



Bedminster heat network – Frequently Asked Questions

The [Bristol City Leap](#) partnership between Bristol City Council, Ameresco and Vattenfall will accelerate investment in Bristol to help meet the city's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Vattenfall is responsible for expanding the city's existing heat network and developing new network areas with the goal to interconnect them to serve the city with reliable, low carbon heat.

About Vattenfall

[Vattenfall](#) own and operate the Bristol heat network. Four network areas are already in operation in Redcliffe, Old Market, Bedminster and Temple.

Vattenfall bring investment and unrivalled know-how to design and deliver a large-scale, resilient heat network that achieves low carbon heat, creates jobs and boosts the local economy in Bristol.

Vattenfall is currently supplying heat and hot water to Bristol customers, with over 5,000 homes and around 180m² of commercial space being serviced. Vattenfall is expanding heat networks in Redcliffe, Bedminster and Temple to support new residential and commercial developments.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the Bedminster heat network are below. If you have a question that isn't answered here, please send them to bristol.enquiries@vattenfall.com.

About the Bedminster heat network area

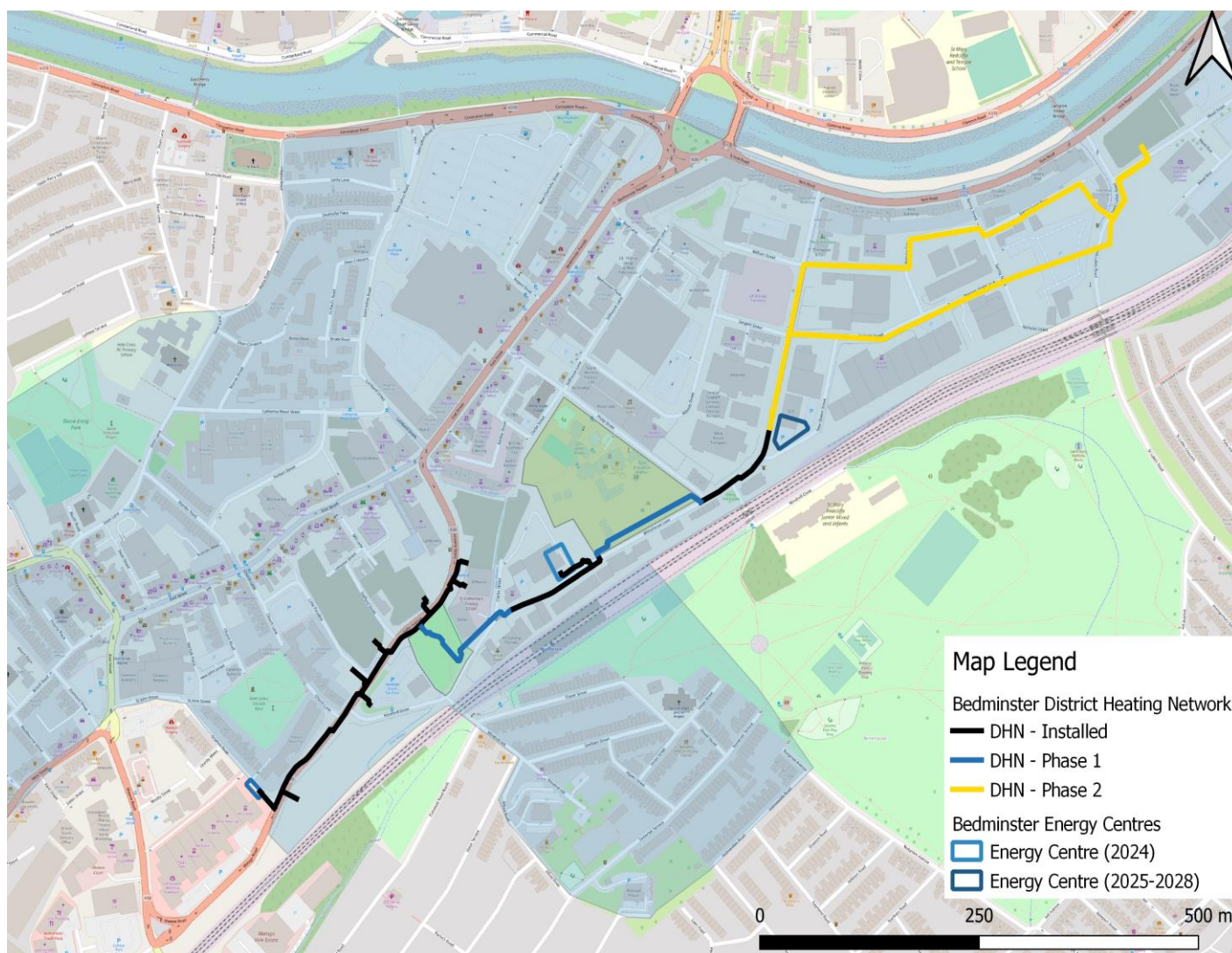
Where is the Bedminster heat network?

The Bedminster heat network begins near the Malago Trading Estate and extends to Mead Street. The map below shows the sections where the heat network pipe has already been installed, along with the proposed route for future expansion.

What is the proposed route for the Bedminster heat network?

The map below shows where the heat network pipe has been installed to date (shown in black), as well as our planned pipe installation for 2025/2026 (referred to as Phase 1, shown in blue).

Our longer-term plans to extend the Bedminster heat network are referred to as Phase 2 (shown in yellow). Our engineering team is continuously evaluating the route, which will evolve based on feasibility studies and the heat demand from new buildings connecting to the Bristol Heat Network. Phase 2 construction is planned to start in 2026 and continue through to approximately 2027.



Which buildings are connected to the Bedminster heat network?

The Bedminster heat network supplies heating to new residential and commercial developments in the area. You can explore the interactive map of the heat network which shows all connected buildings by visiting: heat.vattenfall.co.uk/where-we-are/bristol/bristol-heat-network.

How is heat being generated?

To meet the demands of the Bedminster heat network as it develops, heat will be generated using temporary and interim energy centres, ahead of us developing a permanent energy centre in the future.

We have a three-phased approach:

- Phase 1 - temporary energy centre located on the highway of St John's Road for one year (until April 2025), and then from a plot situated in Dalby Avenue (from May 2025) for another year.
- Phase 2 – interim energy centre located off Whitehouse Lane for up to two years until 2028. *Subject to planning permission.*
- Phase 3 - permanent low carbon energy centre located near Whitehouse Street from 2028. *Subject to planning permission.*

What are the proposed timelines for construction of the Bedminster heat network?

To complete Phase 1 of the Bedminster heat network, we will be installing two separate sections of underground pipework: through Windmill Hill City Farm and across Bedminster Green.

Installation of heat network pipe section through Windmill Hill City Farm was carried out from January 2025 to March 2025. We have two small sections of pipe which remains to be installed in the highway at the junction between Whitehouse Lane and Philip Street and then further down in Whitehouse Lane opposite the Family Cars dealer, we plan to complete these works before Autumn 2025.

Subject to discharging a final planning condition with the Council's oversight, we are aiming to start the construction works across Bedminster Green from early 2026, which is expected to take up to 6 months to be completed.

What is the impact on local residents and businesses?

Due to a number of ongoing and adjacent work programmes in the area, installing heat network pipes in Bedminster has contributed to highway disruption for residents and businesses. We're sorry for any inconvenience this has caused you, and we will continue to work with Bristol City Council's Highways team to align on works to reduce unnecessary disruption.

Installing pipe underneath Bedminster Green will cause visual disruption for the duration of the construction period, and we're working hard to limit the area we need to work within, and the impact on shrubbery and trees. We're working closely with the Bedminster Green Regeneration team and Council departments to minimise impact.

Are you doing anything to give back to the community?

We are keen to support community organisations in Bedminster and make meaningful improvements to the local area. Currently, we are working with Windmill Hill City Farm to deliver an enhancement package following the installation of heat network pipe that went through the allotments. We're providing upgrades such as a resurfaced vehicle path, new

entrance gates, enhanced walkways, improved accessibility and replaced perimeter fencing. We've also worked in partnership with Dandara Living to fund and build a new cow shed to improve facilities for the animals at the farm.

We continue to work with local groups via the Bristol City Leap Community Energy Fund to fund feasibility studies on heat network connection projects in the area. Local businesses and residents can also apply to the fund for other energy efficiency support and projects that are non-heat network related. Visit Bristol City Leap's website to learn how you can get involved: [Community Energy Fund](#).

Are there plans and timelines to connect existing houses onto the network?

Connecting existing homes is something the UK as a whole is still working on and the sector's immediate focus is connecting new build buildings to the heat network. We are exploring pilot projects for connecting existing homes locally to demonstrate technical and economic viability. If you're interested in being involved in a pilot project, please email bristolbusdev@vattenfall.com.

How can residents benefit from the Bedminster heat network?

The heat network in Bristol is a critical component for Bristol's decarbonisation plan and will provide low carbon heating and hot water to the equivalent of 12,000 local homes within five years. We are committed to using the local supply chain through our works and are estimated to deliver £55m worth of contractors locally. The Bristol City Leap partnership will also create 1,000 new full time jobs.

With our partners Ameresco, we have co-created the £1.5m Bristol City Leap [Community Energy Fund](#) and we would encourage people to get involved and explore ideas for heat connection or heat generation projects.

The Bristol City Leap partnership also offer a range of wider home improvement measures and you can find more information on this via their website [here](#).

Temporary energy centres

When will the temporary energy centre on St John's Road be removed?

The temporary energy centre was removed in May 2025. Works to return the highway to its original condition and restore the public footpath will be completed in June 2025.

What improvements are happening to St John's Road once the energy centre is removed?

We are working with the Bedminster Green Regeneration team and the Council's Highways team to contribute towards broader improvements to St John's Road. More information on upgrades to the highway will be shared by the local Regeneration team.

How long will the energy centre be on Dalby Avenue for?

A temporary energy centre will be situated on a plot in Dalby Avenue from May 2025 until Summer 2026.

Bedminster Green crossing

Why do you need to go across the Green?

We need to create a tunnel underneath the surface of the Green and install buried pipe network to join the existing networks along Whitehouse Lane and Dalby Avenue. Once completed, the Green will be maintained as normal.

When is this work happening?

Prior to construction, we need to complete ground investigations, this is expected to take place in May 2025. Following these results and completion of the final detailed route design, construction could start from early 2026.

How was the route across the Green chosen?

An extensive route assessment was completed, and we looked at existing buried utilities that cannot be moved, ongoing highways work, and future regeneration plans for the area. We carefully considered alternative routes via Providence Place and Hereford Street, but these locations have significant utility congestion, required increased tree removal and would cause additional highway disruption for residents and businesses locally. The Green crossing was therefore determined as the only viable route.

How many trees are being removed on Bedminster Green?

Three trees will be removed as part of this work. In line with the Council's adopted Tree Replacement Strategy, we will provide 20 new trees offsite.

Why is removing trees unavoidable?

We consulted a tree specialist on this matter, and the results found that there is no route through the Green, with the technical constraints we have, that could avoid all tree roots. The Green crossing route proposed has the least disruption to trees compared to other alternative routes, which would have required more trees to be removed.

Where will the new trees be planted?

The Council's arboriculturist team have determined the locations for each of the 20 replacement trees offsite in line with the Tree Replacement Strategy.

Why can't you replant the existing trees?

A tree specialist reviewed the root maturity and likelihood of a successful replacement. This work concluded that due to size and root length, the trees would not survive being moved and would have created a significant risk to others due to the likelihood of it falling down. We also considered that the size of machinery required to remove these trees, and it was determined that this would impact the ground biodiversity and would require additional trees to be removed to allow access.

Once installed, will the Green be impacted for routine maintenance?

No, once installed maintenance is limited to specific access points similar to other utilities and the Green will not be impacted.

Phase 2 extension

What is the plan for extending the Bedminster heat network further?

The proposed extension to the Bedminster heat network, referred to as Phase 2, is shown in yellow on the map on page 2. This extension will provide heating and hot water to new residential and commercial developments coming forward along the route, including the Whitehouse Street regeneration project.

What work is planned?

Between end of June and early July 2025, specialist contractors will begin ground investigations on Whitehouse Street, Whitehouse Place and at the Princess Street intersection with Whitehouse Street. These works are required to support the design of the final heat network route.

What will the distribution be?

To complete ground investigations, contractors will excavate small areas along the proposed heat network route to check for existing buried utilities. We are planning on working in six areas, with the whole programme taking approximately 5 weeks.

To complete these works, for approximately 2 weeks Whitehouse Place will be closed for through traffic, but access to businesses will be maintained, and Whitehouse Street will have a lane closure with traffic lights.

When is construction expected?

Following the results of the ground investigations and completion of the final detailed route design, construction could start from October 2025.

Will the Bedminster heat network join the wider Bristol heat network?

In the future, we plan on joining the Bedminster heat network to the city-wide Bristol heat network, via Redcliffe heat network area.

About heat networks

A heat network (also known as district heating) is a system of insulated pipes that transports heat from centralised sources to multiple buildings, where it is used to provide heating and hot water to residents and businesses in each building.

Heat networks provide a more efficient way of heating by using a larger central heating source instead of lots of small individual heating systems. For a heat network to maximise its potential, it provides heating and hot water (and in some cases cooling) to all the properties connected to it. This means that there is one heat network operator for the development and so you can't switch to a different supplier for heat.

Customers connected to a heat network benefit from an all-inclusive service as repairs and maintenance are all included. Customers have full control of their energy consumption, in the same way as traditional heating systems.

In Bristol, Vattenfall currently provide heating and hot water to the building boundary. This means a building owner is our customer, rather than a resident or business.



As part of the Bristol City Leap, we have committed to fair and transparent pricing, benchmarked against a comparison to the costs of an individual air-source heat pump, with tariffs made publicly available. The heat network will also be regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem.

More information can be found on our website: [What is a heat network? - Vattenfall Heat UK](#).