



A pipe cutter

Rapid Steel Pipe Cutter

Building on the success of our ductile iron cutter, we've worked with Steve Vick to design a steel cutting tool.

At Wales & West Utilities we do approximately 90% of our replacement work with insertion techniques. By using this technique we are able to replace old metal gas pipes faster, reducing the time our customers are off gas and helping to reduce disruption from roadworks.

After the new pipe is inserted and laid we need to transfer our customer's individual services from the old pipe to the new one. This requires us to expose and access the newly inserted plastic pipe. Tooling is available for us to expose and access the new pipe in cast iron and ductile iron pipelines and this tool will give us the capacity to cut a window that allows a connection in steel pipes – therefore allowing us to include more steel pipe in our replacement programme and replace it more efficiently.

Our successful NIA project for a ductile iron cutter created a 66% improvement in efficiency against traditional methods recorded during the trials we did.



**YOUR GAS EMERGENCY
AND PIPELINE SERVICE**



Key Benefits

- Being able to insert into steel gas pipes brings potential savings of £24,000 in our 2016/2017 replacement programme alone.
- By allowing more live mains insertion, the tool reduces disruption in the communities we work and to our customers' gas supplies, while delivering quicker and more efficient replacement of pipes.

Next Steps

- Carry out at least 10 onsite trials to review the tool with operational colleagues and take into account their feedback. This feedback will help develop the final version of the tool.
- Steve Vick will ultimately make the tool commercially available, while we will be sharing our project learning to facilitate easy implementation by other gas networks.

