

Update on Bilston gas mains replacement

Gas mains renewal in Bradley Lane, Bilston will take until 24 January 2017

22 Dec 2016

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

Because of unexpected engineering difficulties, National Grid will take longer than originally planned to complete gas mains replacement work on Bradley Lane in Bilston, West Midlands. Work will continue over the Christmas period, with the exception of 25 and 26 December and 1 January, and National Grid now expects it to be finished by 24 January 2017.

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, should last for many year and will need little or no maintenance. This means that future disruption from roadworks will be greatly reduced.

"We're sorry that the work is taking longer than we expected, and we apologise for any inconvenience this will cause," said Steve Murray, National Grid's Head of Contract West. "Unfortunately, because the old mains were installed many years ago, it sometimes happens that the information we have about them is incomplete, and this can mean that the replacement work takes longer than expected."

"That's what happened in this case, but we're doing everything we can to keep the extra period of disruption to a minimum. The end result will be worthwhile because the work we're doing now will ensure that residents and traders in the area will continue to receive a safe and reliable gas supply for cooking and heating 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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