

# Guide to Excavation



*Before carrying out any excavations you must comply with safe digging practices. The Health & Safety document HSG 47 entitled 'Avoiding Danger from Underground Services' will provide the necessary information.*

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

You must dig the full route of the trench within the boundaries of your property. If you don't, we will charge you the appropriate rate for bringing the work up to the standard we need. You are responsible for safely guarding the trench and making sure anyone who has access to your property is not at risk.

Trench routes must be laid out as per the proposal drawings agreed with Northern Gas Networks.

The trench must be deep enough for the pipe to be 375 or 450 millimetres (please see table below) underground and roughly 250 to 300 millimetres wide. The bottom of the trench must be level and free from sharp stones which may damage the pipe. If the ground is of poor quality and contains sharp stones, you will need to dig down another 75 millimetres and fill this with fine material so we can lay the pipe on top of it.

Wherever possible the service trench must have a continuous downward gradient from the termination point towards the main.

Once we have laid the pipe, it is up to you to surround it with at least 75mm of fine material you have supplied. This material must be completely free from sharp material to avoid damaging the pipe.

You are responsible for filling in the trench and levelling the surface. You must also remove any material you have not used.

If the trench is for multiple utilities, please make sure the gas service pipes' proximity is at least 250mm from all other utility pipes. See Figure 1

Health & Safety document HSG 47 can provide more detailed information regarding this.

## TRENCH DEPTHS AND COVER OF PIPES

The minimum depth of cover for mains and service pipes must be to the specification detailed below.

| Minimum Depth of Cover |                 |        |       |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Mains                  | Footpath        | 600mm  |       |
|                        | Roads & verge   | 750mm  |       |
|                        | Agricultural    | 1100mm |       |
| Services               |                 | 32mm   | 63mm  |
|                        | Garden(private) | 375mm  | 450mm |
|                        | Footpath        | 450mm  | 450mm |
|                        | Roadway         | 450mm  | 750mm |
|                        | Verge           | 450mm  | 750mm |

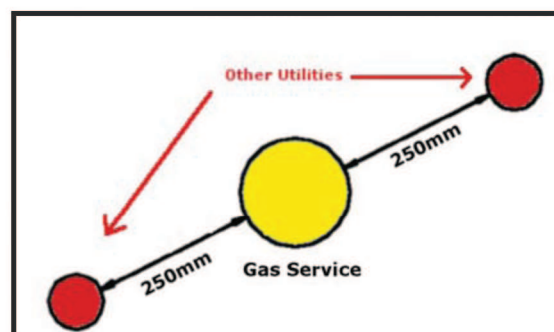


Figure 1: Proximity to other utilities.

**IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SMELL GAS**  
Turn off the supply at the control valve. Open doors and windows.  
Do NOT use naked flames. Do NOT turn electrical switches on or off.  
Do NOT smoke.  
IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE GAS EMERGENCY SERVICE  
THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS  
**0800 111 999**  
Do NOT reopen the supply until remedial action has been taken  
by a competent person to prevent gas escaping again.