



Birnam to Logierait major gas project

Updated November 2023



Background

Keeping our gas network safe and secure for our communities is a priority for us at SGN. Last year we wrote to you to explain one of our High Pressure (HP) gas pipelines, which forms part of the country's essential gas transportation infrastructure, and which runs close to the River Tay, is being affected by riverbank erosion.

Because of this we need to decommission the section of pipe at risk and future-proof it by replacing the old pipe with high density plastic pipe. This work is essential for the safe and secure supply of gas to thousands of homes across the region, including to Birnam, Logierait, Dunkeld, Aberfeldy, and Pitlochry. During the construction of these works, we would like to reassure you that gas supplies in the local area remain safe.

Our off-road construction work began in June with contractor Advance Group UK Ltd working in the field behind Torlee Road to build a new Transmission Regulator Station (TRS) and this work is progressing well.

Our appointed contractors Advance Group UK Ltd and Morrison Energy Services have started our pipe laying work.

There will be no interruption to local gas supplies throughout our project.

Our new gas pipe will run 14km between Birnam and Logierait with a new TRS in Birnam and a District Governor being constructed along the route.

About SGN

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, our teams are working behind the scenes and out on the streets to keep you safe and the gas flowing to 5.9 million homes and businesses across Scotland and in the south of England.

We're committed to keeping all our customers safe and to ensure our network is fully maintained. The UK gas industry has one of the best safety records in the world and we are very proud of that fact.

Appointed contractors

MORRISON
Energy Services

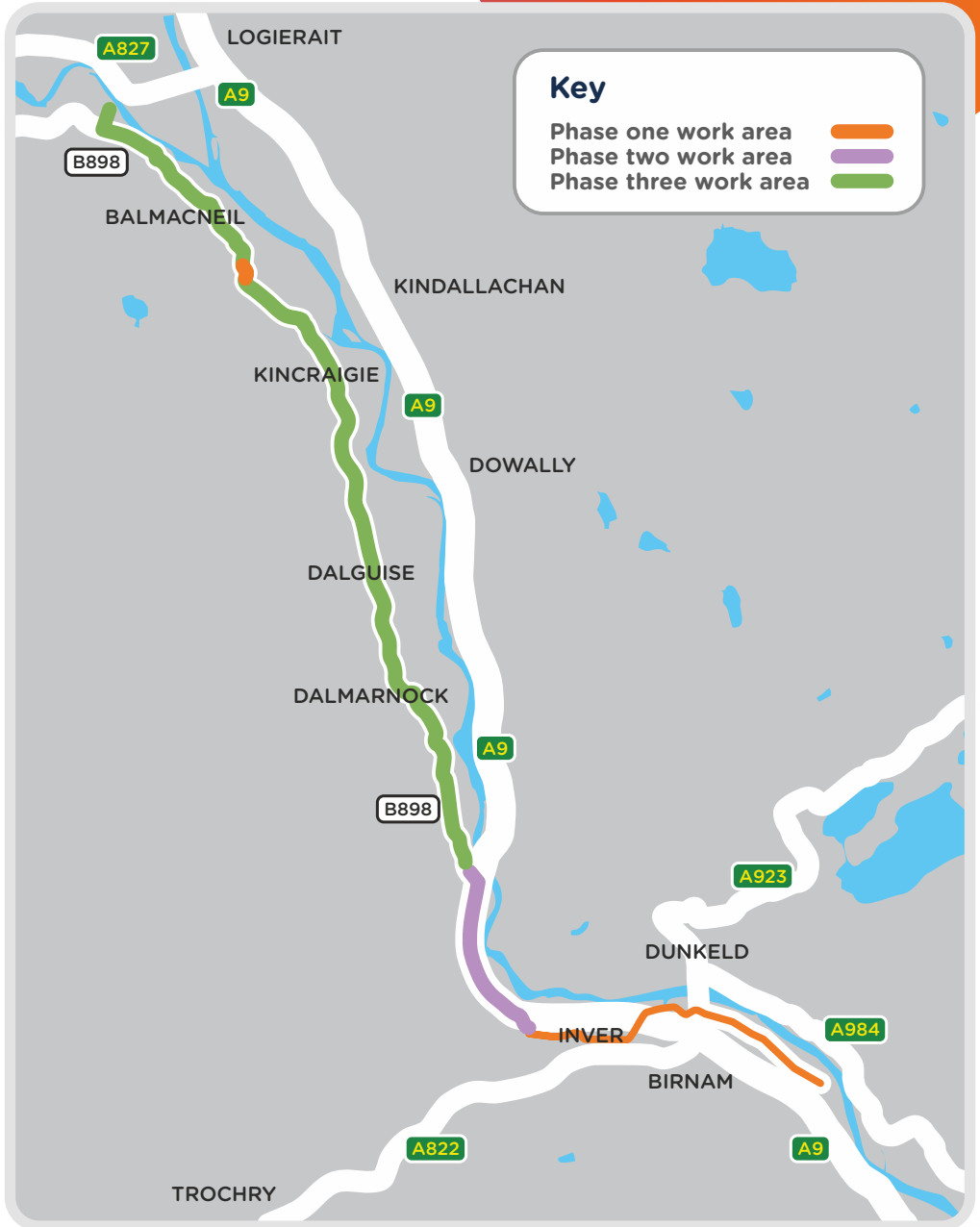
A part of **MGroup**Services



We work with national energy networks and publicly owned organisations to repair, renew, refurbish and maintain the country's gas, electricity and green energy infrastructure, with a key focus on decarbonisation to support the transition to a Net Zero economy.

Working in partnership with SGN and other national gas networks to provide reliable and safe gas and alternative energy supplies for their customers, whilst maintaining focus on the environment, sustainability and achieving a zero carbon footprint.

Where we'll be working



Phase 1

There are two parts to Phase 1 of our project.

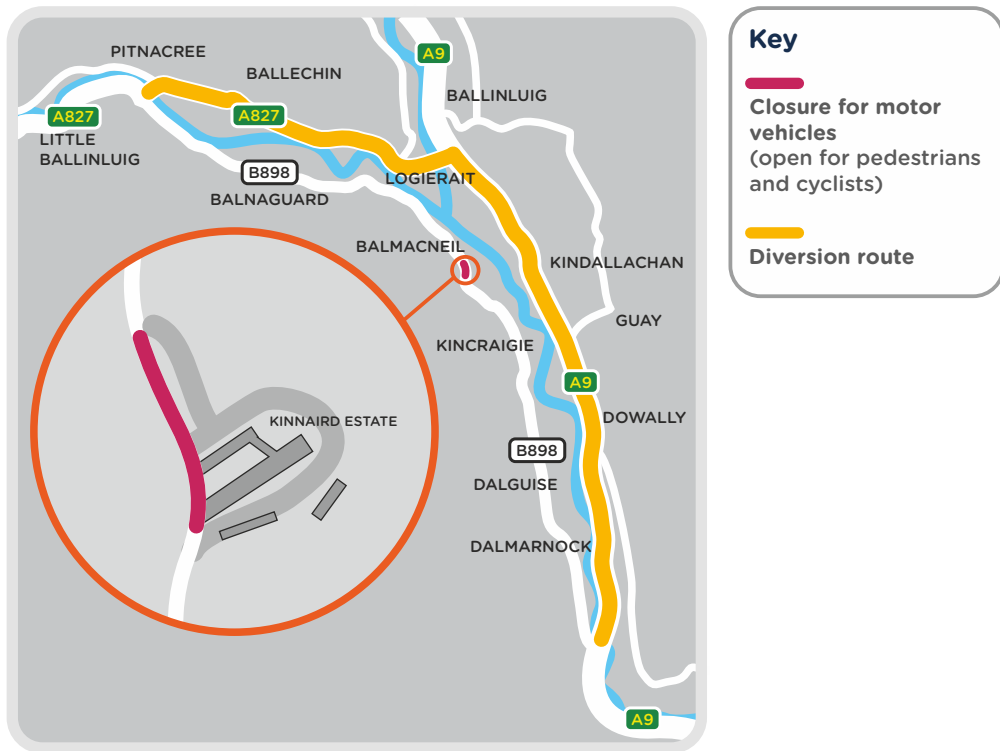
1. Phase 1 - B898 works

Starting on 17 July, our contractors Advance Group UK Ltd worked on a section of the B898 to connect the new gas pipeline to our existing network. To ensure everyone's safety during our works, we needed to close a section of the B898 (see map below) for an estimated eight weeks.

During this time there was local access only to the B898 for motorists and a signed diversion route in place for motorists via the A9.

The road remained open for pedestrians and cyclists travelling on national cycle route 77, although for safety reasons cyclists had to dismount when they passed the works.

Although planned for eight weeks this section was completed and the road reopened in just over five weeks.



2. Phase 1 - Birnam works

A week after work started on the B898, on Monday 24 July, work to lay the new gas main running from Birnam to Logierait began. While SGN designed the project, the safe installation of the new gas main is being carried out by Morrison Energy Services on SGN's behalf.

The route

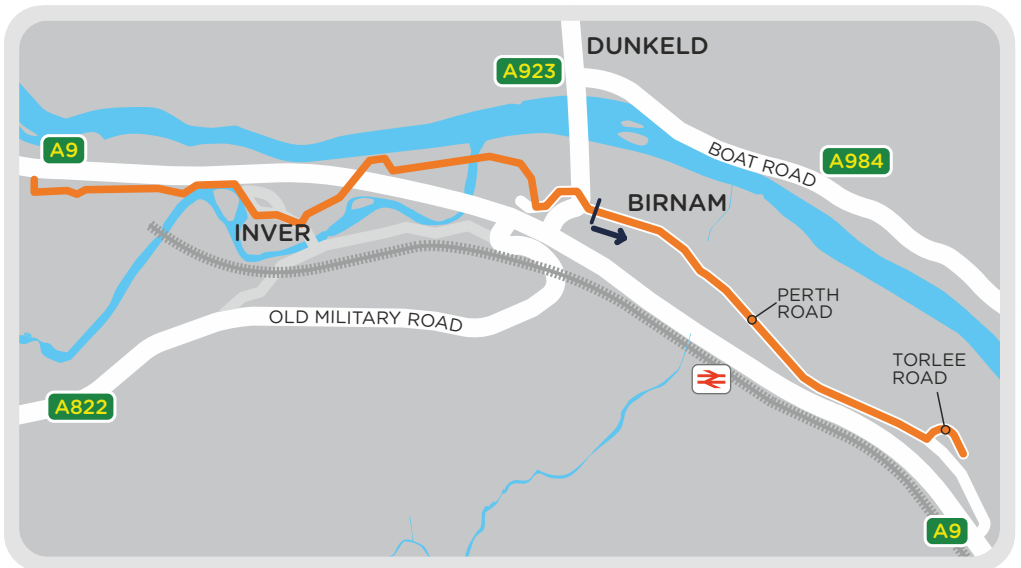
Initial plans to start at Torlee Road and work north-west along the Perth Road were altered for logistical reasons.

Work began close to the Niel Gow statue at the junction of the Perth Road and the A923 Atholl Road (see map below) in Birnam. The new gas pipe has been installed along the Perth Road and south-east through Birnam village. At the far side of the village the pipe will be installed down part of Torlee Road.

Once this work is complete, the new gas pipe will be laid under the A923 and down Birnam Walk and through into the fields behind. No work was carried out in the Highland Games field until after the games took place on Saturday, 26 August.

Overall, this part of Phase 1 will take up to 22 weeks to complete, with local roads all being clear of any traffic restrictions before Christmas.

To ensure the safety of road users, pedestrians and workers, one lane of Perth Road will be closed in sections as our work continues along the road. Temporary traffic lights will be used to ensure full road safety is maintained at all times. Safe access to all properties and driveways along the route will be maintained throughout the work.



Key

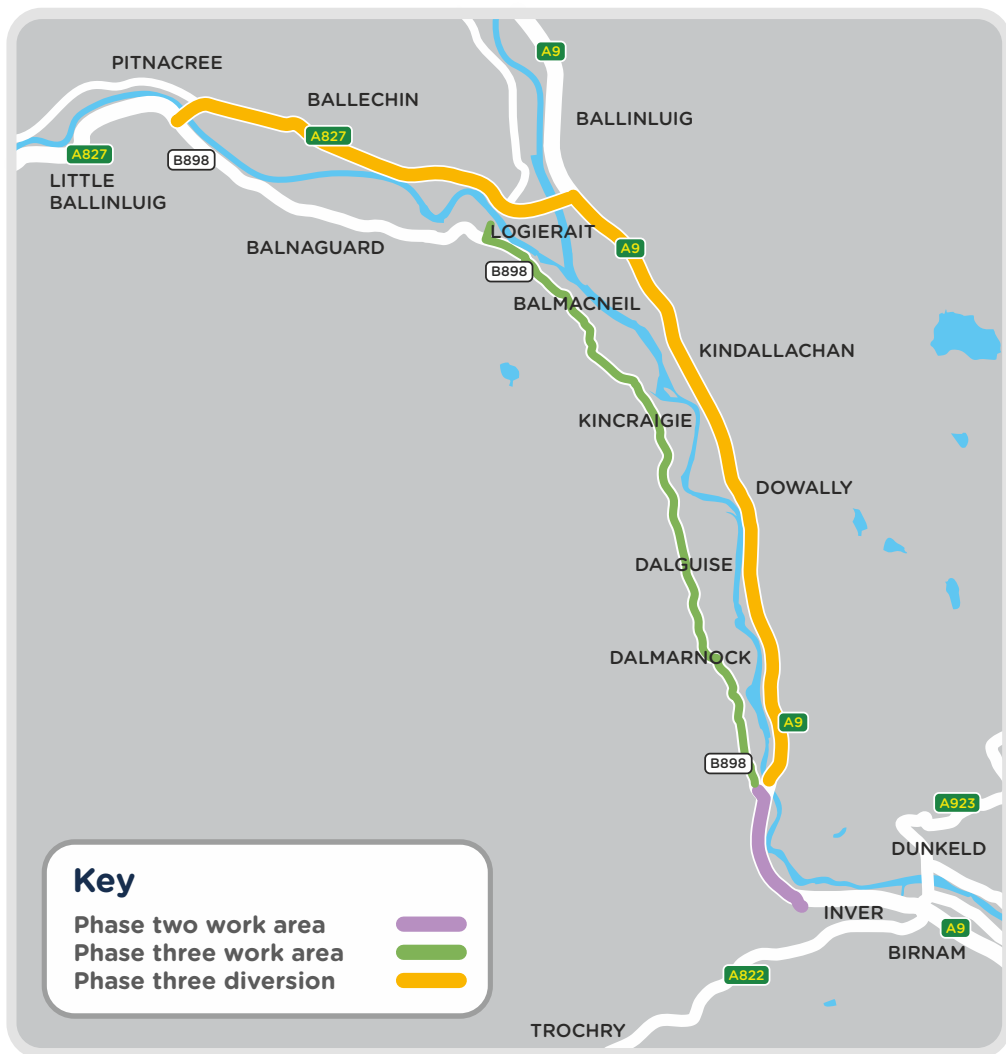
Phase one work area 

Start point for pipe laying 

Phase 2 and Phase 3

Phase 2 involves installing the new gas pipe along the A9 as shown on the map below. This work commenced on 23 October 2023 and will be complete by the end of February 2024. Work on this section will be temporarily suspended for the weekend of 3-5 November and will again be suspended for the busy Christmas and Hogmanay period starting from week commencing 18 December. This means the road will return to normal two-way traffic. Works will recommence the first week of January 2024.

Phase 3 involves installing the new gas pipe along the B898, starting at the junction of the A9 (see map below). This work will begin only when the A9 section is complete.



Your questions answered



Q. Why are you doing this work now?

While there is no immediate threat to gas supplies, the surveys and ongoing monitoring we carry out have shown that due to the erosion of the banking along the River Tay, the existing high-pressure gas pipeline is at risk of becoming exposed. We therefore need to take action to decommission this section of pipeline and build a new Transmission Regulator Station and Intermediate Pressure (IP) gas main in its place. This work is essential for the safe and secure supply of gas to thousands of homes across the region, including to Birnam, Logierait, Dunkeld, Aberfeldy, and Pitlochry.

Q. Is there any danger of the old pipeline breaking?

Although all gas pipelines can be hazardous by their nature, the current high-pressure pipeline is regularly maintained along with all other parts of the gas network. The UK's gas industry has one of the best safety records in the world and we are very proud of that fact.

Q. When will work start on the roads?

Some work has already begun as part of phase 1 of the project. There is a single lane closure on Perth Road in Birnam for approximately 22 weeks with temporary traffic lights in place. Phase two on the A9 began on 23 October.

Q. Why have you picked the new route?

Replacing the existing pipeline alongside the river Tay was not an option and required a new route to be established. This has been agreed following months of consultation with the relevant planning authorities and Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council and involves using the public highway as much as possible.

Q. Will your work affect the local wildlife? What protections have you put in place to ensure it doesn't?

When carrying out projects of this nature, the protection of animals and plant life in their natural habitat and surrounding area is a priority for us. We work closely throughout the project with environmental experts to ensure any effect from our work is minimised. Any trees which need to be removed as part of the project will be replanted.

Q. Will there be much disruption to village and rural lives?

While works like these will inevitably cause some disruption to local life, our intention is to minimise that disruption as much as possible by employing state-of-the-art technology and a highly competent and professional contracting workforce. This will ensure the work is done safely and with the least impact on the local community as possible. We would however, like to apologise in advance for any disruption you may experience and thank you for your patience while these essential works are carried out.

See back page for ways to get in touch with us.



SGN
Your gas. Our network.



MORRISON
Energy Services
A part of MGroupServices

We're always happy to help

Keeping you safe and warm is our top priority.

If you have any questions about your gas supply, there are many ways you can get in touch:



WhatsApp
07490 077 649



Text
07490 077 649



Email
BirnamtoLogierait@sgn.co.uk



Talk
0800 912 1700



Live Chat
sgn.co.uk



Read more
sgn.co.uk

You can call us from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm Saturday.

You can contact us by text, WhatsApp or Live Chat from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.



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