

Trench Guidance

Before carrying out any excavations you must comply with safe digging practices and guidance from the Health and Safety Executive.

General guidelines

You must dig the full route of the trench within the private land of your property, and in any additional areas agreed as part of your works (such as third-party private land). If the trench is not provided to the correct specification within this guidance sheet this may result in a reschedule of the works or an additional charge for Northern Gas Networks to bring the trench work up to the standard required to complete the works. Northern Gas Networks will not enter a trench that they deem to be unsafe. You are responsible for safely guarding the trench and making sure anyone who has access to your property is not at risk.

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

The trench must be deep enough for the top of the pipe to be at **375mm or 450mm** (see table below) underground and roughly **250mm to 300mm wide**. Northern Gas Networks also have strict controls in place under our permit system for entering any excavation at or below **1.2m in depth**, or if the ground conditions dictate a permit is required.

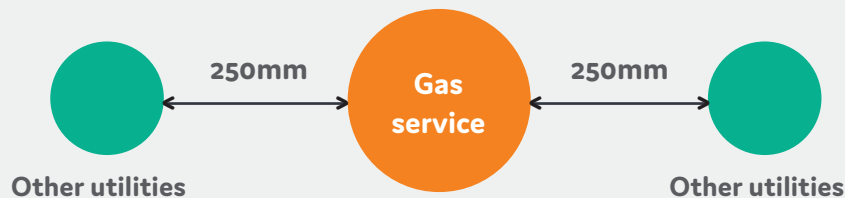
The bottom of the trench must be level and free from sharp stones which may damage the pipe. If the ground is of poor quality and contains sharp stones,



you will need to dig down another **75mm** 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 your responsibility 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, reinstating the land 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



Minimum depth of cover

Mains	Footpath	600mm*
	Roads & verge	750mm*
	Agricultural	1100mm*

*The depth provided is the minimum clearance to be left at the top of the pipe once laid. For example, if laying 180mm diameter main in a road, the full trench depth must be 930mm

Services		32mm	63mm
	Garden (private)	407mm	513mm
	Footpath	513mm	513mm
	Roadway	513mm	813mm
	Verge	513mm	813mm

The service depths provided above include the 32mm/63mm pipe diameter within the measurements

Ducting - for services only	Pipe size	Min. duct size
	<=32mm	60mm
	63mm	100mm
	90mm	160mm

All service ducts (if used) must conform to all relevant regulations, be yellow in colour, convoluted and perforated. Mains cannot be ducted



IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SMELL GAS

Turn OFF the supply at the correct place.
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 TEAM ON: 0800 111 999**

DO NOT reopen the supply until remedial action has been taken by a competent person to prevent gas escaping again