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## New chapter for historic St Albans site with 21st century gas main project

Engineers tread carefully while delivering essential 21st century upgrade at ancient site

**03 Mar 2017**

- 1.5km of ageing gas mains to be replaced with tough new pipes in Mud Lane, St Albans, in essential project
- Archaeological and historic experts called in to assist with planning work in historic Verulamium Park
- Project will help keep safe and reliable gas supplies flowing for cooking and heating into the future

Engineers are working with archaeological experts and historians as they plan to deliver an essential project that will help keep locals connected to safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating.

Work is due to start on Monday 13 March and is currently scheduled to last for up to 12 weeks. Engineers will replace 1.5km of ageing metal gas mains with tough new pipes in Mud Lane, off Holywell Hill, and historic Verulamium Park.

The work involves replacing the gas mains that run under and adjacent to Mud Lane, which lead to Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre and the main path through Verulamium Park. Signs will re-direct pedestrians to alternative routes while the work is taking place.

To minimise inconvenience to the community the new pipes will be inserted into the old mains.

Verulamium Park stands on part of the site of the Roman city of Verulamium. At one time the city was the third largest settlement in Roman Britain after Londinium (modern day London) and Corinium (modern day Cirencester). Britain's first recorded martyr Saint Alban is said to have been beheaded outside the city's gates on the site of the present day Cathedral. Today visitors can view Roman remains including walls, the outline of part of the basilica and a hypocaust (heated floor) complete with heated mosaic. Many more artefacts still lie undisturbed beneath the ground.

Project Engineer Dilbir Chana said: "We're very conscious that we'll be working on some very historic ground.

"Our project team is working very closely with Historic England and archaeologists to ensure that our work doesn't adversely impact the area in anyway."

At some stage during the project a lane closure will need to be implemented along a 50m stretch of Mud Lane. It's anticipated that this will be for a period of two to three weeks and traffic flows will be maintained by using temporary traffic lights.

Work will involve replacing service pipes to some properties and engineers will require access to do this work which will involve temporarily switching off the gas supply to the properties involved. Those affected will be notified beforehand.

Local facilities such as Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre will remain open as usual.

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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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