

National Grid completes £50m refurbishment of power lines in Devon

£50m project to refurbish nearly 100km of power lines and 300 pylons in Devon now complete.

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- National Grid completes £50m refurbishment of 100km of overhead lines
- Innovative technique used to install new wires over Trago Mills
- Local schools and community groups supported through education sessions and community grant programme

National Grid has completed a £50 million overhead power line refurbishment in Devon to keep energy flowing to homes and businesses in Devon for another 50 years.

National Grid, working with Babcock International Group, started working in March 2017 on a stretch line nearly 100km long, between Landulph and Exeter. Over 300 pylons were included in the refurbishment.

The refurbishment involved replacing the power lines, which keep the supply of energy flowing, as well as cosmetic changes like repainting and steelwork replacement.

An innovative alternative to scaffolding called Skysafe was used near Trago Mills to avoid getting in the way of people shopping.

Skysafe is a safe way to install new overhead wires using trolleys linked with electrically insulated ropes suspended high above the ground. With Skysafe there's no need for road closures.

Project Engineer Robbie Griggs, said: "We'd like to thank our neighbours for their patience during our work. Refurbishing the power lines is vital in ensuring that electricity keeps flowing to where it's needed. National Grid is investing in refurbishing these overhead lines across the country.

"We worked hand in hand with Devon County Council to mitigate any problems, especially at Trago Mills where we avoided excessive disruption using Skysafe.

"We've worked hard to engage with the community and make a positive impact over the last year. Through our Community Grant Programme and our school sessions we've made a very real difference in the community. Together with Mad Science we ran two education sessions at Broadclyst Community Primary School and Stoke Cannon C of E Primary School. We helped the children to gain a good understanding of energy, hopefully kindling a life-long love of science."

"National Grid works hard to minimise any disruption in the communities where their engineers are working. This includes proactively engaging with the local community to raise awareness of the works, and answering residents' queries and concerns seven days a week, even Christmas Day."

National Grid also donated £50,000 to various community groups in the area, including Weir Quay Community Watersports Hub Club, Lee Moor Hall north of Plymouth and Chudleigh Knighton Village Hall. The Community Grant Programme is National Grid's fund for community organisations and charities in areas where work is impacting on local people. Since National Grid started providing grants in December 2015 they've invested £671,034 in local projects nationwide.

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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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