

Landmark gas holders to be demolished in Wigan

Two unused gas holders dating from the 1930s to be demolished in Wigan

13 Sep 2017

- **Two unused gas holders off Darlington Street to be dismantled as part of a national programme**
- **Water and sludge to be removed from empty holders before the main structures are dismantled**
- **Work expected to be complete by spring next year**

National Grid is starting work to dismantle two unused gas holders in Wigan town centre- part of plans to clear the site for future use.

The site on Darlington Street will be cleared as part of National Grid's on-going nationwide gas holder dismantling programme. Gas holders are no longer required due to investments made to improve the national network, meaning gas can be stored in the pipe system or underground. Historically the site formed part of the much larger Wigan Gasworks where coal gas was first produced in 1823. Coal gas production was in operation at the site until the 1970s when the majority of the gasworks buildings and infrastructure were decommissioned. The gasholders date from the 1930's and remained in operation for the storage and distribution of natural gas until 2011/2012.

Initially work will start to remove one gas holder with work to the second gas holder following soon after. The work to each gas holder will be carried out in a number of phases and finished one after another.

Specialist contractors appointed by National Grid will first remove and treat any water from the gas holders, before removing the sludge and any other debris from the base.

Removing the sludge can produce an unpleasant smell, similar to diesel. This smell is not harmful to people who live in the surrounding community or the environment and National Grid will do everything they can to make sure it does not become an issue. National Grid's gas safety guidance remains unchanged by the work. If people do think they can smell gas they should contact the freephone gas emergency number 0800 111 999. All reports will be investigated by appropriate gas engineers to establish if they are related to the gas holder dismantling work or are genuine gas escapes.

The site will remain securely fenced at all times with full CCTV coverage. The work will be strictly controlled to minimise any potential disturbance for people who live and work close by.

Work is expected to be finished by spring next year.

Kat Scargill, Land Regeneration Manager for National Grid, said: "We will remove the gas holders as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible to minimise the impact on local people and the environment.

"We have written to people who live and work in the local community to explain what we will be doing. If anyone has any questions about the project they can contact our community relations team on 0800 819 9071."

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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