

# Southall Gasworks – FAQ

## ABOUT THE WORK

**1. What work are you doing?**

National Grid, on behalf of Cadent Gas Limited (Cadent), will be recovering some DNAPL (Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids) located within Cadent owned land at the former Southall Gasworks site.

The recovery techniques tested were chosen due to their chance of success in removing the DNAPL whilst having no impact to the gas infrastructure on site and the community around us.

The DNAPL recovery works are scheduled to begin in January 2023.

**2. What is Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid?**

Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid or 'NAPL' is a liquid contaminant that does not easily dissolve in, or mix with, water so it tends to either float on top of it (Light NAPL or 'LNAPL') or sink to the bottom (Dense NAPL or 'DNAPL').

**3. Where did this DNAPL come from?**

The DNAPL on this site comprises coal tar, a thick, 'sticky' substance, which is an industrial by-product left over from the former gasworks.

**4. What is on this piece of land?**

The site covers an area of around 2.5 hectares of operational gas land. On the site remains the footprint of the former gasholder (now dismantled) and the high-pressure gas reduction system.

**5. Who owns it?**

Cadent Gas Limited (Cadent) owns this piece of land on the former Southall Gasworks site. Cadent operates and maintains the largest natural gas distribution network in the UK and transports gas to 11 million homes and businesses across the country.

**6. Considering the health concerns expressed by the local community, how are you planning to do this work? And why are you doing this work?**

We are aware of the issues and concerns relating to the works that took place on the adjacent site.

As a result, these works have been specifically designed to avoid any impact to the local community. We will use a number of different control measures during our planned works including an entirely sealed system with no extraction, treatment, storage or transfer of DNAPL being undertaken in the open air in order to avoid release of odours and vapours.

We have trialled this system on a small scale and are therefore confident that there will be no noticeable odour from the works, as proven by air monitoring during the trial stage. Our works will continuously be monitored and works

stopped and reviewed, should negative impact be detected at our site boundaries.

These works will help to improve the local environment.

- 7. Will you meet with the local community to discuss this piece of work?**

Keeping the local community informed about our work is important to us, so we have decided on lines of communication that are proportionate to the nature of the works. We have a dedicated freephone line and email for stakeholders to get in touch. We also have website updates and, when necessary, direct hand delivered mail. This piece of work will take place within Cadent's site, and we do not expect any impact on residents or the local community.
- 8. When does the work begin?**

DNAPL removal will begin in January 2023.
- 9. How long will the work last for?**

We initially estimate that the DNAPL removal works will take roughly nine months to complete but will review progress with the Council at the end of that period.
- 10. What is NAPL recovery?**

This is a process by which the coal tar liquids (around 7m below the surface) are extracted and brought to the surface so they can be removed from the site.

This can be achieved using a number of different techniques. We tested a few of these to confirm which will avoid impact to both the gas infrastructure and the surrounding community.
- 11. Why aren't you using an enclosure like you did with the remediation work?**

This piece of work is taking place in an area of the site with live gas equipment. This means that it would not be possible to construct an enclosure.

Instead, we are using a sealed system to extract the DNAPL so that it is not exposed to the open air at any point, either on site or during transfer off-site to a disposal/treatment facility.
- 12. Is this work odorous?**

No odours are expected as the DNAPL will be extracted entirely within an enclosed system.
- 13. Is there a risk the NAPL could seep into the local watercourse?**

The coal tar DNAPL is a thick and dense product (i.e., very 'sticky') that does not flow or move easily and tends to sink downwards, as far as it can go. It therefore only moves very slowly over time by gravity and so has collected in the middle of the Cadent site.

There is no evidence that this pool of DNAPL has moved far from its original source over the past 50 years.

  - a. What about the new homes on site?**

As noted above, the DNAPL does not readily flow and has sunk down to collect in the middle of the site, some distance from the new homes on the Green Quarter and existing homes to the south of the railway.

**14. Will my health be affected by your works?**

The remediation works were tested as a pilot trial which showed that the proposed methods will not impact the surrounding environment and, therefore, the health of the community.

**15. Will the work create dust?**

No, our proposed works will not create dust. There are no excavations planned.

**16. How will you monitor air quality?**

Air quality monitoring stations will be set up before work starts, in order for us to get a starting point for the odours, dust and vapours already on site.

The stations will continue to monitor air during the works to provide evidence that the work does not impact local air quality. We will regularly check the data and make it available for Ealing Council and the Environment Agency. If we find that the air quality levels are higher than the levels agreed with the Council, we will stop work immediately and review our methods before starting up again.

**17. Where and how is the soil being taken off site?**

The works do not involve the excavation, treatment, or removal of soil. The DNAPL product that is extracted will be removed from site within the sealed unit for treatment/disposal at a licenced facility off-site.

## **NATIONAL GRID and CADENT GAS LIMITED**

**18. Why is National Grid doing the work if Cadent owns the land?**

National Grid have a long relationship with Cadent and have agreed to help Cadent manage these works. National Grid have a lot of experience in cleaning up old gasworks land.

**19. What are your working hours?**

Our working hours will be 8:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday. We are not expecting to work on Saturday, but if works are necessary, we will work up to 13:00.

**20. How have you learnt from the Green Quarter remediation?**

The DNAPL recovery on the Green Quarter site (formerly Southall Waterside) is on a much bigger scale; the Cadent site is less than one tenth of the size, which means it is easier for us to control any potential impacts from the works we are doing. The extraction work we are undertaking will occur within a sealed system and we will not be treating or storing any contaminated soils on site.

**21. Who manages complaints and enquiries related to the site?**

If you have any concerns or queries, you can get in touch with our community relations team by:

**Phone** – 0800 319 6186

**Email** – [NationalGrid@SouthallGasholders.com](mailto:NationalGrid@SouthallGasholders.com)

**Freepost** – RUAT-REXU-HXBX, Local Dialogue, Studio110, Edinburgh House, London, SE11 5DP

We will also share any concerns with Ealing Council.

**22. How can we stay informed about the work?**

We don't expect this work to have any impact on residents, however if you are interested in understanding more about our process, please visit our dedicated website here: <https://www.southallgasholders.com/>

You can also contact our Community Relations team by calling our 0800 number or dropping them an email.

**Phone** – 0800 319 6186

**Email** – [NationalGrid@SouthallGasholders.com](mailto:NationalGrid@SouthallGasholders.com)

**23. Have you received permission from Ealing Council to do this work?**

We submitted a planning application to Ealing Council for the DNAPL recovery works and consent was granted.

We've engaged with a dedicated land contamination officer and they will play a key role in checking the work we'll do on the site.