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Gas mains upgrade in the pipeline for Clare in Suffolk

Public information event scheduled for June

01 May 2015

- Essential gas mains upgrade in Clare, Suffolk, planned for July and August
- Road closure needed in Cavendish Road
- Residents invited to public meeting to learn more

July will mark the start of an essential gas mains upgrade in Cavendish Road, Clare, that will keep gas flowing to local homes and businesses until the end of the century.

National Grid will be renewing nearly half a kilometre of iron gas mains in Cavendish Road, from the junction with Church Street to the junction with Harp Lane. The existing iron mains will be replaced with tough, hardwearing plastic pipes that will last at least 80 years.

National Grid is inviting businesses and residents in Clare and surrounding villages to find out more about the project at a public meeting on Tuesday 2 June, at Clare Town Hall, starting at 7pm.

The work is expected to take seven weeks. It is due to start mid-July, with the bulk of the project taking place during the school summer holidays to reduce the disruption to local communities and the road network.

To safeguard engineers and road-users, it will be necessary to close Cavendish Road from Church Street to Harp Lane while the work is being carried out. The following diversion route will be in place: A1092 towards Long Melford, A134 towards Bury St Edmunds, A1302, A143 towards Haverhill, A1017, and then the A1092 towards Clare.

Access to Cavendish Road will be maintained for pedestrians and businesses in the town will remain open as usual.

Traffic management measures will also be necessary for Church Lane for three weeks during August. Details of these are being confirmed with the Highways Authority and are likely to include temporary traffic lights.

Appropriate traffic orders will be in place throughout the works to enable National Grid to adapt traffic management to alleviate congestion and reopen the road as quickly as possible to vehicles in a safe manner.

Vince Doggett of National Grid said: "It is essential that we replace ageing gas mains so that local residents and businesses can continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies for decades to come. We would urge people to attend our information event so we can discuss the work with them, answer their questions and address any concerns.

"We have explored every option but unfortunately a road closure of Cavendish Road in this case is unavoidable. Every effort will be made to complete the work as soon as we can and minimise disruption to local people."

Businesses affected by the work may be eligible for compensation for loss of business under the Gas Regulations 1996. National Grid representatives will be visiting local businesses over the coming days to discuss the work and provide information about the compensation scheme. Businesses can also find out more by going to www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas.

If anyone has any queries or concerns they are welcome to attend the public information event. They can also contact National Grid customer services on 0800 096 5678.

- 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>

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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