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Under way: Essential gas mains replacement starts in Petersham

Businesses remain open as usual as work to replace ageing gas mains gets underway

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- Essential work to maintain safe and reliable gas supplies now underway
- Petersham Road now closed between junctions with Star and Garter Hill and Manor Farm House until Sunday 4 September
- Local shops and businesses remain open as usual

Vital work to replace ageing gas mains with tough new pipes is now underway in Petersham.

Work to replace the mains began on Monday (August 1) with old metal pipes being replaced in Petersham Road, River Lane, Star and Garter Hill, Rutland Drive, Tree Close, Cedar Heights and Ashfield Close. The old metal pipes will be replaced with tough new pipes.

To enable the work to be carried out safely and efficiently there will be a road closure in Petersham Road between the junctions of Star and Garter Hill and Manor Farm House, from Monday 1 August to Sunday 4 September, when the work is due to be complete.

Earlier this week four way traffic lights were installed at the junction of Richmond Gate and Star and Garter Hill as part of separate work being carried out by another company. Neither the lights, which have now been removed, or the lane closure in Star and Garter Hill which has since been put in place are part of National Grid's project or traffic management.

National Grid have been working closely for several months with both the local authority, the Royal Parks and various others to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum during this complex scheme.

Engineers are working additional hours and at weekends to ensure the work is completed as soon as possible. As part of the planning for National Grid's work, The Royal Parks have agreed to extend the opening hours of Richmond Park to reduce congestion in the early mornings and while the light permits, the park will also stay open later into the evenings.

The project has been scheduled for the school summer holiday period when the roads are generally quieter to make sure disruption is minimised. Engineers are also inserting the new pipes into the old mains for the majority of the route which will reduce the need for digging and further cut congestion.

Local businesses including Petersham Nurseries, Ham Polo Club, The Dysart, The Fox & Duck are also open as usual throughout the work.

Project Engineer Phil Walden said: "By replacing the ageing gas mains we'll help ensure local people keep on having safe and reliable gas supplies for cooking and heating.

He added: "We had extensive discussions with the local council and other agencies when planning this essential work to make sure we delivered it with as little disruption as possible.

"We're sorry for any disruption that this vital work may cause and people can rest assured that we'll continue to do all we can to minimise inconvenience to residents, businesses and road users."

For more information about this project call 0800 096 5678 or visit 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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