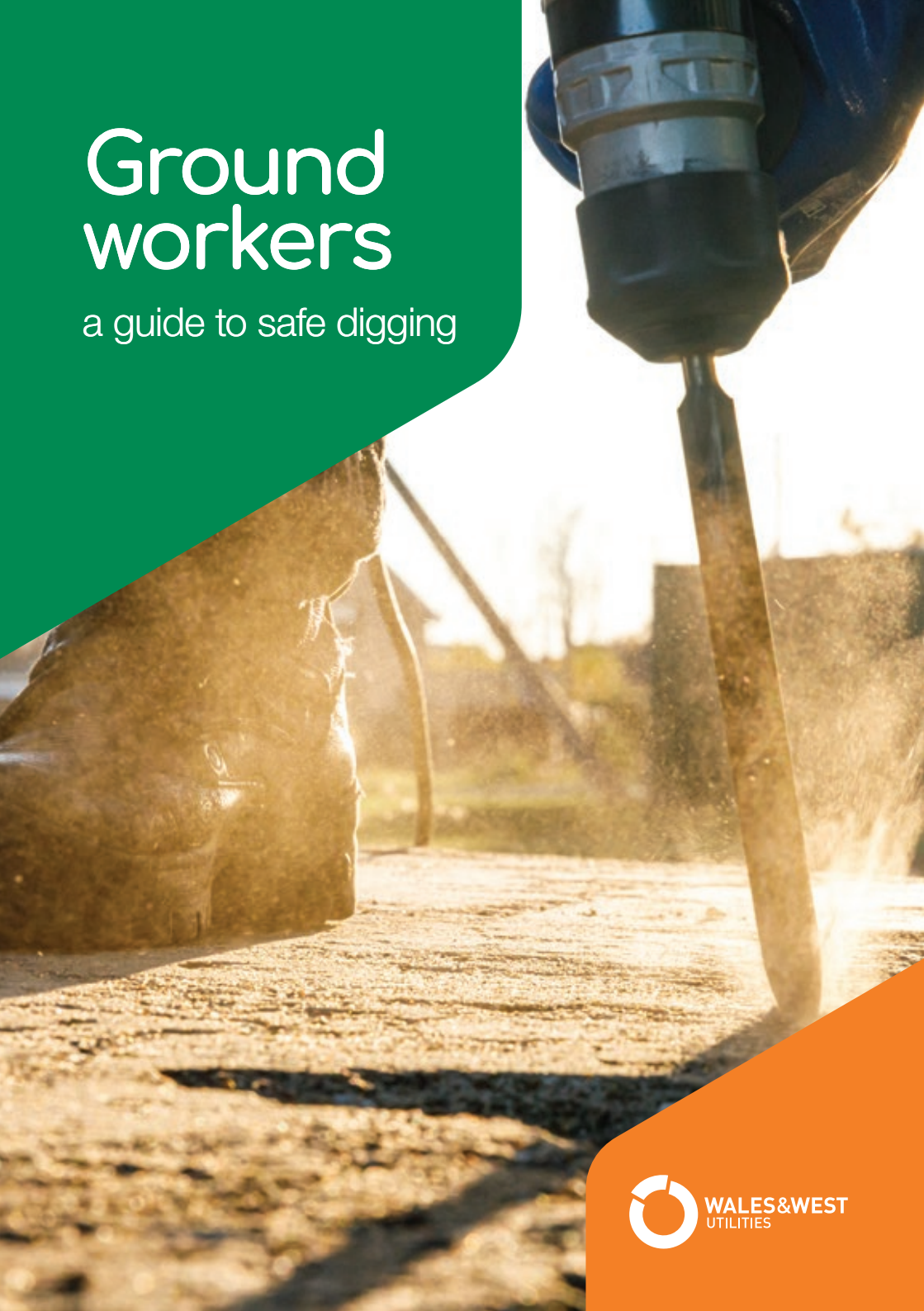


Ground workers

a guide to safe digging



WALES&WEST
UTILITIES

Gas plans

You need to obtain gas plans before any proposed excavations.



Any plans supplied or marked up by Wales & West Utilities will show the approximate location of our apparatus. The information is provided as a general guide only, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed and is given without obligation or warranty.

Service pipes are not shown but their presence should be anticipated. No liability whatsoever is accepted by us, our agents or servants for any error, omission, discrepancy or deviation.

Plans on site should be current, printed in colour and no older than 28 days from their issue date.



•Starting works

The following work methods will **not** normally be permitted within the distance limits shown (relative to the established pipe position). Any variances must have our consent before work starts:

- mechanical excavation 3m (1m for low-pressure mains)
- hydraulic testing 8m
- piling/pile removing/boring 15m
- welding or other hot works 15m
- directional drill operations 15m
- explosives 250m

You must consult us before doing any excavations within 10m of any above gas installations or pipes.

No excavations can start within 50m of a high-pressure pipeline unless it has been located by tracing and its precise route identified by us.

You must comply with all conditions specified by us before starting any work near – or moving heavy plant or equipment over – any pipeline or apparatus.

Any damage to our apparatus near your works could have serious consequences. In view of this and for safety, there should be a site meeting with our representatives and any other interested parties before you do any work near a medium, intermediate or high-pressure main.

The site meeting should cover the suggested works programme and pipeline safety. It must be held well before operations start and at least 10 days' notice is required before carrying out any work.

You can find more guidance in Avoiding Danger from Underground Services, document HSG47 on the Health and Safety Executive website.

Building proximities

There are minimum proximity distances for buildings from our mains depending on their operating pressure and pipe material. Contact us to confirm these before starting building works.

For high pressure pipelines, you must contact the Health and Safety Executive and local authority planning team for guidance on their Land Use Planning Zones as these may be in addition to our proximity distances.

Permanent or temporary buildings must not be constructed over our pipes or within the minimum building proximities. Where there is an easement – a legal agreement for our mains to be on private land – there may be further restrictions to working near our pipes.



Protection

Backfill material used near our apparatus must be soft fill or sand containing no stones, bricks or lumps of concrete etc, placed to a 150mm minimum around the mains and be well compacted by hand.

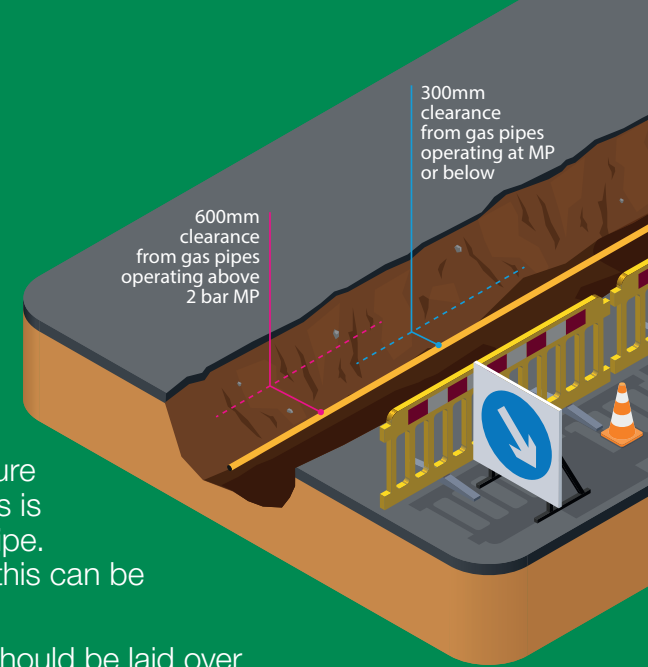
Damage to coatings

When a gas pipe is coated with special wrapping and is damaged, even to a minor extent, you must notify us so repairs can be made, free of charge, to prevent corrosion and leakage.

Pipeline proximity

There should be a minimum **600mm** clearance between new apparatus being installed and a main operating above 2 bar medium pressure (MP), whether the apparatus is parallel to or crossing the pipe. For mains at MP or below, this can be reduced to **300mm**.

Importantly, no apparatus should be laid over and along the line of a gas pipe.



Cathodic protection

If you are installing cathodically-protected apparatus, we will need to do interaction tests to determine if our system is affected. The cost of any mutually agreed remedial action will be charged to the authority installing the new apparatus. If any bond wires or test leads are damaged or found in poor condition, you must notify us before backfilling so a repair can be made.

Deep excavations

Any deep excavations (1.5m or more) must be done by following the Model Consultative Procedure for Pipeline Construction involving Deep Excavations.

As this may need the diversion of our apparatus before your works start, you must contact us with detailed plans and cross-sections so we can determine if our pipes will be affected.

Renewable energy installations

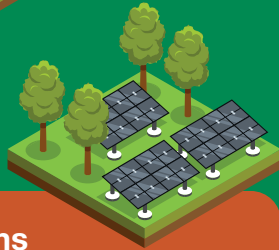
Wind turbines

You must tell us about any planned wind turbine development near an above 2 bar gas main to ensure it does not impact the pipeline's safe operation. Industry guidance states a wind turbine must be sited no closer than 1.5 times the proposed height of its mast away from the nearest edge of the pipeline.



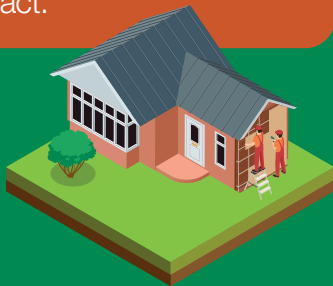
Solar farms

If a solar farm is being considered near our pipelines, you must contact us.



External wall insulation

You must also contact us about any external wall insulation scheme near our apparatus to ensure there is no impact.



Demolition

Live gas services must be disconnected before demolishing a property. Contact us to arrange a check for any live gas services.

Tree planting

We can provide information about tree-planting and you must contact us before starting any planting above or near our apparatus.

Leakage from gas mains or services

In the event of a leak, follow the instructions below – **DO NOT** attempt to seal the leak. If in doubt, **contact us**.

If damage or leakage is caused, or a gas escape is smelt or suspected, take action at once:

- Evacuate everyone from the immediate vicinity.
- Call the 24hr Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999**.
- Prevent any approach by the public, prohibit smoking and extinguish all naked flames or other ignition sources for at least **15m from the leakage**, and do not operate any electrical switches.
- Assist gas personnel, police and/or fire services, as needed.



Site responsibilities

All repair costs incurred by us for direct or consequential damage to our pipelines will be chargeable. We reserve the right to divert any affected apparatus or specify suitable protection for it if proved necessary during site works – this cost will also be chargeable.

These guidelines only apply to our apparatus and pipes. If there are other gas transporters in the area, make sure you contact them and comply with their requirements.

Need help locating our apparatus?

Contact our Plant Protection team on **02920 278912** or **dig@wwutilities.co.uk**.



 wwutilities.co.uk

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