

New wave: National Grid gears up for latest phase of Southend-On-Sea's essential gas mains replacement

National Grid prepares to roll out the next phase of essential gas mains replacement work in Southend.

30 Jun 2015

- Gas mains to be replaced in Central Avenue between Hamstel Road and Sutton Road
- Work is due to begin on 20 July and last for 25 weeks
- Traffic management will include rolling road closures and bus diversions

National Grid is preparing to roll out the next phase of essential gas mains in Southend.

Engineers will be replacing ageing metallic gas mains with tough new pipes along Central Avenue between Hamstel Road and Sutton Road.

The vital work will begin on 20 July and last for approximately 25 weeks. It will ensure local homes, businesses and community facilities remain safely connected to reliable gas supplies in future years.

Traffic management and parking suspensions are planned as follows:

Phase 1: 20 July to 16 November

For the first 17 weeks National Grid's engineers will work along Central Avenue from Hamstel Road towards Sutton Road, using a rolling road closure to ensure the work is carried out as safely and as efficiently as possible.

During this time local buses will be diverted on to other routes, for more information go to:
http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/essex/travel_news/service_updates/?item=87771&conf=1

Phase 2: 16 November to 11 January

For the remaining eight weeks engineers will be working on the footpath along the same stretch of road. Parking bays will be suspended along one side of Central Avenue in a rolling manner as the work progresses.

Engineers will also be replacing service pipes to properties and will need access to affected properties and to briefly disconnect the gas supply to complete the work. Affected properties will be notified.

Steve Edwards, Principal Engineer at National Grid, said: "We're doing all we can to deliver this essential work with minimal impact to the local community.

"We'll be keeping people informed of our work as things progress."

He added: "It's very important that people ask to see official identification before letting people into their properties. All our engineers carry official identity cards and people should ask to see these before letting them in."

For further information on the project or to verify the identity of an engineer call 0800 096 5678.

Information on the work will also be on roadworks.org

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

The sequence of road closures in place on Central Avenue throughout the first 17 week period is as follows:

Hamstel Road to Lonsdale Road – three weeks

Lonsdale Road to Westbury Road – three weeks

Westbury Road to The Grove – three weeks

The Grove to Bournemouth Pak Road – five weeks

Bournemouth Park Road to Sutton Road – three weeks

The footpath and parking bays between the following junctions will be affected during the last eight weeks of the project:

Hamstel Road to Lonsdale Road

Lonsdale Road to Westbury Road

Westbury Road to The Grove

Bournemouth Park Road to Sutton Road

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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