

New Year rings in gas revamp for Norwich

January will herald a major upgrade for Norwich's gas network that will keep gas flowing to businesses and residents until the end of the century.

23 Dec 2014

National Grid will be renewing nearly a kilometre of gas mains in the centre of Norwich. The existing iron gas mains will be replaced with tough plastic pipes that have a lifespan of at least 80 years.

Among those streets affected by the work will be Castle Street, Red Lion Street, St Stephen's Street, Westlegate, All Saints Green, Ber Street, Bedford Street, Dove Street, London Street and White Lion Street. Work is due to begin in the New Year and is expected to be completed in April.

National Grid authorising engineer Vince Doggett said: "It's our job to connect people to the energy they use and these new gas mains will help ensure that Norwich continues to enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply. We will make every effort to minimise any inconvenience caused by our work."

The first stage of the work is due to start on Friday 2nd January in Bedford Street and Orford Hill, which are pedestrianised. Work will also be needed in a short stretch of Red Lion Street and the traffic management details for this are being finalised with the highways authority.

As most of the excavations will be in pedestrian areas, used by shoppers and businesses, where possible, National Grid will work in these areas at night. This will reduce the noise, dust and any other impact of the work. To safeguard pedestrians during the day, the excavations will be surrounded by fencing.

National Grid will be trialling new technology to speed up the work. A 'vacuum excavator' – a giant vacuum cleaner – will be used to quickly suck out spoil from the holes and avoid damaging underground cables.

As the project progresses, National Grid will be talking to business-owners before work begins in their streets to discuss any issues or concerns they may have.

If members of the public have any queries or concerns they can call National Grid customer services on 0800 0965678.

- 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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