

# New year, new gas mains: Northampton set to benefit from vital upgrade

Essential project to replace ageing gas mains set to start in January 2017

**16 Dec 2016**

- National Grid to begin vital gas mains replacement project on January 4 2017
- A two week road closure will be needed in Gold Street along with a phased road closure in Woolmonger Street and phased lane closures in Horseshoe Street
- Project will help keep safe and reliable gas supplies flowing for cooking and heating

The New Year will see National Grid begin an essential project that will help ensure homes and businesses in Northampton keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies.

On Wednesday 4 January 2017, National Grid will start replacing 180 metres of ageing gas mains in Horseshoe Street. The project is expected to take 13 weeks and will involve replacing the existing iron gas mains with tough, new, hard wearing plastic pipes that have a lifespan of at least 80 years.

To carry out the work safely phased lane closures will be needed in Horseshoe Street along with a road closure in Gold Street and a phased road closure in Woolmonger Street. However access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times.

The Gold Street closure is due to start on February 6 2017 and is scheduled to last for two weeks.

The phased road closures in Woolmonger Street will be at the exit to St Peters Square from January 18 to 24 and at the entrance to St Peters Square between January 25 to 29.

All businesses will be open as usual. Access for motorists will be maintained via a signed diversion route. There will also be access to all main car parks.

National Grid Authorising Engineer Mark Allsop said: "This is a vital project to ensure that the residents and businesses in Northampton continue to enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come.

"We're sorry for any inconvenience the work may cause and we'll make every effort to minimise disruption and complete the work as quickly as possible."

Gas engineers may need access to businesses on Horseshoe Street to replace service pipes (the pipes that take gas from the main in the road to individual properties). This work will involve temporarily switching off the gas supply to the properties involved. Those 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.

To verify an engineer's identity or for any enquiries about this work people should contact National Grid's customer services team on 0800 096 5678.

To find out more about National Grid's gas mains replacement work go to [www.bettergaspipes.co.uk](http://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>

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