

Guidance notes for the pre-excavation 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.

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.

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 us will be charged at the appropriate rate.

The following methods of work shall not normally be permitted within the limits of distance indicated (relative to the established pipe position). Any variances must have consent from WWU before works commence on site:

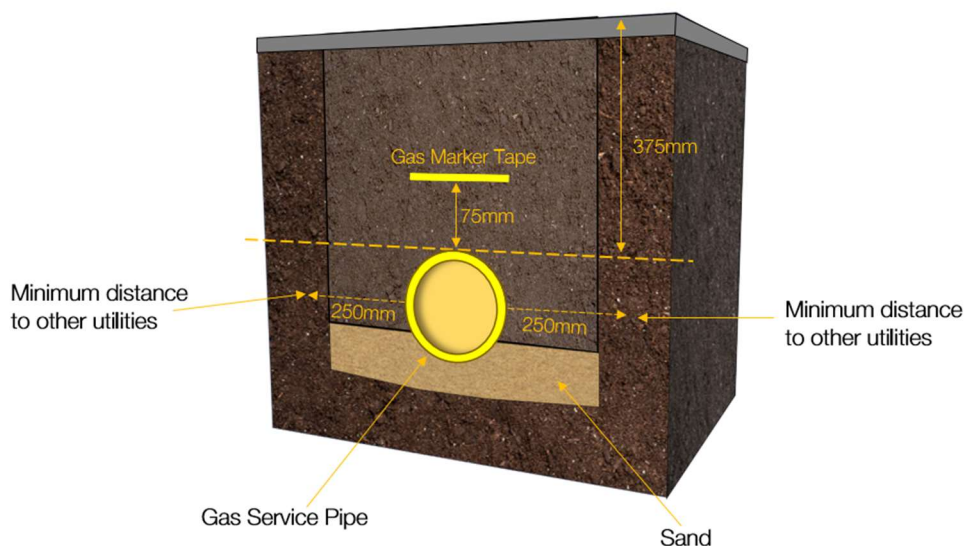
- Mechanical Excavation **3m** (**1m** for low pressure mains)
- Hydraulic Testing **8 m**
- Piling / Pile removing / Boring **15m**
- Welding or other hot works* **15m**
- Directional Drill Operations **15m**
- Explosives **250m**

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. 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.

Please note that we 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.

Services to be laid perpendicular to property and main wherever possible. This provides a 'predictive' route for anyone working on the network at a later stage and reduces the risks associated with damage to underground apparatus.

The trench should be 450mm deep which will allow the pipe to have 375mm of cover to the finished surface. It should also be 250mm-300mm wide to allow us 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.



If the trench does not comply with the following requirements, it will not be used and will result in the works not proceeding:

- The depth of cover **MUST** be a minimum 375mm of cover in private ground, 450mm minimum in footpaths, verges, and highways.
- The route **MUST** be 250mm clear of all other utilities in all directions. • Marker tape **MUST** be applied over the line of the service and/or duct.
- Backfill material should be sand, dust or pea shingle and free from anything sharp or heavy.
- The excavation each end of the service **MUST** be 800mm square, and the gas main exposed completely.