

Wales & West Utilities Limited

General Conditions to be observed for the Protection of Apparatus and the Prevention of Disruption to Gas Supplies.

General conditions affecting the design, construction or maintenance of services and/or structures or other works in the vicinity of Wales & West Utilities (WWU) plant, pipelines and associated installations.

These general conditions apply only to the gas apparatus and pipes operated by WWU. It is possible that there may be other gas transporters with apparatus in the vicinity; therefore you should ensure that you have made enquiries of them and have complied with their requirements.

1. GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF GAS MAINS

Any plans supplied or marked up by WWU will indicate the **APPROXIMATE** location of its apparatus. This 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 WWU, its agents or servants for any error, omission, discrepancy or deviation. Plans on site should be current, i.e. no older than 28 days from the date of issue. Gas pipes owned by other Gas Transporters, or otherwise privately owned, may be present in this area (pink areas indicated on our plans). Information with regard to such pipes should be obtained from the relevant owners.

Should you require assistance on site locating WWU apparatus, please contact our Plant Protection Team on **02920 278912**.

2. METHODS OF WORKING

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

* NOTE: Welding or other hot works involving naked flames shall be carried out at a safe distance to the satisfaction of a WWU Engineer. A check should be made prior to the commencement of works, to ensure a gas free atmosphere exists. It is also necessary to monitor the atmosphere at regular intervals for the duration of the works. In no case shall such activities take place in any Wales & West Utilities Easement without the written consent and in the presence of a WWU representative.

WWU must be consulted prior to carrying out any excavation work within **10m** of any above or below ground gas installations or pipeline. No excavation works may commence within **50m** of a High Pressure or Very High Pressure Pipeline unless the pipeline has been located by tracing and its precise route identified.

In addition to the above methods of working, WWU must be contacted prior to any External Wall Installation (EWI) schemes, proposed solar farms and wind turbine installations.

No work shall be undertaken near, nor heavy plant or equipment moved over, any gas pipeline or apparatus until all of the conditions specified by WWU have been complied with.

Where WWU have apparatus in the vicinity of your work, any damage to it could have serious consequences. In view of this and in the interests of safety, a meeting should be arranged before the commencement of work on site between WWU representatives, representatives of the promoting authority, the contractors and any other interested parties. At this meeting the suggested program of site works and plant safety should be discussed. It is essential that this meeting is convened well in advance of commencement on site. Access to WWU plant and facilities for inspection by WWU staff must not be affected. Where formal consent has been given, **A MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS NOTICE IS REQUIRED** before carrying out work in WWU easements, or the appropriate notice under the New Roads & Street Works Act (NRSWA) where existing plant is situated within the public highway.

Further guidance can also be sought from the document **HS(G)47 – Avoiding Danger from Underground Services** from the HSE website.

3. PROXIMITY OF OTHER PLANT

A minimum clearance of **600 millimetres (mm)** should be allowed between all plant being installed and an existing gas main operating above 2 bar medium pressure (MP), whether the adjacent plant is parallel to or crossing the gas pipe. For mains operating at MP or below, this distance can be reduced to 300mm. **NO APPARATUS SHOULD BE LAID OVER AND ALONG THE LINE OF A GAS PIPE, IRRESPECTIVE OF CLEARANCE.**

No manhole or chamber shall be built over or around a gas pipe and no work should be carried out which results in a reduction of cover or protection over a pipe without consultation with and the agreement of WWU staff.

4. PROTECTION

Where any works cross or run in close proximity to WWU apparatus, periodic visits must be made by a WWU engineer. His requests for protection or support to the apparatus shall be immediately observed.

Suitably designed crossing points are to be constructed to the satisfaction of a WWU Engineer. These crossing points shall be clearly indicated by the erection of bunting and crossings at other places should be prevented.

Backfill material adjacent to WWU apparatus shall be soft fill or sand, containing no stones, bricks, or lumps of concrete etc., placed to a minimum 150mm around the mains and is to be well compacted by hand. No power consolidation shall take place above the main until 300mm of soft fill has been compacted by hand.

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5. DAMAGE TO COATINGS

Where a gas pipe is coated with special wrapping and this is damaged, even to a minor extent, WWU must be notified so that repairs can be made to prevent future corrosion and subsequent leakage. **WHERE MINOR DAMAGE TO COATING IS REPORTED TO WWU PRIOR TO BACKFILL, THE NECESSARY REPAIR WILL BE MADE FREE OF CHARGE.**

6. CATHODIC PROTECTION

Where WWU apparatus is cathodically protected either by sacrificial anode or impressed current systems and where new apparatus is to be laid and is to be similarly protected, WWU will require to carry out interaction tests to determine whether its own system is adversely affected. The cost of any mutually agreed remedial action will be recharged to the authority installing the new apparatus. If any bond wires, test leads etc., used in connection with cathodic protection systems are damaged or found to be in poor condition, broken or disconnected, WWU must be notified prior to backfilling so that a repair can be made.

7. HOT WORKS

Even when a gas free atmosphere exists care must be taken when carrying out hot works in close proximity to gas plant in order to ensure that no damage occurs. Particular care must be taken to avoid damage by heat or naked flames to plastic gas pipes or to the protective coatings on other pipes.

8. DEMOLITION

Live gas services must be disconnected **PRIOR** to demolishing any property, arrangements must be made for WWU to check for the presence of any live gas services.

9. TREE PLANTING

WWU must be contacted prior to all tree-planting works above or near our apparatus. Further information can then be made available.

10. DEEP EXCAVATIONS

Any work involving deep excavations (1.5m or more) will be subject to the "Model Consultative Procedure for Pipeline Construction involving Deep Excavations". This may require the diversion of WWU apparatus prior to the commencement of your works. Detailed plans and cross sections will be required in order to determine the effect of these works on WWU apparatus.

11. RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

Wind Turbines – WWU must be advised of any planned development of wind turbines in the vicinity of an above 2 bar gas pipelines to ensure the development does not impact on the future safe operation of the pipeline. Industry guidance states that any wind turbine must be sited no closer than 1.5 times the proposed height of the turbine mast away from the nearest edge of the pipeline.

Solar Farms – WWU must be contacted regarding planned solar farms being considered in the vicinity of WWU gas pipelines.

EWI – WWU must be contacted regarding any EWI scheme to ensure the scheme does not impact upon WWU's apparatus.

12. LEAKAGE FROM GAS MAINS OR SERVICES

If damage or leakage is caused or an escape of gas is smelt or suspected the following action should be taken at once:

- Remove all personnel from the immediate vicinity of the escape.
- Inform the 24hr Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999**
- Prevent any approach by the public, prohibit smoking, and extinguish all naked flames or other sources of ignition for at least 15 metres from the leakage. Do not operate any electrical switches in the vicinity of the escape.
- Assist gas personnel, Police and/or Fire Services as requested.

**IN THE EVENT OF A LEAK, OBSERVE THE ABOVE BUT DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SEAL THE LEAK
REMEMBER - IF IN DOUBT; SEEK ADVICE FROM WWU**

13. BUILDING PROXIMITIES

There are minimum proximity distances for buildings from WWU mains depending on both the operating pressure and the material of the main. Advice should be sought from WWU prior to building works taking place to confirm these distances. For High Pressure pipelines you must seek further guidance from the HSE and Local Authority Planning team regarding their PADHI distances regarding building proximities as these may be in addition to WWU proximity distances for a pipeline.

Temporary buildings should not be placed above any gas pipe or within 3.0 metres of mains operating above 75mbar (medium, intermediate and high pressure mains) during construction activities and in no circumstances should permanent structures be built over any pipe transporting gas.

14. SITE RESPONSIBILITIES

All costs incurred by WWU for the repair of direct or consequential damage to gas plant will be rechargeable (with the exception of paragraph 5). WWU reserves the right to divert any affected apparatus or alternatively specify suitable protection of its apparatus. If proved necessary during the course of site works, the cost of which will be chargeable.

The above requirements do not relieve you of the responsibility of taking all precautions necessary to safeguard the Company's plant and to avoid risk to persons and property. The persons for whom the works are being undertaken, their servants, agents and contractors shall indemnify WWU servants, agents and contractors against any loss, damage, expenses, claims and actions incurred or brought against Wales & West Utilities, its servants, agents and contractors in consequence of the provision of these works and activities associated therewith or ancillary thereto.

KEY TO MAPS

LP	Low Pressure	CI	Cast Iron
MP	Medium Pressure	SI	Spun Iron
IP	Intermediate Pressure	DI	Ductile Iron
HP	High Pressure	PE	Polyethylene
		ST	Steel