

Gas to the West – the Next Steps



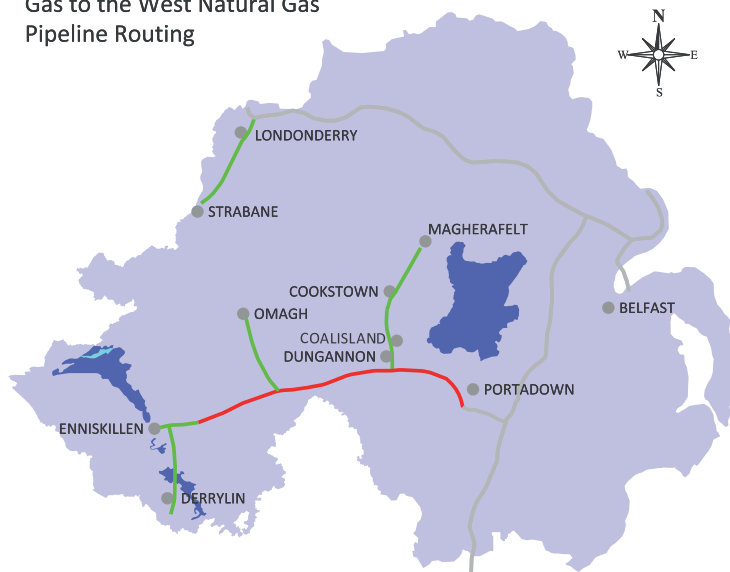
Having secured full planning permission, Gas to the West now moves to the construction phase.

Construction involves the building of an 78km high pressure (HP) steel pipeline cross country from a point near Portadown Co Armagh to a site West of Fivemiletown in County Tyrone. It also includes 107 kms of intermediate pressure (IP) pipelines connecting the high pressure system to (1) Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown and Magherafelt; (2) Omagh (3) Enniskillen and Derrylin. A pipeline connecting Derry/Londonderry with Strabane has already been constructed and the gas distribution system is currently being rolled out in the Strabane area.

There are also 7 above ground installations (AGIs) to be constructed and other district pressure reduction stations as well as other ancillary works.

Although the pipeline routes have been optimised carefully, there are additional complexities. For example collectively the pipelines cross 85 roads (including the M1) and 56 laneways. There are 215 watercourses to traverse including the River Blackwater and Upper Lough Erne. All in all pipelines will cross 364 farm enterprises covering almost 1 million hectares with a construction footprint of 234 hectares.

Gas to the West Natural Gas Pipeline Routing



LEGEND

- Existing Gas transmission system
- Potential Gas to the West transmission system
- Potential Gas to the West intermediate system



Gas to the West Construction Programme

Construction work will be spread across 2017 and 2018 divided into the separate HP and IP workstreams.

Starting next month (July 2017)

the work will begin on the intermediate pipelines connecting the different towns.

For the most part this will involve running the pipelines in trenches along the main roadways with the aim of having gas flowing to the town 'gates' by the final quarter of 2018. This work will be spread across 2017 and 2018 and will involve working in different locations simultaneously rather than working sequentially. Work will also commence in 2017 on strategic elements of the high pressure system including major roads and rivers crossings and AGIs. The cross country high pressure pipeline itself will be constructed in 2018.



SGN
Your gas. Our network.

mutualenergy





Managing the Construction Work

The project partners are required to meet a range of conditions attached to the Gas to the West planning permission which ensure careful management of the various impacts of

construction operations. This includes everything from environmental impacts, archaeological considerations and traffic management. A top priority will be to minimise disruption and inconvenience to people who are located near physical operations.

To achieve this, the HP work will be confined to two 'seasons' where weather conditions are likely to be most favourable and where account is taken of the farming calendar and the bird nesting season. Work will normally run from 7am to 7pm so that there is minimal disturbance at night time. There will also be only very limited operations on Sundays. The experience the team has gained in building the Strabane pipeline recently with little disruption will be drawn on to ensure that inconvenience to road users is minimised.



In laying pipelines there will be an emphasis on safety and on reinstatement. Trenches will not be left open for any longer than necessary and works will be fenced in. Once the pipeline has been buried reinstatement work will be carried out so that with the passage of time there will be little trace of the works.

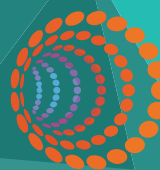


Other Live issues

The project is well advanced in terms of procurement with most of the main contracts signed and contractors appointed. There should be new employment and supply chain opportunities locally as a result of these main contracts.

The project also has further work to do to secure secondary consents and to finalise aspects of land access. This workstream is at an advanced stage ahead of construction commencing.

There are also financial and regulatory issues to be finalised including the administration of the Government grant for the project and compliance with the conditions attached. This will have to fit alongside the strategy for the overall long term financing of the project. Also the project will need to arrive at an 'allowed cost' figure for the construction, which will be determined by the Utility Regulator.



SGN
Your gas. Our network.

mutualenergy

