Chard sewer and gas pipe upgrade
January - October 2025

Scheme overview

The Furnham Road/Glynswood area of Chard has suffered historic issues with sewer flooding during severe rainfall, which has led to discharges from existing sewer manholes, damaging roads and pavements close to properties.

Caused by inadequate sewer capacity, Wessex Water is proposing to invest £1.3 million to install larger pipes in nearly 500 metres of road in both Furnham Road and Glynswood to help.

This project is **not** a solution to separate land drainage issues in Chard. Surface water (land) drainage management lies with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) – Somerset Council – with whom we continue to work closely to explore solutions to that issue.

During this project, some existing water mains will also be reinforced in Furnham Road.

At the same time, Wales & West Utilities are investing £415,000 to upgrade gas pipes within all three roads.

Somerset Council, Wessex Water and Wales & West Utilities are working together to inform with customers, businesses and local stakeholders about this programme of work.

When is the scheme taking place?

Construction teams will be within Victoria Avenue, Furnham Road and Glynswood between January and October 2025. The map overleaf offers more detailed dates for each phase.

Prior to this main project, between Monday 18 November and Friday 20 December 2024, Wales & West will carry out reinforcement work along Furzehill to allow insertion of the gas mains on Furnham Road. Access out of the T junction adjacent to 2, Furzehill will be restricted and a diversion signposted.

In conjunction with the road closure along Furnham Road in 2025, Wales & West Utilities will also carry out work under traffic lights between the junctions of Victoria Avenue and Thorndun Park Drive and in Thurndun Park Drive, Chaffcombe Road, Beeching Close, Mount Hindrance Lane, Hocken Close, Furnham Crescent, Furnham Close, Campion Gardens and Coker Way.

Wales & West Utilities will write to customers living in the above roads directly.

How will roads be affected?

A programme of staged road closures and diversions is planned between January and October 2025 to keep disruption to a minimum although inevitably for projects of this scale, there will be some disruption for which we apologise.

How will public transport routes be affected?

Bus stops at the junction of Coker Way and Furnham Road will be suspended during the scheme. Please consult with your local bus company for details of alternative stops.

Will businesses on closed roads remain open?

Yes. We will work closely with local businesses to ensure their day-to-day operations can continue and that they are able to notify customers and delivery companies about the work.

Why are closures necessary and can roads not be reopened at the end of each day?

Road closures are always a last resort and used to ensure the safety of the public and the working teams. Official signposted diversions will be in place for each closure. Please refer to the attached map.

Reopening roads at the end of each day would be impossible due to the location and nature of the work, which is planned in a way that minimises the impact on the local community, road users and our construction team as much as possible.

I regularly park outside my house on Furnham Road/Glynswood. How will this be affected while this work is taking place?

There may be times when you are unable to park outside of your house due to construction work. We will liase with the affected customers at the time.

I live on Furzehill, what about access to and from my home during the Furnham Road closure?

Access will be maintained for residents throughout the project. Initially, access to and from Furzehill will be from the south while the work moves down Furnham Road – and then from the north once it is past the entrance to Furzehill. Please speak to on-site teams if you have concerns about any specific access requirements.

Will waste and recycling collections be disrupted?

Somerset Council will ensure they can plan waste and recycling accordingly around our programme of work.

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Will it be noisy and what measures are you taking to minimise this?

There may be some noise disruption, but we will be working hard to keep this to a minimum. Working hours for Wessex Water and Wales & West Utilities are between 8am and 5pm from Monday to Friday although there may be the occasional need for work outside these times.

Why can't the work be carried out at night?

Some elements of the works are likely to be noisy and would require lighting, which would create an unfair disturbance for residents.

Will there be interruptions to water supply/ sewerage and gas services?

Wessex Water customers will be able to continue to use water and sewerage supplies as normal and will be notified in writing should there be any change to this.

Wales & West will need to arrange access to some properties to upgrade and reconnect gas services and will write to those properties and visit them in person to arrange a mutually convenient time.

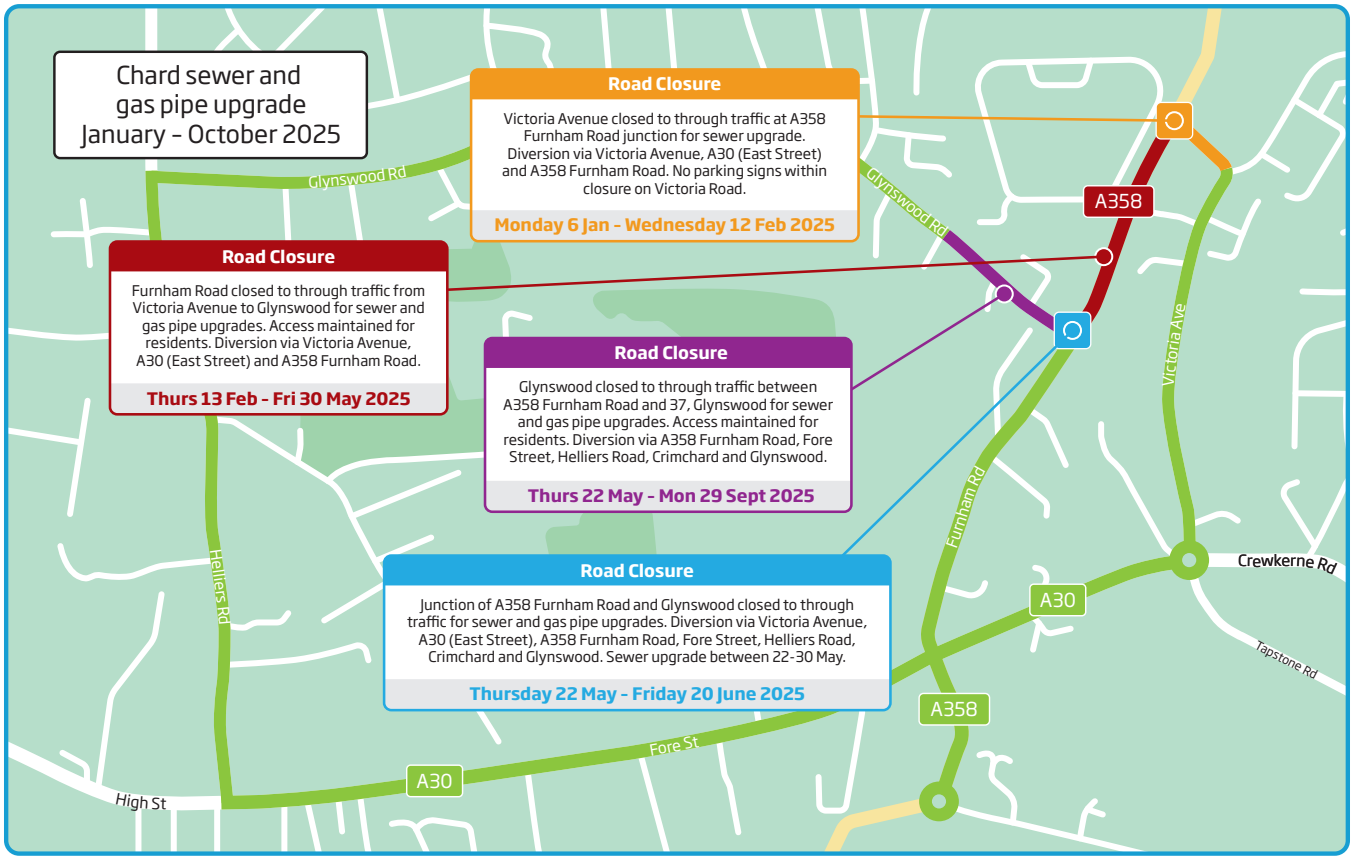
We would ask people to bear with us and to please help us arrange this most important final stage of the work.

How will emergency vehicles get through the work area?

Emergency services will always have access within the closures and will also be informed about them so that they can plan accordingly.

How are you informing the local and wider community?

As well as writing to customers about this project, Somerset Council, Wessex Water and Wales & West Utilities are working directly with businesses and local stakeholders to discuss the impacts of it. We will continue to issue updates throughout the course of the work.



Anything else you need to know?

If you have any questions about Wessex Water's work, please call **0345 600 4 600** or visit **wessexwater.co.uk/contact-us**.

Any enquiries about the gas pipe replacement work please contact Wales & West Utilities on **0800 912 29 99** or by **enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk**. You can also contact them on X, formerly Twitter **@wwutilities** or **Facebook.com/wwutilities**.

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