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## Historic occasion: National Grid takes pupils back in time to explore history of gas in Swindon

Time travelling history lesson from National Grid gives schoolkids the lowdown on Swindon's links with gas industry

**04 Dec 2015**

- Ninety pupils from Grange Federation School learn about Swindon's historic links with the gas industry
- Interactive National Grid session showed pupils how the former gasworks in Gipsy Lane once supplied locals with gas for cooking and heating
- Work to prepare the site for redevelopment is due for completion by the end of the year

Pupils went back in time with National Grid to learn about the important role the gas industry has played in Swindon's past.

National Grid representatives spent a morning exploring the history of the former gasworks in Gipsy Lane, with year six pupils at the Grange Federation School in Delamere Drive on Thursday 3rd December.

Starting in the 19th century the New Swindon Gas Company made so called 'town gas' from coal at the site. Gas production continued for around a century until the discovery of natural gas in the North Sea in the 1960s. The gas holders continued to be used for gas storage until changes in technology made them obsolete and they were subsequently removed.

The pupils learned about life in Victorian times before getting hands-on with an experiment to turn solids and liquids into gas. They also tried on some of the safety gear which would have been used by gas workers at Gipsy Lane, which taught them about the importance of safety and protective clothing.

Andy Williams, Science Co-ordinator for Grange Federation said, "It was a fantastic opportunity to have the National Grid team visit us at the Grange, our pupils were left with a new appreciation for energy and where it comes from. The children enjoyed learning about Swindon's history and getting experimental with gases. The session was a great mix of local history and science."

Samantha Rendell, Land Regeneration Manager at National Grid, added: "We want to thank the pupils and staff at Grange Federation for their warm welcome. Sharing the knowledge and experience we have at National Grid with the community is an important part of us acting as a responsible business. Using our education sessions to enhance the curriculum for young people in history and science benefits their learning and inspires future engineers. We really enjoyed delivering the session and showing the children the important role gas has played in Swindon's history."

National Grid's work to clean up the site began in August this year and is due to be completed later this month (December 2015). The work has involved clearing the grounds of materials leftover from the days when the site was operational, which will free up the land for redevelopment.

Anyone wanting more information on the work 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

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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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