic resources (FAnGR)
- It advises, supports and works with breed societies to ensure that important bloodlines and essential genetics are identified and diversity maintained
- It promotes the value of native breeds to the public and represents their interests to government
- For more information, visit [www.rbst.org.uk](http://www.rbst.org.uk) or write to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG. Tel: 024 7669 6551 or Fax: 024 7669 6706.

Simon and Felicity, who share their home with daughter Lizzie, 26 and Ben, 23, say there have been many rewards over the past 20 years. "We had some marvellous times along the way," said Felicity. "We've met so many different people and made lots of friends. But it hasn't been easy. The work is hard and unrelenting – we may open for only part of the year, but the animals still have to be looked after all year round, every day, seven days a week.

"Simon has just one person to help him with the livestock – he can easily work 80 hours a week during our open season."

• For more information about Sherwood Forest Farm Park, visit [www.sherwoodforestfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.sherwoodforestfarmpark.co.uk), call 01623 823558 or email: [felicity@sherwoodforestfarmpark.co.uk](mailto:felicity@sherwoodforestfarmpark.co.uk)

## Pylon becomes a work of art

A pylon in Sherwood Forest Farm Park has become a thing of beauty – thanks to local children.

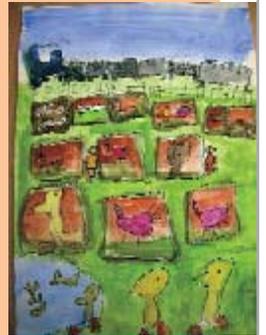
National Grid's 400kV Chesterfield to High Marnham overhead line crosses the farm park, and one pylon is in the car park. The line is undergoing major refurbishment, which has involved building five scaffolds, the largest 17 metres high.

In a bid to assure local people and schools that the park is still up and running, National Grid organised a schools painting competition and the 20 winning entries have been enlarged to 3ft by 6ft and used to cover scaffolding boards at the base of the pylon. There was a bonus in the form of prize money totalling £6,000.

Seven-year-old Jason from King Edwin Primary School, Edwinstowe, won £3,000 for his school, plus a free trip to the park for his class. Runner-up with a £2,000 prize was Joe, aged 5, from St John's Church of England Primary School, Worksop. The third prize of £1,000 went to Caitlin, 7, of Gilthill Primary School, Kimberley, Nottingham. Six-year-old Isaac from King Edwin School, was highly commended.

All four winners also won a family season ticket to the farm park and the other 16 competitors were given a family ticket. Judges were project delivery engineer Mark Brennan and project wayleave officer Mike Rockett.

The overhead line project, which started last year, involves replacing steelwork on some of the 125 pylons along the 45.7km stretch of line. The work – which is being carried out by the contractors AMEC – is due for completion at the end of this year.



Winner... Jason



Second... Joe



Third... Caitlin

# Rescue plan gets buzzing

**YOU CAN** help save the humble bumblebee. That's the challenge going out to National Grid's farming grantors.

Bumblebee populations on Britain's arable farms have declined by more than 70 per cent over the past 20 years, primarily through loss of vital nectar food resources and nesting sites.

One of the 20 bumblebee species has disappeared, three are on the verge of extinction and six are at precariously low populations.

Now Operation Bumblebee is set to put the habitat back and revive the fortunes of a valuable pollinator for crops and wildflowers.

The national scheme pioneered and funded by Syngenta – a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative research and technology – needs more than 1,000 farmers each committed to establishing at least a hectare (2.5 acres) of specific Operation Bumblebee seed mix.

"One thousand hectares of new habitat will make a huge difference to bumblebee populations," said Operation Bumblebee manager Simon Elsworth. "Independent experts have calculated just one tenth of a hectare of pollen and nectar habitat per 100 hectares of arable land would produce a real and sustainable increase in bumblebee numbers. Operation Bumblebee will achieve this target across more than one million hectares of UK arable cropping."

Syngenta has invested £500,000 in Operation Bumblebee and The Buzz Project, a five-year scientific evaluation of environmental habitats that highlighted the pollen and nectar mix as the best practical option for farmers to save the bumblebee. The project was conducted under real farm conditions on six sites. In Cambridgeshire, numbers of bumblebees foraging on legume margins increased by more than 800 per cent in two years, including recordings of the endangered



Man with a rescue mission...  
Geoff Coates of Syngenta

species *Bombus ruderatus*.

Operation Bumblebee provides farmers and advisers with the training, skills and technical support to establish habitats rich in the traditional species red clover, vetches and sainfoin.

Farmers involved will receive:

- training at a centre of environmental excellence
- Operation Bumblebee Guide Pack
- topical in-season updates
- telephone helpdesk support
- web site
- field ID guide and poster
- meetings at key times.

Simon hopes National Grid grantors will seize the opportunity

to help redress the plight of the bumblebee. "Establishing a patchwork of Operation Bumblebee mixtures on areas of unproductive farmland provides huge environmental benefit, with little or no effect on farm productivity. And when coupled to points gained for agri-environment scheme payments, the environmental area can become both biodiversity rich and financially profitable."

• Want to take part in Operation Bumblebee? Register your interest at [www.operationbumblebee.co.uk](http://www.operationbumblebee.co.uk) or contact Geoff Coates at [geoff.coates@syngenta.com](mailto:geoff.coates@syngenta.com) or on 07860 363775.



## Old orchards could help in beetle drive

**IF YOU** have any old fruit trees on your land, then the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) would like to hear from you.

The charity is launching a search this summer for the beautiful but elusive noble chafer beetle (pictured) one of the UK's most endangered beetles, which has declined over the past century, predominately through loss of habitat.

Old fruit trees are of key importance to the beetle because it has very specific environmental requirements, developing as a larva only in decaying orchard trees.

PTES is the lead partner for the Biodiversity Action Plan for the beetle, and is therefore responsible for collating information regarding its whereabouts. But it needs help and wants anyone with old fruit trees to notify them, because the trees may be a potential home of the species.

Jill Nelson, chief executive of PTES, said: "Sadly, numbers of noble chafer have declined dramatically as a result of destruction of the ancient orchards that are the beetles' natural home. It is vital that we identify areas where these beetles may still be found so that we can assess the true status of the species and where we should focus our conservation efforts."

"We would be delighted to hear from any National Grid grantor who has old orchard trees on their property, as they may be unwittingly playing host to this beautiful but beleaguered beetle."  
• If YOU think you can help the trust, then please send details of your orchards or sightings of the beetle, either by email to [laura@ptes.org](mailto:laura@ptes.org) or by phoning the trust on 020 7498 4533. Identification postcards with full colour photos of the beetle are also available.

### FACTFILE

#### About bumblebees

- Because they live in small nests, bumblebees never swarm
- Not all bumblebees have a sting. Drones, the small male bees, have no sting at all
- Bumblebees are much less aggressive than honey bees. Generally they will not attack a human at all, unless their life is under threat
- Some bumblebees have a long tongue that can reach about two centimetres into the centre of a flower to lap up the nectar. When not in use the tongue is rolled under its head
- Bumblebees are covered in black and yellow or orange feathery "hair". This helps to keep them warm and means that they can search for food when other insects are feeling the cold.

### FACTFILE

#### About the beetle

- The noble chafer (*Gnorimus nobilis*) is a beautiful, somewhat globular, greenish, iridescent rare beetle about 2cm long
- Noble chafers feed on nectar from open-structured flowers like hogweed on sunny days between July and August
- Their grubs live inside old, decaying fruit trees in traditional orchards, where they take two years to develop into adult beetles.

National Grid grantor David Wood and his wife Pam began conservation efforts on their Northumberland farm 20 years ago.

Today, their 300-acre arable and pasture farm at Longhorsley, near Morpeth, is home to otters, red squirrels and curlews to name a few. Best of all, barn owls have returned...



## Public perception

Research conducted as part of the *Making Green Ground* campaign revealed that:

- 74 per cent of people said farmers should have payments linked to conservation – but few knew what farmers were already doing or could do for the environment
- the public recognises farmers' environmental role and that farming is an integral part of British culture and heritage.

## FACTFILE

### About barn owls

- Fossil records of barn owls go back two million years – so as a species it is about 40 times as old as modern man
- The barn owl in the UK has declined tremendously, it is nothing like as common as it was in the 1930s; it is estimated there are about 4,000 breeding pairs in the UK
- The barn owl seeks out areas of rough, uncut grassland where it can hunt for its favourite prey, the short-tailed field vole
- The owls often nest inside farm buildings, tree cavities and sometimes in rock cavities. They are not woodland birds and do not hoot
- Visit [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org) or call 0870 990 3889 for more information.



# Farming in tune with nature

**THE MEDIA IS VERY** quick to report news of a farmer bulldozing an ancient hedge, says David, but it rarely spotlights the farmer who plants new hedges for posterity.

He's an ardent champion of the National Farmers' Union's environmental campaign *Making Green Ground* which highlights how farmers manage the countryside and encourage biodiversity.

In support, David and his wife Pam welcomed a group of wildlife and conservation experts to Whinney Hill Farm.

"I have always felt that farmers have a duty to show a responsible attitude to the environment," said David. "Although our conservation efforts had humble beginnings, it has since grown to be an integral part of everything we do here.

"The conservation work has had a positive effect on farm profits

because we take out of production and return to nature only the poorest land, the land we cannot farm profitably. Also, much of this work is funded under Countryside Stewardship with annual payments.

David, 56, comes from a strong farming background. His father Lewis bought Whinney Hill in 1947 and David was born there a few years later. He began working on the family farm when he left school, taking over the business when his father died in 1984.

"Back in the 1980s, farmers were given a bashing by environmentalists, so we decided to do our bit by planting a new hedge and a bit of woodland on ground too steep to plough," he said.

"We have had at least one conservation project every year since. The introduction of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in the early 1990s was an added incentive."

More than 17 acres of new broad-leaved woodland has been planted, 10,000 trees and shrubs established, along with 13km of grass and wild flower margins and 3km of unsprayed conservation headlands. Grassland at Whinney Hill farm is protected too, with small areas of peat bog and lowland



Farsighted... David and Pam Wood have practised conservation on their Northumberland farm for 20 years

heath managed under Countryside Stewardship.

The couple have built six ponds, each attracting a wealth of wildlife from dragonflies to otters. Already this year they have laid another two hedges and have plans to replace a deteriorating conifer shelter belt.

"The hardest work was the hedgerow restoration," said David. "In 1986 we had 200 metres of hedge – now we have about 8km, which means most of our fields now have a hedge; the increase in wildlife has been impressive. Our farm is home to a variety of animals, including less common species and the endangered red squirrel.

"We had a lot to learn. No-one had planted hedgerows for generations, so we had to start from scratch and learn traditional methods."

Over the years, the woods have seen an increase in species such as brown hare and curlew. "One of the most satisfying gains has been the return of the barn owl," said David. "The owls were absent from the area for 30 years, but they returned in 1999 and have spread to neighbouring farms."

David and Pam say that they have derived enormous satisfaction from their endeavours.

"Perhaps one of the greatest pleasures has been the opportunity to work with so many other people interested in conservation – experts from the Hawk and Owl Trust, for example, the Wildlife Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology.

"We've even had a chap recording bird songs!"

● Whinney Hill Farm is crossed by the 400kV Eccles-Stella West overhead line.



## Did you know?

The first conscious effort to protect nature in the world was possibly made by the kings of England in the Middle Ages.

They wanted private hunting preserves where they could hunt wild animals. But they learned very quickly that if they were to have animals to hunt, they needed to protect the wildlife from poachers and the land from villagers who would cut down the trees for firewood.

# Spectacular days of soil and toil

The countdown is on to this year's British National Ploughing Championships, a premier event in the UK's agricultural calendar.

Hundreds of champion ploughmen from up and down the country will converge on Loseley Park, Guildford in Surrey on October 14 and 15, and many thousands of visitors are expected – last year the event attracted more than 24,000.

National Grid is one of the main sponsors again, along with Total Butler, Goodyear and Firestone.

Ken Chappell, executive director of the Society of Ploughmen which organises the event, said: "As always we welcome the support and enthusiasm of our sponsors, as well as local people, organisations and the agricultural trade. It will add up to a ploughing spectacular and provide a great day out for all the family."

Competitors will include past and present British, European and World ploughing champions and competition will be fierce as ploughmen and women fight for the supreme honour of taking the British national titles and representing their country in the 2007 World Ploughing Contest in Lithuania.

All visitors will be catered for with an extensive trade stand area and a taste of the past will be supplied with steam ploughing engines; vintage machines at work; rural craft displays; a static display of vintage tractors and agricultural



Simon Witty, last year's British Reversible champion

engines and magnificent Shire horses at work demonstrating their ploughing skills.

By contrast, machinery firms will be demonstrating their latest multi-furrow ploughing units which can turn over in far less than an hour what it takes the horses a day to achieve.

● For more information, visit [www.ploughmen.co.uk](http://www.ploughmen.co.uk). You can also email [info@ploughmen.co.uk](mailto:info@ploughmen.co.uk), telephone 01302 852469 or fax 01302 859880.

## FACTFILE

### About the venue: ●

Loseley Park has over 100 acres of grounds for the holding of major events ● Loseley House has been the home of the More-Molyneux family for well over 400 years ● The house was built by Sir William More in 1562 at the request of Queen Elizabeth I.

Ploughwomen have been thin on the ground in the UK since the days of the Women's Land Army.

At last year's British National Ploughing Championships, there were nearly 200 competitors – but just one woman, Ann Williams of Corndonford Farm, Poundsgate, Newton Abbot, Devon. Ann ploughs the old-fashioned way – with Shire horses.

*Gridline* went to meet her in deepest Dartmoor...



Ann Williams with her beloved Shires Domino and Lupin

## Ploughing a lone furrow

**WHEN ANN** first tried to enter the All England Horse Ploughing Match in 1972, she was refused.

"I was told by an official that it might upset the men!" she said.

Undeterred, she managed to gain entry the following year and has since gone on to win a host of prizes around the country. Most recent successes include 2004 All England overall champion and reserve in 2003.

Her passion for heavy horses began as a child on her family's farm near Hastings. "I still have a scrapbook I made when I was eight, full of pictures of working horses," she said.

Ann is now a 67-years-young grandmother – but her passion is undiminished and she is never happier than when ploughing with her beloved Shires, 15-year-old Domino and 20-year-old Lupin who she bred herself.

Ann was accustomed to working horses on her family's PYO farm in East Sussex – they were used for carting, hoeing and haymaking.

When her son and daughter

were young, she acquired her own heavy horses, a Welsh cob cross-Shire – "I bought him from a car dealer!" – and an Irish draught horse.

"I wanted to socialise with them, but as they weren't show horses, the only way to do that was to learn to plough and enter competitions. Fortunately, there were lots of retired ploughmen around to advise me in my early competitions. They wouldn't have dared offer advice to ploughmen, but I just had to ignore it and instead set my sights on national competitions.

"When I started winning local match competitions, there was a bit of bad feeling from the men, but I just had to ignore it and instead set my sights on national competitions.

"These days I try to enter five contests a year including the British National Ploughing Championship – so far I haven't been higher than fifth in those."

Ploughing is hard work, requiring strength and stamina –

which is why there are just a handful of competitive ploughwomen in the country.

In competitions, Ann uses an ancient Ransome Bantam plough, which she says is light to use and fits her like a glove. "When things are going well, it's like pushing a pram down the High Street!"

"The hardest thing is getting a good finish – and it's much more difficult for a woman because she doesn't have a man's strength – which is why I do better in light soil. I look forward to ploughing at the Nationals at Losely, they have my kind of soil there."

Ann has lived in Devon since 1993 and has been with her partner Will Williams since 1998 – they met on the competition circuit in Wales. Will is another passionate horse ploughman, competing around the country with his own Shires.

Ann says her ambition is to keep on ploughing until her 70th year – and to get a higher place in the British National Championships.

## Shade's bright future

National Grid is sowing the seeds for a greener future thanks to a new initiative with The Tree Council.

The Shade Trees Fund aims to support The Tree Council, an environmental charity, and help staff raise money for tree projects and local groups.

Employees can join the fund and receive a "How to grow a tree" pack for £10, or fundraise and donate more to support local schools or community groups.

The target is to plant 10,000 trees – one for every employee – over the next four years.

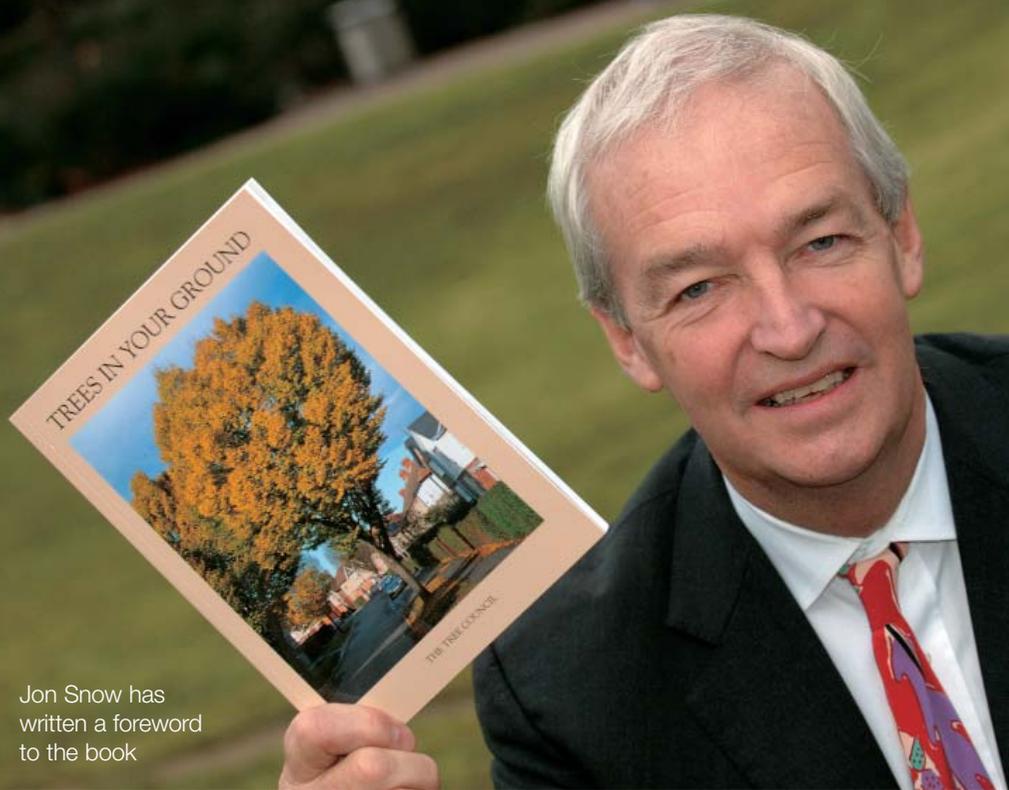
Director of Communications Isobel Hoseason, chair of the Respecting Our Environment, Safety, Health, Environment and Security team, said: "The Shade Trees Fund is an opportunity to raise awareness among our staff of our commitment to tackling climate change and to demonstrate how much we can achieve through working together."

● The UK'S woodland owners are being urged to do their bit to encourage more people to visit woods.

The Tree Council – which has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with National Grid – launches its month-long, 10th anniversary Walk in the Woods festival on May Bank Holiday Weekend.

The event is aimed at getting more people to appreciate why trees and woods matter.

"We hope that this year, more woodland owners than ever will seize the opportunity to invite others to come and enjoy their trees," said Tree Council director-general Pauline Buchanan Black.



Jon Snow has written a foreword to the book

## New book is tree-mendous read

The Tree Council has published a new book that aims to encourage everyone to value and care for trees in their neighbourhoods.

*Trees in Your Ground*, which also helps people to choose the right trees for their patch, has been backed by National Grid which has worked in partnership with The Tree Council since 1990. It has supported its national Tree Warden Scheme since 1997.

The book was launched during The Tree Council's recent National Tree Week celebrations when a eucalyptus was planted in the heart of a London community by Terry Molloy, who plays Ambridge's new Tree Warden Mike Tucker in Radio 4's *The Archers*, and TV anchorman Jon Snow – the face of Channel 4 News and a self-confessed "tree fanatic".

Able assistance was offered by

Sue Roe, chairman of The Tree Council, and Nick Winsor, National Grid's group director, UK and US Transmission.

Jon Snow, pictured left, has written a foreword in the book. "A national drive to plant more trees, encompassing individuals, communities and local authorities, could have a fantastic effect on most neighbourhoods, urban and rural alike," he said. "The trouble is that most people have no idea of what they, as individuals, could do to make it happen. I hope that *Trees in Your Ground* will help provoke that revolution in tree planting."

● Copies of *Trees in Your Ground* are available by sending a cheque for £8.99 (including postage and packing) to The Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YT.

# Taking the greener road

**TREE WARDENS** have an "evangelical zeal" in what they do – and are top of the list of people trusted by their local communities.

This means they have a vital role to play in helping the new urban agenda evolve as our cities and city regions change from industrial, manufacturing areas to post-industrial areas.

"We need urban arboristas to assist in rethinking the design, the planning and maybe the imaging of our cities," said Dr Alan Simson, reader in Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Alan was a speaker at The Tree Council's conference for Tree Warden co-ordinators, held at Ettington Park, near Stratford-upon-Avon. The event was sponsored by National Grid and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Alan said the role of volunteer Tree Wardens would become increasingly important in the future: "Although we know we can

create a much more viable, people-friendly, family-friendly ambiance for our post-industrial cities by promoting trees as a first principal and not a cosmetic afterthought, the sad fact of life is that the revenue income of local authorities is likely to remain static, effectively going down," he said.

Delegates and speakers

were welcomed by Sue Roe, chairman of The Tree Council, while director-general Pauline Buchanan Black chaired the conference proceedings. The theme was *Trees in Your Ground*.

National Grid's close relationship with The Tree Council – and trees – was reinforced by National Grid performance analyst Jessica Richardson and Steve Yeoman, environmental adviser, both from UK Construction.



Jessica Richardson



Steve Yeoman

They described the company's role as the UK's largest utility and how it operates gas and electricity transmission and a significant proportion of the gas distribution networks.

Jessica said that maintaining the gas distribution network was National Grid's biggest interface with the public – distribution pipes are in the highway in virtually every street in the UK.

And within most of those streets are trees and hedges which have to be protected during the work.

"Some 85 per cent of gas mains replacement work is carried out by no-dig techniques, where we insert the new plastic pipe inside the existing main," she told delegates. "There are many advantages to doing this and one is that the sizes of excavations are



The conference attracted over 50 delegates from around the country

much smaller and there's less disruption. For this reason, it's a tree-friendly option and we're driving our design teams to increase the percentage of projects completed this way."

Highlighting National Grid's policy to work responsibly when it comes to the environment, Jessica said the company was proud to be ISO14001 certified in recognition of continual

improvement with its environmental performance.

Steve outlined how significant work is undertaken during the Pipeline Route Corridor Investigation Study to avoid sensitive environmental receptors such as woodlands and trees. He then discussed the construction process and protection measures undertaken for trees during cross-country pipeline construction.

THE Farm Energy Centre is the UK's leading source of information on the application of energy-based techniques in farming and horticulture.

It works with farmers, utilities — including National Grid — research institutes and manufacturers providing expertise on energy applications and energy efficiency.

It covers a wide range of activities — from energy auditing and energy brokering to energy efficiency planning and product testing and evaluation.

The FEC also works with other organisations in the energy business, such as the Energy Savings Trust, Action Energy and agricultural/horticultural organisations including the National Farmers Union, the Milk Development Council, Horticultural

Development Council and the Health and Safety Executive.

Its database of techniques and equipment is a unique resource which allows farmers to track down suppliers offering specific equipment, and the FEC Trade Membership scheme helps to bring manufacturers and farmer clients together.

For more detailed information, visit [www.farmenergy.com](http://www.farmenergy.com)

If you would like more information about any of the issues highlighted on these pages, contact the FEC at NAC, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LS. Tel: 024 7669 6512 or e-mail: [info@farmenergy.com](mailto:info@farmenergy.com)

Use the same numbers to obtain a list of FEC publications, including technical guides, and technical notes.

## A little light relief

Just a few ways to save energy — and money...

- don't run fluorescent lamps during the day — clean roof panels would let in more light
- some domestic heating boilers can burn on-farm materials like woodchip, grain and other free-flowing material very efficiently so are worth investigating before system renewal or a new build
- infra-red pit heaters put warmth where it's needed and are energy-efficient too.
- Choose the right lighting for the job. Mercury halide lamps in a cattle yard are relatively cheap to run and give a whiter light than the sodium equivalent
- in offices and rest rooms, swap conventional tungsten-filament bulbs for equivalent-wattage compact fluorescents. Payback is swift.
- think about ballast and tyre pressures to maximise traction and save fuel.



## Products worth a look

- A new product by Leafsen irrigation systems can help reduce energy costs in greenhouses by optimising irrigation. The new product uses a leaf thickness sensor which measures the turgidity or pressure of the leaf that can be used as an indicator of water stress in the plant. Irrigation can then be programmed accordance with the requirements of the plant. Leafsen also claims 30 per cent increase in marketable crop for tomatoes with a reduction in splitting from 18 per cent to three per cent.
- A sheet insulation product for greenhouse walls has been introduced by GE Plastics Specialty Film and Sheet. It's claimed that the sheet has an insulation value three times better than glass — and energy transmission is said to be reduced by 66 per cent.
- CO<sub>2</sub> use in greenhouses can be

expensive and good control is vitally important if crop growth and energy use are to be optimised. Priva is encouraging growers to move to its electronic CO<sub>2</sub> system



(pictured) that can now be integrated into its all electronic measuring boxes. The cost of maintenance and calibration is said to be a fraction of the cost of more traditional systems that use sampling tubes and pumps.

# Don't lag behind!

**KEEP THOSE** pipes lagged... that's the advice of the FEC which says it's easy to forget that any pipe carrying hot water in an unheated area is potentially wasting heat.

And with no large energy meter stuck on the side



Chris Plackett, right, of FEC Services, checking insulation for a grower

of the pipe telling you how much it is costing, it's easy to let this waste pass by.

A 10-metre run of 100mm diameter pipe with a

surface temperature of 70 degrees C will lose 56.6 kWh a day to the surrounding air. At current gas and oil prices, that's more than £1 a day — and that's just for 10 metres of pipe!

And yet stopping the heat loss is relatively cheap and easy. Fitting two inches of insulation on the pipe

will cut it by 90 per cent. There are different types of insulation and the cost of installation depends on the quality of product, but is usually between £20 and £45 per linear metre. Paybacks on the installation will vary between seven and 18 months — a pretty good investment return.

Installations that meet the energy saving requirements of BS5422 qualify for an enhanced capital allowance (ECA). An ECA allows the expenditure associated with the investment to be written off against tax in the year of purchase.

Here are some practical tips for insulating pipes:

- don't skimp on the insulation — make sure the pipe is completely covered
- hold insulation in place with ties, wire or removable clips which are useful if emergency access is required
- start insulating the pipework from the back of the boiler right through to the point of use
- always inspect pipework for damage to insulation and repair any leaks
- remember to insulate valves and pump bodies — but don't insulate the pump motor as this may cause it to overheat.



Read the meters every month

## Shop around to get the best electricity prices

Finding the best electricity tariff for your enterprise — and then keeping in touch with a shifting market — takes time and experience.

So if you don't fancy the DIY approach, get independent advice from the FEC or specialist energy consultants.

"Using a specialist generally save more than it costs," said Andrew Kneeshaw from the FEC.

There are some ground rules for buying electricity:

- know what you use — check the utility company's meter reading and read all meters yourself once a month. Keep good records
- go through the small print. Shop around at least three months before the contract expires and issue termination of contract in good time

(cancellation notice periods are often long). Also understand how companies charge so you can make valid comparisons

- general — use brokering/buyer services, take long contracts when prices are low and short contracts when prices are high.

### UPDATE

Free advice on energy efficiency for UK businesses is available from the Carbon Trust, previously called Action Energy. This advice can be via telephone or for larger users, an on-site visit may be funded. For more details of what the Carbon Trust can offer, call 0800 085 2005 or log on to their website at [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)

# Cheers!

## Winemaker drinks to vintage win

Riding high... international challenge winner Bob Lindo and guests

**A FORMER** RAF pilot-turned-winemaker has captured top honours in an international competition.

He is National Grid grantor Bob Lindo from Cornwall whose sparkling wine beat 250 champagnes to win a gold medal in the 2005 International Wine Challenge, the industry's premier contest.

Bob — who has been producing wine for just 14 years — beat off competition from the “big boys”, his Camel Valley Brut outsourcing brands including Moët & Chandon and Mumm.

The wine, made from Kerner and Seyval Blanc grapes, was picked out by judges from across the world in a blind tasting.

“It was overwhelming to win the gold,” said Bob. “We know we’re up there near the top, but to get the only gold anywhere in the whole world outside the Champagne region is just absolutely amazing. It proves English vineyards can take on the French.”

Bob, 56, and his wife Annie, 52, went into the wine business at Little Denby Farm, Nanstallon, near Bodmin, in 1989 when they planted 8,000 vines, digging each hole by hand. Bob had been in the RAF, but he had to leave the service after breaking his back in three places when ejecting from a Jet Provost in 1986.

They started by growing five varieties of grape, three red and two white, on five acres. Today,

the couple, whose son Sam, 29, works in the family business, have 10 acres producing 35 tons of six varieties of grapes each year, and there are plans to plant another seven acres this year. Each ton of grapes yields 600 litres of juice to give 8,000 bottles of wine.

Bob and Annie bottled their first wine in 1992 — and promptly won a bronze medal in competition. Since then, there have been a host of accolades — including 2005 Waitrose Trophy for the best rosé, 2005 UK Vineyards Association trophy for the best wine of the 2004 vintage and a winner in the 2004 International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Celebrity TV chef Rick Stein offers Camel Valley wine at his fish restaurant in Padstow, and many wine experts, including Jilly Gooden and Oz Clarke, have given it an enthusiastic thumbs-up. The vineyards are situated on the sunny slopes above the River Camel and the valley is straddled by the National Grid 400kV overhead line that takes electricity to Cornwall.

### PRIZEFILE

Now it's YOUR chance to sample Bob and Annie's Camel Valley Brut. We are giving away four bottles of the wine — 2004 vintage — to the winner of our GridLine competition. **All you have to do is tell us the Freephone telephone number of National Grid's Transmission Enquiries Team** — you'll find the answer in this issue of *Gridline*. Send your answers to: **Gridline Competition, Papers Publishing' Stirling House, College Road, Cheltenham GL53 7HY**, or email: [john@paperspublishing.co.uk](mailto:john@paperspublishing.co.uk)  
Entries must be received by  
May 26, 2006

#### Land partnership bears fruit

A former RAF pilot and winemaker, Bob Lindo and his wife Annie, 52, went into the wine business at Little Denby Farm, Nanstallon, near Bodmin, in 1989 when they planted 8,000 vines, digging each hole by hand. Bob had been in the RAF, but he had to leave the service after breaking his back in three places when ejecting from a Jet Provost in 1986.

