

evolve^o

Connecting pipes and people

Dig safely

Measures to avoid injury
and damage to gas pipes

The following protective and precautionary measures **MUST** be taken when working in the vicinity of gas mains and services.

It is the responsibility of the property owner or company carrying out the work to make sure they've complied with the relevant legislation and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance, e.g., HS(G)47. In practice, this means that whoever does the work **MUST** obtain gas mains location information and/or maps showing the indicative position of the gas network before any work takes place.

To avoid injury to yourself, your employees, colleagues and the general public, you **MUST** suitably mark the position of the pipes on site.

HSE guidance: HS(G)47 outlines best practice that should be followed to ensure you work safely:

- 1. Planning the work.
- 2. Detecting, identifying and marking underground services.
- 3. Safe excavation and digging practices.

In addition to the requirements under the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 to prevent injuries to employees and others (not employed), it is an offence under regulation 15 of the Pipelines Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 to cause damage to a pipeline (which includes gas mains and services as well as higher pressure pipelines) so as to give rise to a danger to persons.

You **MUST** make sure that current full colour copies of our maps are issued to all relevant personnel on site and that they are aware of the presence and location of our gas mains and services prior to any excavation.

In a gas emergency

If you cause a gas leak or suspect a main or service pipe or equipment is leaking, you **MUST** take the following emergency actions immediately:

- Ask people to move away from the area of the gas escape.
 - Call **0800 002 001** immediately.
1. **Don't** attempt to repair the escape or stop the leakage.
 2. As gas may enter buildings, ask people in the surrounding premises to **leave** until it's safe for them to return.
 3. **Stop** anyone going near the immediate vicinity of the gas escape.
 4. **Prohibit** smoking and extinguish all naked flames.
 5. **Don't** use mobile phones or other ignition sources.
 6. **Assist** our representatives and other emergency services, such as the police, ambulance, and fire service as requested.



Additional reference material:

- HSE Guidance document HSG47 **Avoiding Danger from Underground Services** available from [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk)
- NJUG **Utilities Guidance on Positioning and Colour Coding of Apparatus** available from [njug.org.uk](https://www.njug.org.uk)



Making an enquiry for gas mains or services maps

Please contact our Safety Administration team at plantlocation@evolvenetwork.co.uk to request location information about our gas network.

When making an enquiry, please include the following information:

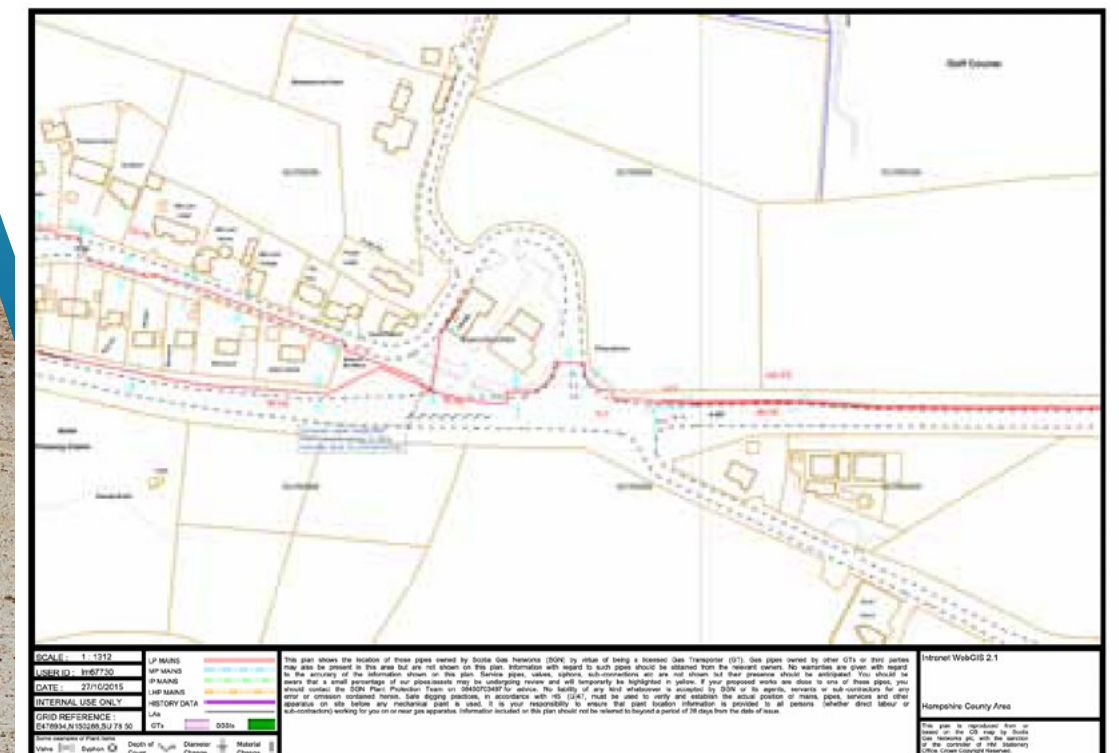
1. Full contact details (name, company name if applicable, address, telephone number and email address).
2. Full site address, postcode and easting/northing grid reference.
3. Plan showing the site boundary.
4. Details of the work to be carried out.
5. The proposed start date (please specify if work is planning only).

What you're likely to be sent

We'll provide you with information regarding your enquiry. This may simply be a reply saying your work doesn't affect our gas network, or a map showing our gas mains.

We always send out safety information, however we may forward your enquiry on to a local plant protection officer or a pipelines engineer to make direct contact with you depending on the work location.

Note: Service pipes are not shown on our maps.



Example of a gas map

When working near our gas mains and services

Safe system of work

To satisfy ourselves that work in the vicinity of our gas mains is being carried out safely, we may ask for a copy of your risk assessment and/or method statement paperwork.

Where work falls under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016, reference to our gas mains and services MUST be made within your site Health and Safety file.

Financial

Every reasonable precaution MUST be taken to avoid personal injury or damage to our gas network at all times.

If we incur any costs to repair direct or consequential damage or divert any gas main or service, you'll be recharged in full.

HSENI

Any damage to our gas mains or services will be subject to legislative reporting responsibilities to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 and the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

Minimum safe working distances

Depending on the activity being undertaken and the gas mains or services you are working near, there are different safe distances that MUST be adhered to. Evolve plant protection officers or pipeline engineers will inform you of these if required.

Mechanical excavation

Mechanical excavators (including breaker attachments) MUST NOT be used within the following distances from the confirmed location of our gas mains and services shown on our gas maps without prior agreement:

Type of mains and services	Gas map identification	Hand excavation required inside	Pipe pressure indication shown on map
Low Pressure (LP)	0–75mbar	0.5 metres	
Medium Pressure (MP)	75mbar to 2 bar	0.5 metres	
Intermediate Pressure (IP)	2–7 bar	3.0 metres	

Intermediate pressure pipeline

No work should take place near an IP pipeline until consultation and agreement with Evolve. After agreement and before any work does take place, the location of our pipeline MUST be marked up and its position confirmed by digging trial holes with our personnel in attendance.

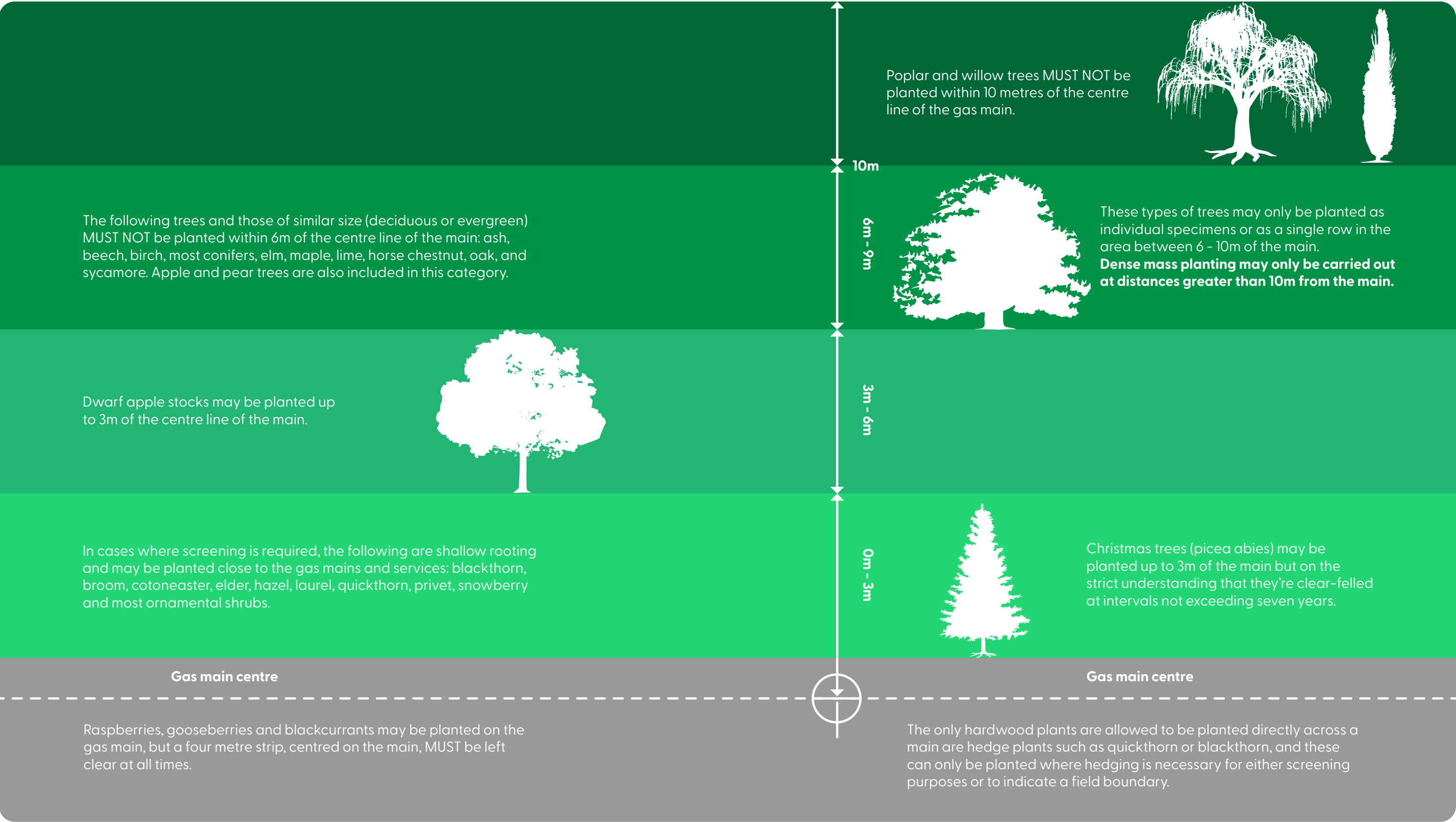


Tree planting

If trees or shrubs are to be planted in the vicinity of our gas mains and services, the selection of tree or shrub type and how it's planted MUST be considered carefully. This is to avoid root damage to buried mains or services, and to ensure our subsequent excavations for main repair and maintenance won't damage the trees or shrubs.

Written approval from us MUST be obtained before any tree planting is carried out on a servitude/ easement will be subject to us retaining the right to remove any tree, which in our opinion may become a danger to our mains in the future.

The written consent to plant trees will state what area may be planted and also the type of tree. The diagram details the specific species and the distances they MUST be planted from gas mains or services. You MUST contact Evolve for further information.



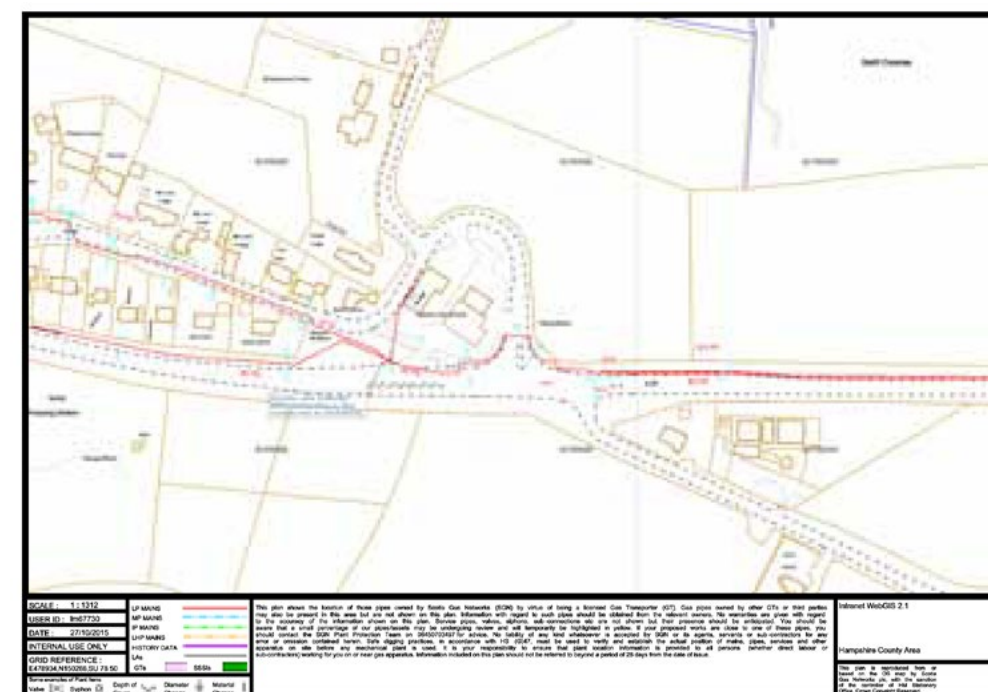


If you're unsure and need further help, please contact us and we'll arrange for a plant protection officer to get in touch with you.

Gas services/work in gardens

If you're going to be carrying out work around your home, or a third party is carrying out work on your behalf, we may send you a site map of our gas mains and services but your own gas service won't be marked.

The simplest way to understand the location of your gas service is to know where it enters your house.



< Your gas service pipe usually takes the shortest route to the gas main, as shown on the sample network map/drawing.



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