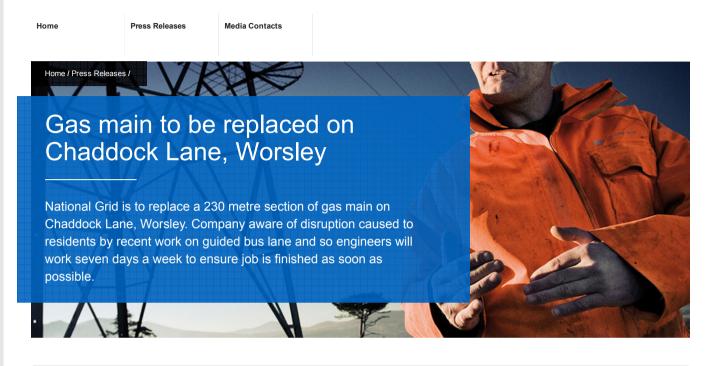
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30 Sep 2015

- National Grid engineers to replace 230 metres of gas pipe in Chaddock Lane
- Company aware of issues with recent work on guided bus lane
- Engineers will work seven days a week to finish the job quickly

National Grid engineers start work on Tuesday, 29 September to replace a 230 metre section of gas main in Chaddock Lane, near the Astley Industrial Estate in Leigh between the junction with the East Lancashire Road (A580) and Chaddock Hall.

The work could take up to five weeks to complete but National Grid is aware of the disruption cause to local people during the recent work on the guided bus lane and so will be working to try to reduce the duration of the project as it progresses. For the first three weeks, temporary traffic lights will be in operation. These will be manned at peak travel times to keep traffic moving.

Once this phase of the work is complete, it is possible that a further two weeks of work will be necessary. If it is, this will involve a two week closure of the A580 bound lane of Chaddock Lane. The company will keep local residents and businesses updated on the plans for the work.

Stephen Murray, Head of Contract West said: "We have been planning this work for some time. Last year, we decided to postpone it, rather than cause further frustration to local residents who were already affected by the work on the guided bus lane.

"We now need to do the work to make sure that the people of Leigh can continue to count on a reliable gas supply. We're replacing a section of old metal main with a modern type of plastic pipe which will last at least 80 years once it is in the ground. We reckon our work could take up to five weeks but we'll be keeping our progress under constant review and hope to be able to do the work without needing to close the East Lancs bound lane for the final two weeks.

"We know that we are asking a lot when we urge people to be patient with us. We are well aware of the issues which have been caused by work on the bus lane in the past. We'll do everything in our power to get our job done as quickly as possible. We will man the traffic lights at peak times and we will be working seven days a week. We've already been talking to local people and business owners so that they know what to expect and we will keep them posted if our plans change.

"We're keeping a close eye on the work and will do all we can to speed it up if we can do so safely. We hope that people will understand that a few weeks of work will allow us to guarantee them a safe and reliable gas supply for many decades to come.

"If people have questions about the work, they can get in touch with us on 0161 703 1000."

People can find updates on all National Grid's road works in their area at www.nationalgrid.com/inyourstreet.

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 National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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