

Digging a Trench & Ducting Installation on Private Land *New Gas Connection only and does not apply for service alteration work*

Trenching

If a trench is necessary in order for National Grid to lay the service pipe to connect your service, you can save money by choosing to complete the excavation yourself. If you prefer, National Grid will complete the excavation work as part of the installation process. You may contact National Grid for more information on 0870 903 9999 or cos.enquiries@uk.ngrid.com.

If you have decided to excavate the trench for a new gas service, please be aware that:

- Customers can only excavate on their own property (private land).
- National Grid will excavate any public highways, roads and footpaths.
- Excavation is not available for owners of flats, maisonettes and other shared residency buildings.
- The trench must be suitable and adhere to current legislative duties.

Consider the following:

1. Before excavation, review and understand the safe digging practices that are contained in Health and Safety document HS (G) 47 entitled "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services." This document is available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) outlets. You must comply with all stated terms and conditions contained in the document.
2. If you choose to complete the excavation, you must excavate the full length of the service route within your property boundary in order for the discount to apply. Any excavations by National Grid, which may become necessary to install the service, will be charged at the appropriate rate.

Please note that you are responsible for ensuring that the excavation site is safely guarded and offers adequate protection to any person who may have access to your property.

3. The service pipe route should be the shortest convenient route from the meter's point of attachment to the building to the public highway/footpath and should be a straight line.
4. The trench must be deep enough for National Grid to lay the service pipe between 15" and 18" (375 – 450 mm). The trench must be approximately 8" to 12" wide (200–300 mm).

The bottom of the trench must be level and free from all sharp and/or granular materials which may damage the service pipe. In any ground containing sharp stones, it will be necessary to excavate a further 75mm and fill this space with fine material that is free from any sharp objects.

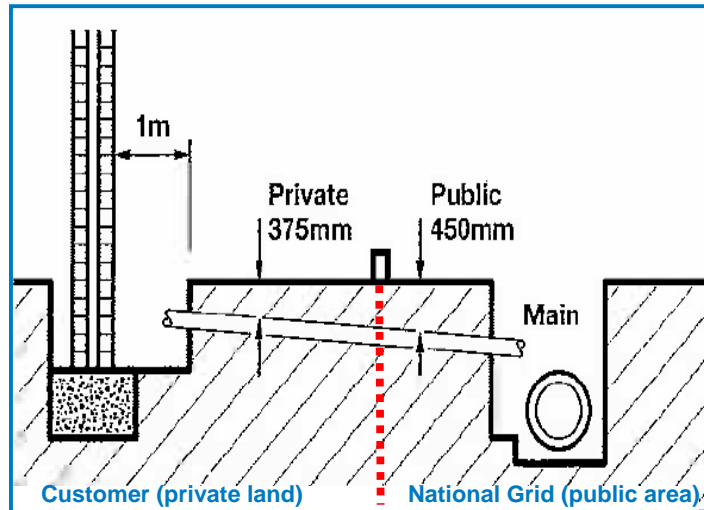
Sand is an example of an acceptable fill material, while an *unacceptable* fill material is foamed concrete. More information regarding fill materials and grading can be found in BS (British Standard) EN 12620: 2002.

5. In all cases, the backfill of the trench excavation should allow for a minimum of 3" (75mm) of fine material to totally surround the service pipe (free from sharp objects and to be supplied by the customer).
6. Gas pipes should be a minimum of 250mm from other utilities (i.e., buried electric, cable and water lines, etc.)
7. The consolidation of the backfill and final reinstatement including the safe removal of all surplus material is the responsibility of the customer which includes restoration of the trench and any associated surfaces, such as driveways, lawns and gardens.

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The following diagram shows a typical trench design:



Ducting

Customers may excavate the gas service trench and lay ducting in order to backfill and continue with their excavation project. Contact National Grid for more information at 0870 903 9999 or cos.enquiries@uk.ngrid.com.

Please adhere to the following ducting specifications:

1. The ducting must be yellow, perforated, and conform to BS (British Standard): 4962 specifications for plastic **Pipes and Fittings for use as Subsoil field drains**. In addition, ducting must be of a specific type. When purchasing, please check with the supplier to ensure that the duct meets the required standard.
2. The duct should be laid with between 375 and 450mm depth of cover in private land for services.
3. For all services with a pipe diameter of up to 63 mm, the recommended diameter of the duct is 100mm.

Please note that a duct will not be used for any service or main(s) in excess of 63mm diameter.

4. When ducts are installed within agricultural land, there must be a depth of cover of 1100mm.
5. For trenches that are longer than 20 metres, there must be an opening with access to the duct every 20 metres.
6. The duct must be installed with a drawstring that spans the entire length of the duct and be of sufficient strength to pull a polyethylene sleeve through. The drawstring must be exposed at both ends in order to accommodate the installation of the new service pipe.
7. Both ends of the duct must be left exposed.

Purchasing Ducting:

Ducting that conforms to the required specifications can be purchased at most reputable building suppliers and merchants.