Northern Gas Networks

Stay safe near our pipes

A guide to working near infrastructure

Who are Northern Gas Networks?

We look after the 37,000km of gas mains in the North of England. We don't own the gas but it's our job to transport it safely to you. We're responsible for most of Yorkshire, the North East and Northern Cumbria with our pipes running the equivalent distance of Leeds to Sydney, Australia and back.

Before you start work

1

Identify the **exact location** of our gas infrastructure (pipes etc) by **hand digging** trial holes or using **electronic tracers**.

2

Use a **marker** to indicate the position of our pipes on site.

3

Make sure everyone involved has a copy of our **site plan** and everyone's read the **HSG47 Avoiding Danger from Underground Services** and **Utilities Guidelines on Positioning and Colour Coding of Apparatus.** You can download these for free from Streetworks.org.uk

Surface boxes and manholes

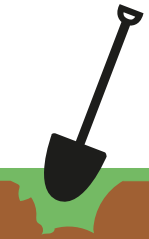
Never cover surface boxes or build manhole covers or other structures over, around or under a gas pipe.

Always ask our permission before doing work that may affect a cover or protection.

Tree planting

- Make sure you carefully consider the impact of planting trees and shrubs as roots can cause damage to gas pipes and make future maintenance work difficult.
- You will need to get approval from the Before You Dig Team before you can start planting.



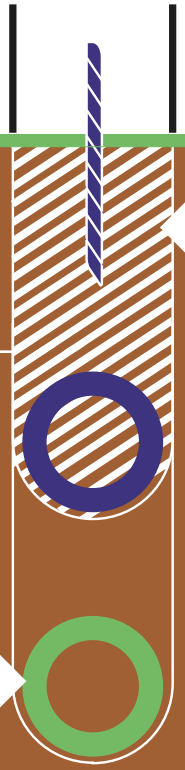


Clearances

Never lay equipment along or above a gas pipe.

Keep a minimum clearance of 250mm or 1.5 x the external diameter of the gas pipe (whichever is the greater) between the existing gas infrastructure and any new plant. If this isn't possible, please contact the Before You Dig Team.





Backfilling

- Make sure concrete backfill and hard material is at least 300mm away from apparatus.
- Your backfill material must meet the following requirements:
  - sand must be well-graded in accordance with BS EN 1260:2002
  - it must not contain any sharp particles
  - it must not be foamed concrete
  - it must be laid at least 150mm above the crown of the apparatus, and a 250mm hand rammed layer must be added before power ramming can take place.

Deep excavations

If you're building a sewer trench or something else for the water authority deeper than 1.5 metres near a buried cast iron main, you must contact the Before You Dig Team with detailed drawings showing the line and width of the proposed works along with the soil group classifications.

Mechanical excavations

Never use mechanical excavators within 0.5 metres of a low or medium pressure pipe and 3.0 metres of an intermediate pressure pipe.

Carrying out explosions, pilings, boring or deep excavations?

You need to call us for minimum safe working distances before you get started.

Financial penalties

- You will need to cover the costs of any damage to our infrastructure.
- We will charge you for any alterations needed to surface boxes or manholes caused by your work.
- If we have to move our infrastructure as a result of your work, you will need to cover the cost.

Exposed plant

- You must support our infrastructure at all times, and protect any exposed elements from impact.
- Never weld or use hot substances if there is a risk of damaging plastics or protective pipe coatings.

Make sure that you build shuttering to stop fresh concrete from encasing our infrastructure.

Access

We need access to our infrastructure at all times so make sure that access isn't blocked by temporary structures and piles of spoil.

Crossing our plant with heavy equipment

Always ask our permission before you place heavy goods, equipment and vehicles on our infrastructure.

Smell gas or suspect a gas leak?

1. Call **0800 111 999** immediately.
2. Move away from the gas pipe.
3. Don't attempt to block the leak.
4. Evacuate people from surrounding buildings.
5. Put out naked flames.

Questions? Call: 0800 040 7766 Email: beforeyoudig@northerngas.co.uk