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Ahead of schedule: Essential work completed early on Blake Hall Road, Wanstead

Essential work completed earlier than expected

16 Sep 2016

- Essential work to maintain safe and reliable gas supplies completed seven weeks ahead of schedule
- Project programme carefully designed to be delivered as smoothly as possible
- Work will help ensure the local community keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating

National Grid has completed work to replace ageing gas mains in Blake Hall Road, Wanstead seven weeks earlier than planned.

The work, which also involved replacing service pipes to some properties, began in June and wrapped up last week with road resurfacing completed over the weekend.

The project will help ensure local people continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating in future years.

Project Engineer Paul Illingworth said: "I'd like to thank the local community and Redbridge Council for their understanding and cooperation while we planned and carried out this essential work".

"The work was planned in close discussion with Redbridge Council and others including TfL and the local police to make sure we delivered it with as little disruption as possible."

Efforts to minimise any inconvenience caused by the work included inserting the new pipes into the old mains wherever possible which reduced the need for digging. Careful planning also resulted in work with the potential for causing the most traffic disruption being scheduled for the school summer holiday season, when roads are generally quieter, where possible.

Mr Illingworth added: "The new gas mains we've spent the summer putting in should give years of safe and reliable service and make sure people keep on having gas for cooking and heating."

More information on National Grid's gas mains replacement work can be found at www.bettergaspipes.co.uk

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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