

Dear Resident

December 2024

Lane Closure High Street, Theale for essential gas main replacement

From Monday 27 January 2025 for a duration of 10 weeks, SGN engineers will be replacing the gas main on the High Street in Theale. This work is essential to provide a permanent solution for gas escapes and ensure we can continue to maintain a safe and efficient gas supply to residents and businesses. By replacing the old metal gas pipe with new plastic pipe, we can avoid the risk of future gas escapes and disruptive emergency gas repairs on this section of gas main.

There are currently three low pressure gas mains running along the High Street. The gas main we are replacing is on the westbound side of the road and is being replaced due to history of ongoing leakage. The gas mains located on the eastbound side are not scheduled for mandatory replacement at this time. However, the pipes will be monitored over their lifetime for any changes that may prompt replacement; they currently do not meet the criteria for replacement.

Our engineers will be replacing the gas main between the junction of Station Road and Hoad Way.

Due to the location of the gas main being replaced, we will need to have a one-way lane closure on the westbound lane. This closure will mean no vehicles will be able to travel westbound between these junctions. However, the High Street will become one-way for vehicles to travel eastbound only. A small diversion route will be in place for road users (please see map overleaf).

Important information

- **Parking bay suspensions** – there will be no on street parking on the westbound lane (lane closure) side of the road. Parking on the other side will be available. Car parks remain open as usual via the appropriate diversion.
- **Bus routes will be affected** – we'd advise passengers to contact their service provider for the latest updates to changes to bus stop location/routes and timetables as a result of the lane closure.
- **Bin collection days will remain unchanged** unless you are advised otherwise by your service provider.
- **Vehicle access to side roads** off the High Street will via the eastbound direction.
- **Businesses will remain open as usual** - please continue support your local businesses.

We understand there will be some questions and concerns from local residents and businesses, below are some questions and answers that you may find helpful. We will be hosting a drop-in information event at **John Cumber Hall on Tuesday 7 January from 2pm to 7pm** – 38b High Street, Theale RG7 5AN. Pop in anytime to meet the team who will be able to answer any concerns you may have.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How are you minimising this disruption?

There are a number of ways we are working to minimise the disruption we cause.

- The replacement team have carried out trial hole investigations in advance of starting on site. This has reduced the duration of the works as the team are aware of the condition of the gas main and its location.
- Engineers will be working extended hours from 0800 - 1700 Mon to Fri, Saturdays 0800 - 1200, Sunday 0800 - 1200
- Specialist fittings have been ordered in advance to ensure there is no interruption to progress.
- We'll be using specialist insertion technology to replace the gas main. This will mean we'll be inserting the gas main through the existing old gas main. This will significantly minimise the duration and avoid the need or extensive excavation and lengthy re-surfacing time.

Why are these works taking ten weeks to complete?

In addition to installing a new gas main, we will be carrying out service connections to each property or business as we go. To carry out these connections, we need access to each property to carry out mandatory safety checks before reconnecting them to the new main. This can take time as any delayed access to properties will cause delays to progress.

All residents and businesses affected will be contacted separately with details about service connections and our site team will liaise directly with them to make local arrangements.

No properties will have their gas turned off without advance notice.

Why can't you complete these works at night?

The work involved is complex as we are working on a live gas main. We also need to carry out service connections and safety checks to properties as we progress. We would not be able to carry out property safety checks during the night.

Why don't you use more engineers to complete this faster?

Putting more teams in place will not speed up the progress as the work involved is complex and too many engineers will only delay progress. We will be working extended hours and weekends wherever possible and within our mandatory fatigue working restrictions - 0800 - 1700 Mon to Fri, Saturdays 0800 - 1200, Sunday 0800 - 1200

We understand these works will be disruptive for residents, businesses, and the wider community, but please be assured we have explored all traffic management scenarios with the lane closure being the less disruptive and safest option.

We're sorry for the inconvenience caused and thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully

SGN Major Works South

