

# Decommissioning of the Harwell Discharge Pipeline at Sutton Courtenay

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### Who is Magnox Limited?

Magnox operates 12 sites around the UK on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), including the site at Harwell in Oxfordshire.

### What is the Harwell Discharge Pipeline?

The pipeline was installed in the late 1940s by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) from the Harwell site to the River Thames at Sutton Courtenay. It was used to discharge treated water into the river; discharges were carried out under permitted authorisations until operations stopped in March 2013.

### Why is Magnox doing the work?

Now that the pipeline is no longer required, Magnox is removing the pipeline. This will allow the permitted authorisation and access rights over the land to be extinguished.

The discharge point on the River Thames behind Mill House was the first section to be removed at the end of 2013. Since then a further 4.75kms of pipeline have been removed from the Harwell site to a point south of Sutton Courtenay village.

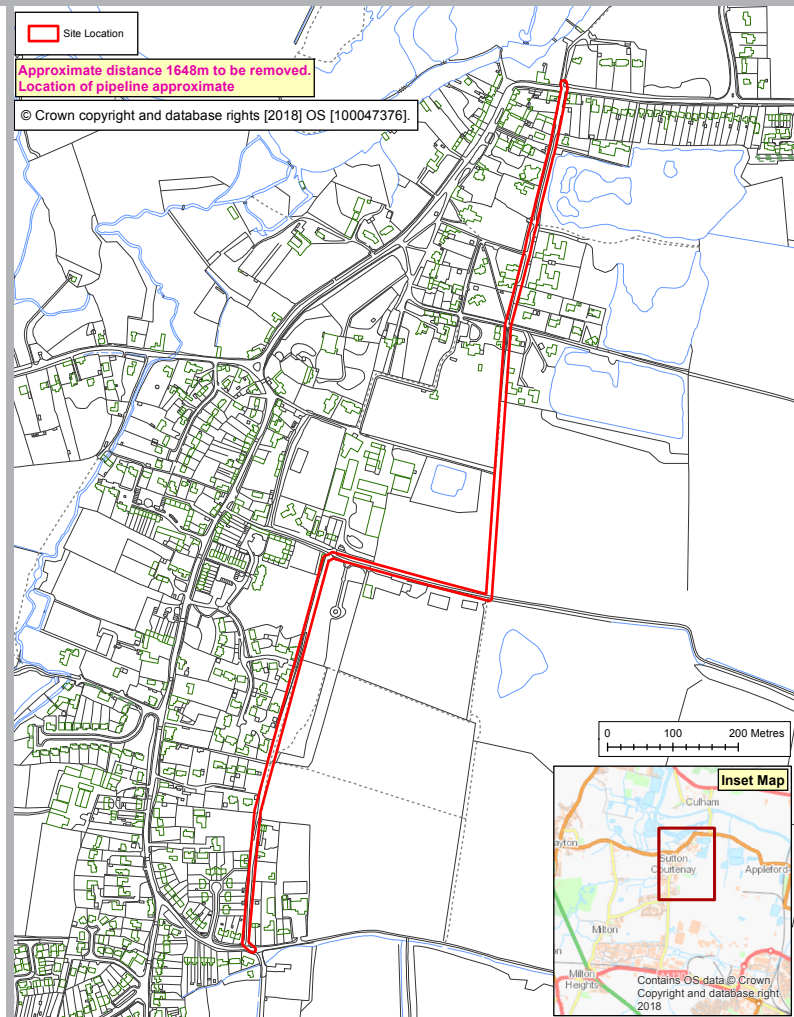
### What is left to be done?

A further 1.6kms of pipe from Frilsham Street to Appleford Road, via Old Wallingford Way, Churchmere Road, and All Saints Lane.

### How and when will this be done?

A small team and two excavators will expose and remove two lengths of pipe at a time. The pipeline is constructed of 5.6m, cast-iron lengths. All excavations will be back-filled at the end of each day and the work area made safe.

Batches of five lengths of pipe will be moved from the village using a 7.5 tonne flatbed lorry. We expect between 1 and 2 lorry movements per day.



This rolling process will slowly work its way through the village over a period of a few months. Starting in December 2018 we expect to remove the pipe from these areas during these dates:

- Frilsham Street to Old Wallingford Way, December 2018 to February 2019
- Old Wallingford Way to Churchmere Road, March 2019 to April 2019
- All Saints Lane, May 2019 to June 2019

### How will this affect me?

The pipeline follows public footpath and bridleway routes through the village. Short-term temporary closures will be required and Magnox will be making applications to the District Council.

Access to the Cemetery and Recreation Ground will be affected for a short period. Magnox will

work with the Parish Council, Church Diocese and Sports Clubs to minimise the disruption and ensure any restrictions are well advertised. We will contact residents along Frilsham Street, Old Wallingford Way, Churchmere Road and All Saints Lane before our works are due to start in these locations.

### **Will this mean restricted access to my property?**

No. We hope to keep access available at all times and for as long as possible, but there will be occasions when access could be restricted. Any restricted access would be confined to the hours of 8am to 4pm on weekdays.

At the end of each day our works will be made safe and access to affected households will always be reinstated. We will liaise on a daily basis with affected households in the vicinity of our works to ensure disruption is minimised.

### **Should I be worried about radioactive contamination from the works?**

No. Only very low-levels of contamination have been found deposited in the scale on the inside of the pipe. The technique for excavating and removing the pipe lengths contains any material inside the pipe, to avoid the spread of contamination.

Airborne detectors will be used around the works to give immediate reassurance. Soil samples will be collected to confirm no residual ground contamination.

The operatives are not required to wear any special clothing or equipment, and will be dressed like normal road construction workers.

### **Who will ensure the work is carried out safely?**

The work will be regulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA).

### **What happens to the old pipe lengths after it is removed?**

The pipe is made of cast-iron and can be recycled. Some lengths of pipe will be consigned from the village directly for recycling; any lengths with deposits of scale that contain very low levels of contamination will be returned to Harwell for cleaning, prior to being sent for recycling.



### **If I have any questions or concerns, who should I contact?**

Please contact Emma Burwood at [emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com](mailto:emma.burwood@magnoxsites.com)