

Guidance notes for the pre-excitation and backfill of trenches on private land

Customers requesting a new gas supply or an alteration of an existing supply can benefit from a reduced price quotation for the works by excavating and backfilling a trench for the supply pipes on land in their ownership. The following guidelines must be observed;

1. Before carrying out any excavations, the route and depth of other underground plant such as electric and water supplies, BT and cable TV lines, drains and sewers must be established. The Health and Safety Executive produces a document HS(G)47 entitled 'Avoiding Danger from Underground Services' which provides full guidance on the precautions to be taken.
2. If you choose to carry out your own excavations you must excavate the full length of the service from your boundary to the meter location, or in the case of an alteration, from the existing service pipe to the new location, for the lower price to apply. Any additional excavations undertaken by NGN will be charged at the appropriate rate.
3. You will be responsible for ensuring that the excavations are safely guarded and that any persons entering your property are kept away from the excavations.
4. If you wish to install a duct for the service pipe, please contact NGN prior to purchasing or laying the duct to confirm the size and specification required.
5. The trench should be 500mm deep which will allow the pipe to have 450mm of cover to the finished surface. It should also be 250mm-300mm wide to allow NGN sufficient room to work in the trench. The bottom of the trench must be level and free from sharp granular materials which may damage the pipe. In poor ground containing sharp stones, it will be necessary to excavate a further 75mm and this filled with fine material such as sand or pea gravel.
6. Once the pipe has been installed, you must backfill the trench with fine material (containing no sharp stones, brick rubble etc) to a depth of 75mm above and around the pipe. NGN may request that you lay Gas Warning Tape at this level before completing the backfill.
7. The consolidation of the backfill, the making good of the original surface, and the removal and disposal of any surplus material is the responsibility of the customer.
8. Please note that NGN will provide no warranty for the trench or backfill where the customer has chosen to undertake the excavation and backfill of trenches on private land.