

Planning North Hertfordshire District Council

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Planning Work?
Please enquire with us at
www.lsbud.co.uk

National Gas Emergency Number:
0800 111 999*

*Available 24 hours, 7 days/week.
Calls may be recorded and monitored.
www.nationalgas.com

Date: June 19, 2025
Our Reference: GE3_37593091
Your Reference: National Gas- 25/01349/FP

Dear Planning North Hertfordshire District Council,

Ref: Site Address Not Provided

National Gas Transmission exercises its right to place a Holding Objection to the above proposal which will cross our High-Pressure Gas Pipeline – Feeder providing the below conditions are adhered to:

Objection:

National Gas Transmission operates a high-pressure gas pipeline: FEEDER 3 - CLOTHALL to WHITWELL that runs through the land parcel proposed for development.

The pipeline has a land easement in operation of 6.1 metres either side of the pipeline (12.2m total). The proposed plans show an easement width of 10m. National Gas Transmission will not consent to any permanent or temporary buildings / structures / hard standing / Fencing within the easement, the plans must be reviewed and revised to reflect the increased easement size and confirm the absence of encroachments within NGT's easement.

Feeder pipeline 3 could be affected by AC and/or DC interference from the proposed installation.

There are specific criteria that must be adhered to for developing solar farms near National Gas Transmission's gas pipelines to avoid unacceptable levels of interference. Subject to compliance with the acceptable interference criteria in the standards, solar farms can be built adjacent to pipelines but never within the easement. It is possible that the pipelines are already experiencing acceptable levels of interference, and in such cases the level of acceptance for new constructions shall be restricted to levels that do not raise the existing levels beyond the acceptable levels defined in the standards.

Utility crossings over National Gas Transmission's gas pipelines are restricted and will require detailed drawings showing the construction and spacing before 'Deeds of Consent / Indemnity' can be issued.

The developer is to engage with National Gas Transmission for further guidance in the early stages of design to ensure that electrical interference, security, future access, and construction methods can be mutually agreed prior to undertaking any works on site.

The developer should be familiar with the relevant standards.

The Objection will remain in place until the amended plans have been received.

- We would draw your attention to the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992, the Land Use Planning rules and PADHI (Planning Advice for Developments near Hazardous Installations) guidance published by the HSE, which may affect this development.
- To visit the Land Use Planning site, please use the link below:
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/methodology.htm>
- No buildings should encroach within the Easement strip of the pipeline
- No demolition shall be allowed within 150 metres of a pipeline without an assessment of the vibration levels at the pipeline. Expert advice may need to be sought which can be arranged through National Gas Transmission.
- National Gas Transmission has a Deed of Easement for each pipeline which prevents change to existing ground levels, storage of materials. It also prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures. If necessary National grid will take action to legally enforce the terms of the easement.
- You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services ", and National Gas Transmission's specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of National Gas Transmission High Pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - requirements for third parties T/SP/SSW22. You should already have received a link to download a copy of T/SP/SSW/22, from our Plant protection Team, which is also available to download from our website.
- To view the SSW22 Document, please use the link below:
<https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas-transmission/document/113921/download>
- A National Gas Transmission representative will be monitoring the works to comply with SSW22.
- To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm>
- National Gas Transmission will also need to ensure that our pipelines access is maintained during and after construction.
- Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres however; actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a National Gas Transmission representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.
- If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of National Gas Transmission High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a National Gas Transmission representative. A safe working method must be agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.
- Excavation works may take place unsupervised no closer than 3 metres from the pipeline once the actual depth and position has been confirmed on site under the supervision of a National Gas Transmission representative. Similarly, excavation with hand held power tools is not permitted within 1.5 metres from our apparatus and the work is undertaken with NGT supervision and guidance.

Pipeline Crossings

- Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at locations agreed with a National Gas Transmission engineer.
- All crossing points will be fenced on both sides with a post and wire fence and with the fence returned along the easement for a distance of 6 metres.
- The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the National Gas Transmission pipeline without the prior permission of National Gas Transmission. National Gas Transmission will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure. The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to National Gas Transmission.
- Please be aware that written permission from National Gas Transmission is required before any works commence within the National Gas Transmission easement strip.
- A National Gas Transmission representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with National Gas Transmission specification T/SP/SSW22.
- A Deed of Indemnity is required for any crossing of the easement including cables

Cables Crossing

- Cables may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.
- A National Gas Transmission representative shall supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.
- An impact protection slab should be laid between the cable and pipeline if the cable crossing is above the pipeline.
- Where a new service is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service must cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.

All work should be carried out in accordance with British Standards policy

- BS EN 13509:2003 - Cathodic protection measurement techniques
- BS EN 12954:2001 - Cathodic protection of buried or immersed metallic structures – General principles and application for pipelines
- BS 7361 Part 1 - Cathodic Protection Code of Practice for land and marine applications.

I have enclosed a location map to show the location of National Gas Transmission high-pressure gas pipeline(s) within the vicinity of your proposal.

Yours sincerely

Jordane Maples

Asset Protection Assistant