



Trench Excavation Guide

Before beginning any excavations, ensure you follow safe digging practices and adhere to the Health and Safety Executive's guidelines (HSG47).

By following these guidelines, you ensure a safe and compliant excavation process.

If you have any queries, contact us:

T: 01359 243360

E: myconnections@gtc-uk.co.uk

W: gtc-uk.co.uk/connections-service-alterations/



Scan the QR code
to visit our webpage.



**Smell
gas?**

Call: 0800 111 999



**Power
cut?**

**Call GTC on 0800 032 6990
or the National Power Cut
number on 105**



General Guidelines

Safety and Compliance

Ensure the trench meets the specifications outlined in this guidance. Failure to comply may result in a charge for aborted works, a rescheduling of the works and/or additional charges for GTC to bring the trench up to standard. GTC will not work in any trench deemed unsafe.

You are responsible for safely guarding the trench and ensuring no one at your property is at risk.

Customers and groundworkers are unable to install any cable or pipework, this must be laid by GTC engineers.

Trench Route

Dig the full route of the trench within your private property and any additional agreed areas, such as third-party private land. Trenches must follow the proposal drawings agreed with GTC.

Trench Specifications

Depth and Width

The trench must be deep enough for the top of the pipe/cable to be 600mm underground (see table below) and approximately 250mm to 300mm wide.

Bottom of the Trench

It must be level and free from sharp stones that could damage the pipe. If the ground contains sharp stones, dig an additional 75mm and fill it with fine material to lay the pipe on top.

Trench specifications

	Minimum depth of cover		
	Gas		Electric
Mains	All sizes		All sizes
Verge	750 mm		750 mm
Footpath	600 mm		600 mm
Roadways	750 mm		600 mm
Agricultural	1100 mm		1100 mm
Services	32 mm	63 mm	35 mm and 50 mm
Verge	600 mm	600 mm	450 mm
Footpath	600 mm	600 mm	600 mm
Roadways	600 mm	600 mm	600 mm

Duct specifications

Duct (services only)	32 mm	63 mm	Single Phase	Three Phase
OD – Outer Diameter	60 mm	100 mm	38 mm (OD)	50 mm (OD)



Permits

GTC requires permits for entering any excavation at or below 1.2m in depth or if ground conditions necessitate it.

Backfilling and Reinstatement

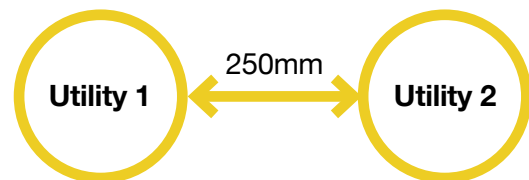
After laying the pipe, surround it with at least 75mm of fine material (supplied by you), free from sharp objects to prevent damage.

Marker tape **MUST** be applied over the line of the service and duct for the entirety of its length.

You are responsible for backfilling the trench, reinstating the land, levelling the surface, and removing any unused material.

Multiple Utilities

Ensure a minimum proximity of 250mm between all utility pipes/cables.



Ducting should be laid with a pullcord installed throughout and the ends of the duct must be capped or plugged at all times to prevent ingress of water or debris.

Gas

Ducting for services must be yellow and perforated along its entire length.

Electric

Ducting must be compliant with ENA TS 12-24.

Ducting can be obtained from your local builders merchants.