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## Wired for pounds – Sally’s pylon climb sees cash soar for Macmillan

Hinckley resident scales 150-foot pylon for charity

09 Jun 2015

- Daredevil climb generates £24,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support
- National Grid staff in two-year partnership to raise half a million pounds for Macmillan

Hinckley’s plucky Sally Barson took charity fundraising to new heights when she scaled a 150-foot electricity pylon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

National Grid employee Sally’s white-knuckle climb helped raise a whopping £24,000 for the charity. She joined an intrepid band of colleagues, based in the company’s offices in Solihull, Warwick and London, for the adrenaline-fuelled ascent of a National Grid training pylon taller than Nelson’s column.

Donations poured in for the fundraiser, held at National Grid’s Eaking training academy in Nottinghamshire, on Thursday (4 June).

Thanks to generous colleagues, friends and family, Sally and her colleagues doubled their original charity target to more than £12,000. National Grid has pledged to match their efforts, with £24,000 set to be handed over to Macmillan to pay for heating grants for people with cancer.

Climbing pylons is a routine part of the job for National Grid’s force of overhead line engineers but Sally and her workmates are more used to having their feet firmly on the ground.

She said: “Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way. I was diagnosed with skin cancer four years ago. The prognosis was excellent and I am left with a very small scar on my face but many others face far more serious challenges.

“For me this was an opportunity to give my time and to support Macmillan. This is by far the scariest thing I have ever done but it seemed the least I could do to help and support Macmillan Cancer Support. I am so very proud to be part of an amazing team of people.”

In a two-year fundraising partnership with Macmillan, National Grid staff are aiming to raise half a million pounds to fund heating grants for people with cancer.

Full safety precautions were taken for the climb. The ten-strong team donned protective equipment before being harnessed to the training pylon, which is connected to non-live wires, and is used to train linesmen. They were accompanied by qualified National Grid engineers throughout the event.

Members of the public should never attempt to climb pylons. It is extremely dangerous as they risk death or serious injury from high voltage electricity or falls.

Ends



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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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