

Cross-Solent Gas Pipeline Replacement



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Southern Gas Networks is investing in the replacement of gas pipes under The Solent between Lepe and Gurnard and will be carrying out associated works on both the mainland and the Isle of Wight.

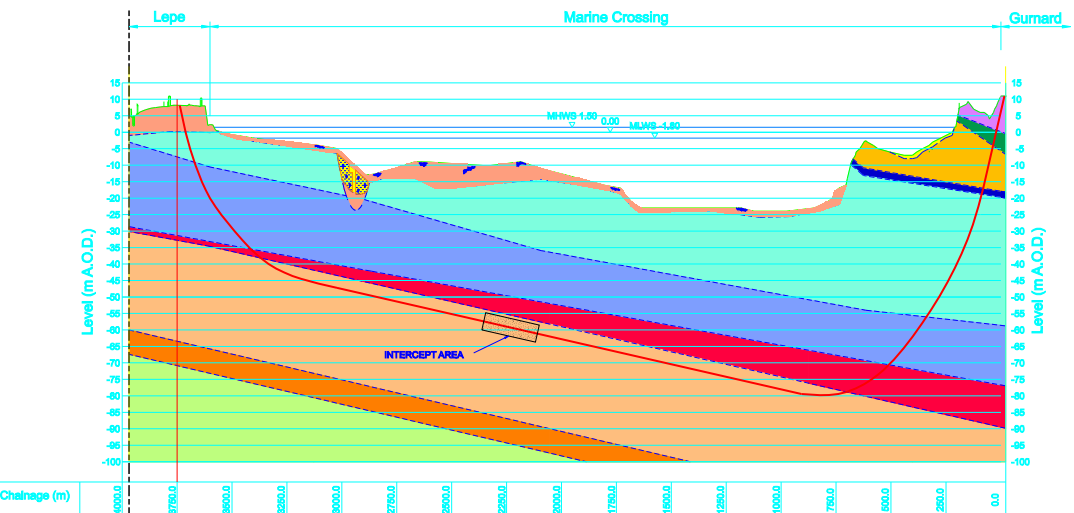
Who are we?

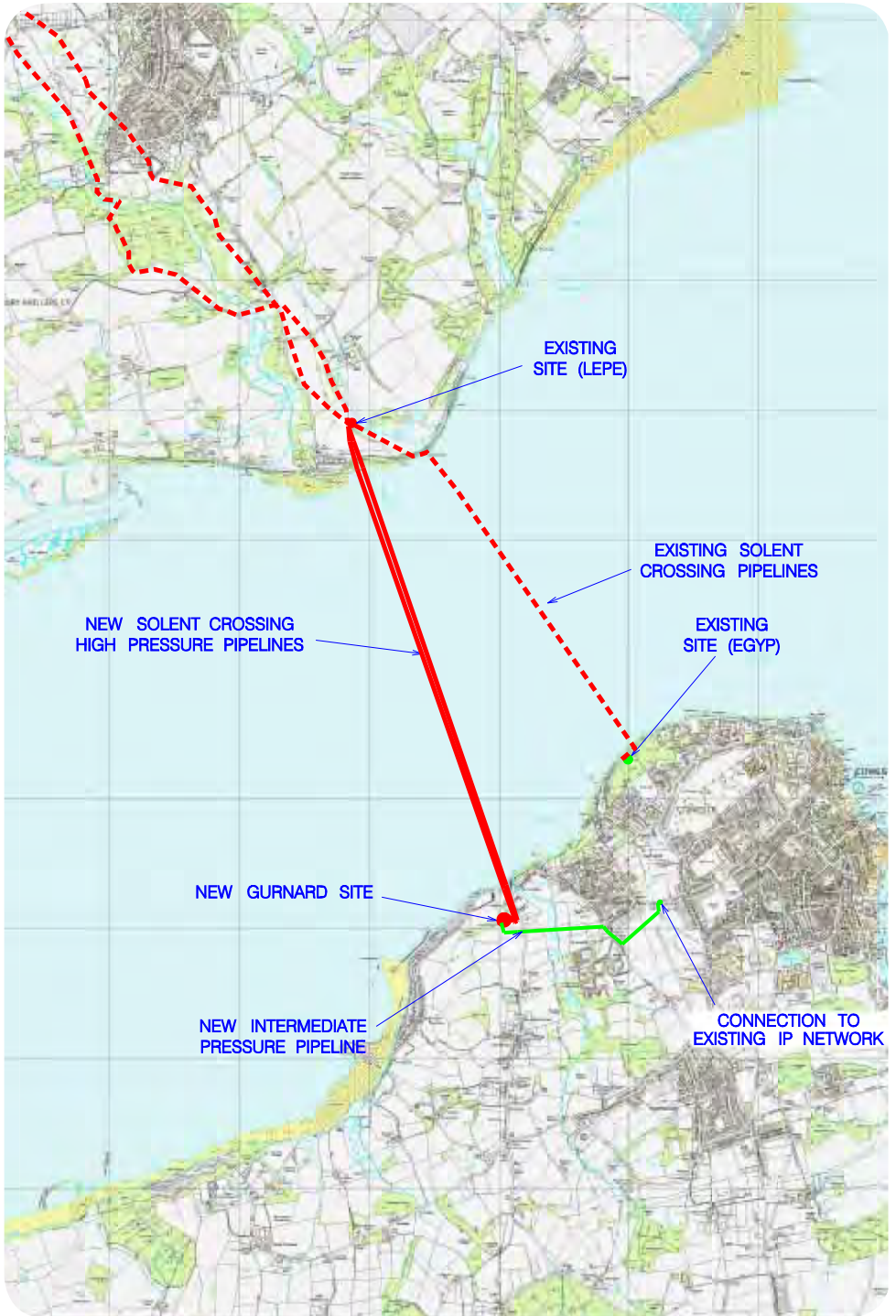
Southern Gas Networks operates one of the largest of the eight regional gas distribution networks in Britain. We serve almost four million customers in the south of England via approximately 49,000km of mains and our primary focus is on delivering gas safely and reliably.

Why is the work happening?

The existing gas pipes between the mainland and the Isle of Wight are coming to the end of their useful lives.

We need to construct new pipes to connect with the existing gas network at Lepe in Hampshire and Gurnard on the Isle of Wight. Our work will enable safe and reliable supplies for the island's 51,000 gas customers to continue into the future.







When?

Preparatory work, including surveys, trials and consultation with relevant organisations, has been taking place.

Construction work itself is planned to begin in July 2010 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

How?

The gas will pass under The Solent from Lepe to Gurnard via two pipelines underneath the sea. We will drill from both the Lepe side and the Isle of Wight side, with the two drills meeting in the middle at a point about 40m below the sea-bed. We will then use a specialist technique to pull the gas mains from the mainland through to Gurnard.

We will also be connecting the new mains with the existing network, which will include work to lay the mains in a trench and the construction of a new Pressure Reduction Station (PRS).

Our aim is to construct the pipes with the minimum of inconvenience and to work with all those who may be affected to achieve this.

Care for the environment is a prime concern during pipeline construction and we work very closely with environmentalists throughout the project.

All affected land will be fully reinstated and we maintain responsibility for returning the land to its original condition.



Where will work take place in Lepe?

Our working area will be on agricultural land, including where we will be storing and then laying out the pipes themselves. This land is located north of Lepe Country Park, extending for around 2.5 km towards Blackfield.

Where will work take place in Gurnard?

A working site and construction site for the new PRS will be located on agricultural land accessible off Rew Street. Connecting the new mains to the existing network will mean us drilling a route for the pipes under Rew Street and laying the pipes in a trench across Cockleton Lane and through agricultural land to connect to the existing network east of Gurnard.

Will roads have to be closed?

Stanswood Road and a public footpath will be closed for a few days during testing on the mainland. Cockleton Lane in Gurnard may have to be closed for a few days while we connect the pipes on the Isle of Wight but this work will be carried out outside the main tourist seasons.

What will the working hours be?

For the actual drilling operations there will be 24-hour working within the drilling sites. For the rest of the works and the pipeline fabrication for the drilling, working hours will generally be 7am to 7pm but this will be affected by the time of year and the length of daylight hours.

Will there be lots of noise?

We will be using silenced machinery and installing soil bunds around the drill sites to minimise the impact of any noise.



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Our website www.sgn.co.uk also contains more details on our work.