

Gas upgrade to benefit Norwich

National Grid upgrading gas pipes in Westwick Street

22 Jun 2016

- **Traffic management necessary for safety and efficiency**
- **Diversion route in place**

Next Monday (27 June) will see the start of a vital gas mains upgrade in the centre of Norwich that will keep gas flowing to businesses and residents until the end of the century.

In a six-week project National Grid will be renewing gas mains in Westwick Street. The existing iron gas mains will be replaced with tough plastic pipes that have a lifespan of at least 80 years.

To enable this essential work to be carried out safely, and in the shortest time possible, there will need to be a lane closure and then a road closure in Westwick Street for a period during the work. A diversion route will be in place. Exact timings for the closures will be confirmed once work is under way.

National Grid Authorising Engineer Vince Doggett said: "National Grid is investing in this vital project to ensure that the residents and businesses in Westwick Street continue to enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come.

"We appreciate that this is a busy road in the city centre and we will make every effort to minimise any inconvenience caused by our work. Our advice to motorists is to follow the signed diversion or to find an alternative route.

"We would like to thank people for their patience and co-operation."

Gas engineers may need access to homes and businesses to replace service pipes (the pipes that take gas from the main in the road to individual properties). This work will involve temporarily interrupting the gas supply and anyone who is affected will be notified beforehand.

All National Grid engineers carry official identity cards, which people should ask to see before allowing them on their property.

For any enquiries about this work people should contact National Grid's customer services team on 0800 096 5678. To find out more about how National Grid replaces gas mains and how that 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>

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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