

Your questions answered...

Q. Why hasn't this gas main been replaced before now?

A. This is a medium pressure steel gas main. Steel gas mains are not part of the government funded mains replacement programme and wherever possible repairs are required to this type of gas main.

Cast iron gas mains are within the funded replacement programme. Spun iron and Steel are being replaced under condition review and approval for funding. You can find out more about the replacement programme at sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/working-your-street

Q. Why are you replacing this gas main now?

A. Following a significant number of repairs and further investigations on site by our engineering team, we need to replace the main with new plastic pipe to reduce the risk of further repairs in the future.

Q. Why hasn't this work/disruption been communicated until now?

A. Following the report of a gas leak, this work came into our emergency response teams. This replacement work wasn't scheduled to take place, however, the team on site have been carrying out onsite investigations over the last two weeks. We are only now in the position to share our plans for this work.

You can be kept up to date on this project by visiting sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/ferndown-christchurch-road

Q. Why can't the work be carried out under traffic lights instead of closing the road?

A. The gas pipe runs across the centre of the road and we have no other option than to close the road to complete the work.

Q. Why can't you work 24 hours to complete this work quicker?

A. The engineering required for this project would not safely allow night-time working on a live gas supply. The infrastructure under the road is close to other critical utilities such as electric, water, BT and broadband. Our engineers are committed to working 8am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and Sundays when required.

Q. Will you have more engineers on site to complete these works as quickly as possible?

A. The work involved is complex and putting more engineers in one hole can delay progress and present risks.

Q. Why is the road closed but engineers are not visible?

A. There are many reasons why engineers may not be visible on site. To maintain gas supplies while replacing this gas main there are jobs that require the engineers to leave site; they could be testing pressures on local governors around the area, collecting materials from local storage, carrying out mandatory health and safety paperwork in their van, need network access, or the road is being reinstated and they are waiting for the concrete to cure. We'll aim to put signs out to keep you informed.

Q. Will emergency service access be maintained?

A. We will make sure emergency services are fully aware of the road closure and the planned diversion route. They will make sure their response teams are allocated from the quickest route. We will make sure access is available within the closure and will keep emergency services advised.

Urgent gas main replacement

Christchurch Road and Ringwood Road



Road closures required until January 2024

We're writing to keep you updated on our urgent works taking place on the Longham Roundabout in Christchurch Road, Ferndown. As you'll already be aware, our engineers have been on site for several weeks investigating a series of ongoing gas leaks to the metal gas main located at the roundabout.

Over the last year, we've attended leaks in various locations on this section of our network, carrying out disruptive emergency repairs to keep everyone safe.

We can no longer continue to carry out repairs and need to replace this section of gas main.

Following our investigations, we'll be replacing approximately 100m of metal gas pipe with new plastic pipe which will minimise the risk of needing future repairs.





Where is the work taking place?

We are sorry about any inconvenience our work causes and would like to thank road users for their patience. This is a complex engineering project, however we always aim to minimise disruption whenever possible.



Key

- Phase one closure
- Phase one diversion route
- Phase two closure
- Phase two diversion route



Due to the complexity of the engineering work required and the location of the gas main in the road, we'll need to have road closures in place as follows:

Phase one: Christchurch Road closure from Wednesday 27 September to Thursday 30 November

We'll be digging into the road and installing the new gas main from the junction with the roundabout approximately 100 metres along Christchurch Road. For everyone's safety, we'll need to temporarily close the junction of Christchurch Road with the Longham roundabout. There will be no vehicle access to/from Christchurch Road during this road closure.

There will be a signed diversion route in place via Christchurch Road, New Road and Ringwood Road.

Phase two: Ringwood Road closure from Friday 1 December to Friday 5 January 2024

Once the new pipe is installed and Christchurch Road is fully reopened, we'll need to carry out work to connect the new gas pipe to the gas network located on Ringwood Road. We'll need to dig across the junction of Ringwood Road at its junction with the Longham roundabout. A temporary road closure will be in place during this phase of work. A signed diversion will be in place via Ham Lane, A31 and Ringwood Road.

Bus services will be impacted during the Ringwood Road closure - we would advise passengers to speak to their providers for the latest information on changes to routes, timetables and bus stop locations.

Cycle and pedestrian access will be maintained through both work locations.

Please be assured that we've considered all traffic management options for this work with no other safe option than to close the road.

To ensure these works are completed without delay, our engineers will be working from 8am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and Sundays when required.

We're sorry for the inconvenience these urgent works may cause. Our engineers will be doing all they can to minimise disruption as much as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you'd like to get in touch with SGN about these works, you can speak to our Customer Service team on 0800 912 1700 who will direct your enquiry to a member of the project team for a response.

Smell gas?
0800 111 999

If you need this leaflet in a different format or language, call 0800 975 1818