

New Year ushers in new gas mains for Blackburn

Six month project to renew gas pipes in Preston Old Road, Redlam

06 Jan 2017

- **Work will keep gas flowing for decades to come**
- **Temporary traffic lights, lane closures and road closures will be needed**

January will mark the start of a major, six-month project to upgrade gas mains in Blackburn and keep supplies flowing to homes and businesses until the end of the century.

National Grid will be installing brand new gas pipes in A674 Preston Old Road, from Witton Park Arena to Rutland Street.

Work is due to start on Monday 9 January. The existing iron gas mains are reaching the end of their operational life. They will be replaced with tough new plastic pipes that will last for at least 80 years.

To keep staff, motorists and other road-users safe while the work is under way, a number of traffic management measures will be needed. These will include:

- a bus lane closure on Old Preston Road
- temporary traffic lights in Old Preston Road; the traffic lights will move as work progresses up the road.
- Some closures of side roads. These will be clearly signposted, with diversions in place

There will also need to be some work in Buncer Lane, outside properties 161 to 171.

Stephen Murray, Head of Contract, said: "National Grid plays a vital role in keeping people warm. This essential work will mean that local residents and businesses can continue to enjoy a safe and reliable gas supply for decades to come.

"We are mindful that this is a main route into Blackburn. We'll do all we can to complete this work as soon as possible and minimise disruption for motorists and residents. We really appreciate people's patience and co-operation while we carry out this essential work."

For any enquiries about this work people can contact National Grid's customer services team on 0161 703 1000. To find out more about how National Grid replaces gas mains and how that affects residents and businesses go to www.bettergaspipes.co.uk.

Contact for media information only

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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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