

Gas to the west natural gas pipeline

SGN Natural Gas and Mutual Energy are jointly investing in a new 100km transmission gas pipeline between Portadown and Enniskillen together with four new pressure reduction sites to supply natural gas into the west of Northern Ireland.

Who are the companies?

SGN Natural Gas is a new company formed as part of the SGN Group to supply natural gas in Northern Ireland. SGN is the second largest gas distribution company in the UK. It provides a safe and secure gas supply to our 5.8 million customers across Scotland and Southern England. These networks consist of 74,000km of gas pipes ranging from high pressure transmission lines to transport gas to major towns and cities, down to the low pressure networks supplying gas to local communities. SGN has supported the Northern Ireland gas industry since the introduction of natural gas in 1996.

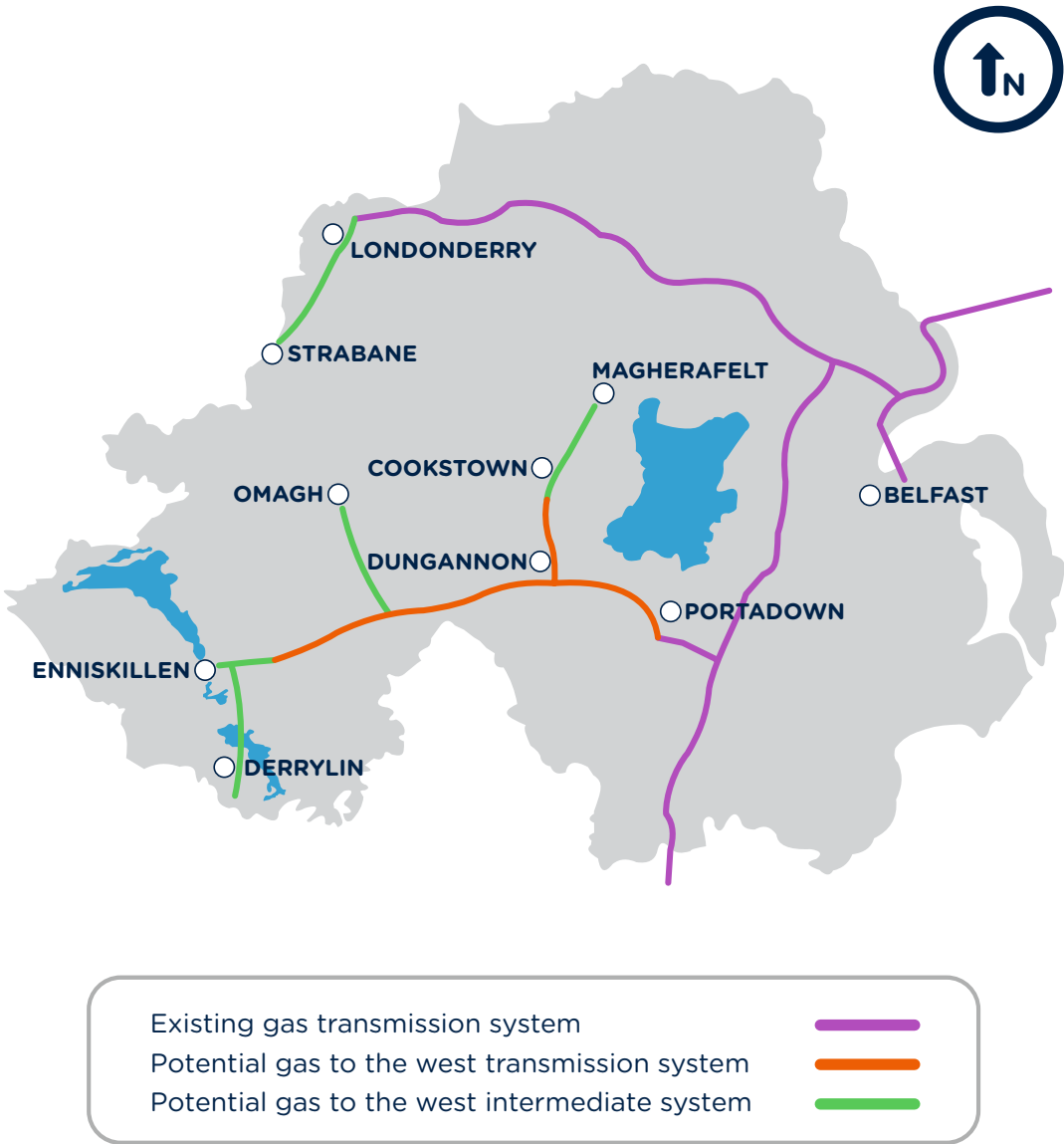
Mutual Energy is a company limited by guarantee (often called a mutual company) which was formed to acquire and hold important energy infrastructure assets for the benefit of the energy consumers of Northern Ireland. Mutual Energy brings a high level of local market and regulatory knowledge to the project together with experience in the management of gas transmission services.

Why is the work happening?

In order to supply gas into the west of Northern Ireland a new gas pipeline will be installed cross-country to transport the gas. At locations along the pipeline, regulator stations will be sited to reduce the pressure of the gas to supply into the local towns.



Gas to the west natural gas pipeline routing



When?

Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2017 with the laying of the pipelines followed by the final reinstatement in 2018.

Prior to this there will be activity in the area as we talk to landowners and carry out ground and environmental surveys.

We will be collating information to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will look at how we can minimise the impact of our works and we will be consulting with statutory bodies in the areas affected by the route.



Choosing the route

The pipeline needs to be constructed between a connection point on the existing transmission network and the towns to be supplied with gas. Various route options are being considered taking into account the following criteria:

1. The start point of the pipelines and the location of the towns to be supplied.
2. Avoiding centres of population.
3. Reasonable avoidance of significant environmental features and sites of archaeological significance.
4. Reasonable avoidance of potentially difficult construction areas, such as steep slopes, peat, rock and complex river crossings.
5. The shortest distance (taking into account points 1 to 4 above).

After consideration of the above factors, the route corridor has been selected for further investigation and survey to establish the best solution.

Construction methods

The pipelines will be laid below ground generally by open cut and laying the pipe in a mechanically dug trench. Major road and river crossings may require the pipe to be laid by tunnelling or drilling.

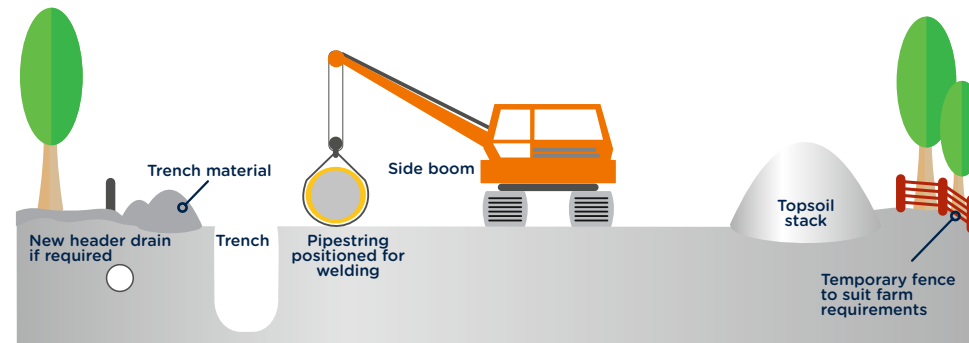
The majority of the main transmission pipeline will be laid across open country and the arterial legs feeding the towns will be laid in the roadways where possible.

For the pipelines that will be laid across open country, the working area will be fenced off in a strip about 30m wide along the length of the pipeline and pre-construction drainage installed. The top soil will be carefully

removed and stored within the working width. The steel pipes will then be laid out and welded together onsite with breaks in the pipes for road and river crossings.

As each section is welded and coated, the trench is dug and the pipe is placed carefully into it. The trench will be left open for the minimum amount of time for safety reasons and to prevent the likelihood of it being affected by adverse weather.

The trench will then be filled back in, post-construction drainage will be installed and the land will be reinstated in the original layers that were removed.



Working hours

Planned working hours during construction of the pipeline will be 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, subject to engineering and/or external requirements from statutory

bodies, the time of year and daylight hours available. Occasional Sunday working may be required but this will be kept to a minimum.

Summary

Our aim is to construct the pipeline with a minimum of inconvenience and to work with all those who may be affected.

Care for the environment is a prime concern during pipeline construction. We will be working closely with our environmental consultants and statutory bodies, where applicable, throughout the process.

All land will be fully reinstated and once complete the only visual reminder of the pipeline will be its marker posts.




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