

Essential gas works starting in Smethwick

Gas mains renewal work in High Street, Smethwick, from 3 January 2017 for approximately 12 weeks

22 Dec 2016

- Older metal gas mains to be replaced with modern plastic pipe
- The work will ensure a safe and reliable gas supply for the future

National Grid will shortly be renewing a section of gas pipe in High Street, Smethwick. This work is estimated to last for around 12 weeks and will be carried out in three phases. To ensure that the work can be carried out safely and in the shortest possible time, National Grid will need to introduce traffic management systems.

For the first phase, which will start on 3 January and last for around two weeks, a road closure will be in place on Sabell Road at the junction of St Pauls Road. A diversion route will be clearly signposted.

The second phase will start when the first phase is finished and is estimated to last for two to three weeks. During this phase, three-way traffic light control will be in place on Dibble Road at the junction with High Street. Some of the parking bays on High Street will be suspended.

The third and final phase of the project will start after the completion of the second phase and is estimated to last for about five-and-a-half weeks. During this phase, Ford Street will be closed at the junction of High Street. A diversion route will be in place and will be clearly signposted. This phase will also require multi-way traffic light control on Stony Lane, and a temporary zebra crossing will be provided.

Motorists are advised to allow extra travel time for any additional congestion or find an alternative route.

This essential work is being carried out because the older metal gas mains have reached the end of their working lives and need to be renewed. They will be replaced with new hard-wearing plastic pipe which, once in the ground, will last for several generations and will need little or no maintenance. This means that future disruption from roadworks will be greatly reduced.

Steve Murray, National Grid's Head of Contract, said: "We realise this work is disruptive and we apologise for the inconvenience it will cause. The work we're doing is essential, and I ask those affected to be patient while we are carrying it out. The results will justify the inconvenience, as the work will ensure that residents and traders in the area will continue to receive a safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come."

During the work, further information can be found by calling the National Grid Customer Enquiry Team on 0161 703 1000/1010. To find out more about how National Grid replaces gas mains and how this affects residents and businesses go to www.bettergaspipes.co.uk.

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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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