

Gas Transmission Underground Pipelines - Guidance

You should be aware of the following information regarding National Grid's high pressure (1) underground pipelines and associated apparatus :

Our underground pipelines are protected by permanent agreements with landowners or have been laid in the public highway under our licence. These grant us legal rights that enable us to achieve efficient and reliable operation, maintenance, repair and refurbishment of our gas transmission network. Hence we require that no permanent structures are built over or under pipelines or within the zone specified in the agreement, materials or soil are not stacked or stored on top of the pipeline route and that unrestricted and safe access to any of our pipeline(s) must be maintained at all times

The information supplied is given in good faith and only as a guide to the location of our underground pipelines. The accuracy of this information cannot be guaranteed. The physical presence of such pipelines may also be evident from pipeline marker posts. The person(s) responsible for planning, supervising and carrying out work in proximity to our pipeline(s) shall be liable to us, as pipeline(s) owner, as well as to any third party who may be affected in any way by any loss or damage resulting from their failure to locate and avoid any damage to such a pipeline(s).

The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing underground pipelines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance HS(G)47 "Avoiding Danger From Underground Services" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.

Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth of 1.1 metres or more below ground and further information may be found on the plans provided. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.

If it is planned to use mechanical excavators and any other powered mechanical plant it shall not be sited or moved above the pipeline

If it is planned to carry out excavation to a depth greater than 0.3 metres, embankment or dredging works the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site with our representative and a safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline

The digging of trial holes to locate the pipeline must be carried out under the supervision of our on site representative

Excavation works may take place unsupervised no closer than 3 metres from the pipeline once its actual location has been confirmed. Similarly excavation with hand held power tools may take place no closer than 1.5 metres away.

Any construction traffic should either cross the pipeline using existing roads or at agreed crossing locations using agreed protective measures

Ground anchors for scaffolding stay wires should only be sited in the vicinity of the pipeline after the pipeline position has been confirmed on site with our representative and the ground anchor position agreed

If your proposals include the installation of wind turbines then the minimum separation between the the pipeline and the nearest turbine should be 1.5 times the mast height

The relocation of existing underground pipelines is not normally feasible on grounds of cost, operation and maintenance and environmental impact.

Further details can be found in our specification for : safe working in the vicinity of National Grid high pressure gas pipelines and associated installations – requirements for third parties : T/SP/SSW/22

For further general information see <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment> or request a copy of our 'Working with You' publication via the Asset Protection Team.

1 We also have lower pressure pipelines in operation but the data on this sheet corresponds to pipelines operating in the range 7-85 bar(g)