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# Oldham: essential gas pipe upgrade

2km of old metal gas pipe replaced with long-lasting plastic alternative

**29 Mar 2017**

- **Upgrade will ensure safe and reliable gas supply to the end of the century**
- **Work co-ordinated around sewer works, to reduce disruption and ensure local access**

A major project by National Grid to replace old cast iron gas pipes in Oldham with a modern, tough plastic alternative is set to begin next week (3 April).

The work, along a 2km stretch of Mill Brow, Street Bridge Road and Middleton Road, is part of National Grid's 30-year programme to replace ageing gas mains.

Teams will be on site seven days a week to complete the work as soon as possible, with the scheme expected to run until December.

Localised road closures, with diversions, will start from 17 April. Initially, Mill Brow will be closed from the junction of Chadderton Hall Road to the junction of Cragg Road. Once this section is complete, the road closure will progress onto Street Bridge Road. While the replacement pipe work is being completed, Oldham Council will take the opportunity to resurface the whole of Street Bridge Road (starting in August).

The work has been coordinated with the local authority and United Utilities, which has recently been working in the same area. The two projects have been planned to reduce disruption by ensuring there is continued access locally for road traffic. Complete road closure would have been required, for a long time, had the two projects run concurrently.

Stephen Murray, head of contract for National Grid, said: "We are sorry for the inconvenience this will inevitably cause, but I hope people will understand that the work is essential and unavoidable. We need to ensure people can continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies for decades to come, and reduce unplanned repair jobs. That's why we are inserting the polyethylene pipes. These are incredibly durable, and will last for at least 80 years."

Homes and businesses directly affected by this work will receive letters and face-to-face visits, and will receive updates throughout the project. Further information can also be obtained from the customer team on 0161 703 1000 / 1010.

For more information on the gas mains replacement programme, visit [www.bettersgaspipes.co.uk](http://www.bettersgaspipes.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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