

Proposed Timeline

2013	Planning permission granted by Limerick City Council
2014	Industrial emissions licence issued by EPA
2015	Stage 1: Pump and treat
2016	Stage 2: Soil stabilisation
2017	Project works completion

Future Site Use

Once the Limerick Gasworks site has been remediated, it will be suitable for development in accordance with the Limerick City Development Plan.

While there are currently no plans for its future use, this project will complete the clean-up of the site and facilitate its reintegration to Limerick City.



Pre-Remediation



Planned Post Remediation

Previous Remediation Projects

Gas Networks Ireland has extensive experience in the remediation of former gasworks sites.



Cork Gasworks

The site of the former Gasworks was remediated in 1998/1999 and is now the location for the Gas Networks Ireland Headquarters.



Before



After

Waterford Gasworks

The former Gasworks in Waterford was remediated in 2006/2007 and the site is now ready for development in line with the Waterford City Development Plan.



Before



After



An **ervia** company

Customer information



Limerick Gasworks Remediation

Information Brochure

Gas Networks Ireland is committed to ensuring all works will be undertaken in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, in cooperation with the local community.

We have a dedicated Community Liaison Team to respond to any concerns the local community may have.

The main contact details for Gas Networks Ireland are:

General Enquiries
1800 464 464

Lines open Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm
and Saturday 9am – 5.30pm

Limerick Gasworks Project Manager
Gas Networks Ireland, Gasworks Road, Cork

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gasnetworks.ie

gasnetworks.ie

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Introduction

Gas Networks Ireland constructs and extends the natural gas network in Ireland to the highest safety standards. We deliver natural gas through the pipeline network to over 673,000 customers throughout the country and we are responsible for connecting all natural gas customers to the network.



Our activities can have an impact on the environment. We recognise our responsibility to manage and minimise this impact. Gas Networks Ireland is planning to clean up the site of the former Gasworks on the Dock Road in Limerick. This major environmental project is one we hope will benefit not only the local environment, but also the Limerick community.

As the site has been vacant for some time, we are informing local residents and businesses of the planned work so there is no concern or surprise by the increased level of activity in the area. We do not expect the project to cause any major disruption to the local community. This information leaflet provides interested parties with an overview of the project.



Site History

Prior to the discovery of natural gas in Ireland almost 40 years ago, 'towns gas' was manufactured for use in towns around the country. It was delivered to the user through a piped distribution system in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford. Gas was produced using coal on the site in Limerick from the 1830s until the late 1960s.

The 'coal gas' manufacturing process created energy for lighting and heating, and also produced a number of by-products including coal tar. Coal tar was used for roofing, building roads, fencing and railway sleepers. The coal tar was stored in underground tanks.

Limerick Gasworks Remediation Project

Gas Networks Ireland has already undertaken a number of preparatory activities on the site such as site clearance, replacement of hoarding, and ground investigations. The clean-up or remediation process for the site consists of a two-stage process.

Stage 1: 'Pump & Treat'

'Pump & Treat' is an effective and internationally recognised method of removing coal tar from the earth. It involves the pumping of heated water into the ground through a series of bore holes. The heated water mixes with the coal tar and is then removed. The coal tar is separated from the water and removed from site.

The coal tar will then be recycled or used as a fuel (such as in cement kilns), or will be disposed of via a waste transfer company, in line with the EU Waste Framework Directive.

Stage 2: 'Soil Stabilisation'

The second stage of the remediation process is to carry out a shallow excavation across the site. The excavated material will be mixed with a binder to immobilise any remaining contamination. This stabilised soil will then be backfilled and topped with a capping layer of crushed clean material.

The remediation project has an industrial emissions licence, issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Planning permission has also been granted by Limerick City Council.

Regular inspections will be carried out on site to ensure that there is no impact to the surrounding environment from the remediation works. A comprehensive site validation process will be undertaken at the end of the project, to ensure that all necessary material has been removed.



A Sustainable Approach to Remediation

Managing our environmental impact is a key activity for Gas Networks Ireland, and includes reducing our carbon footprint where possible. Gas Networks Ireland is committed to reducing its CO2 output. CO2 is a major greenhouse gas, which has direct effects on global temperatures.

The more sustainable 'Pump and Treat' approach proposed for the remediation of Limerick Gasworks will have a lower impact on the environment when compared to more traditional approaches.

The other environmental advantages of this method of remediation include:

- Lower air emissions and odours released as the system is enclosed
- Noise levels will be low as generators will be in insulated containers
- A reduced amount of traffic to and from the site
- Remediated soil and materials will be reused on the site
- Coal tar will be recycled for use where possible.

Protected Structures

There are two structures with 'Protected Status' on the Limerick Gasworks site. These are the front boundary wall along the Dock Road and the former power generation building to the rear of the site. All necessary control measures will be put in place while working in the vicinity of these structures.



Former power generation station on Dock Road.