



## NJUG CASE STUDY 51: Borough High Street Blueprint

### *Winner of the NJUG 2010 Partnership Award*

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The 39 companies<sup>1</sup> we represent work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc.

NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Damage to underground assets is avoided
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption
4. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
5. Utilities maximize use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Street works in the UK are regarded as world class

This case study is an example of NJUG delivering on these principles and turning the vision into reality.

#### **Overview:**

Collaborative working in Borough High Street, Southwark, London, during 2009 and 2010 has saved more than a whole year in work days, compared with the estimated total time required for carrying out the gas, water and electricity projects separately.

The time-saving of 384 days has been calculated independently by Transport for London, who themselves acted as an enabler to a voluntary collaboration between Thames Water, Southern Gas Networks and UK Power Networks, with Morrison Utility Services as the contractor for all three.

Dubbed 'The Borough High Street Blueprint', the project looks set to be a model for future works not only in the London Borough of Southwark, but across the region as new permits are introduced.

All the works carried out bring the latest materials and technologies to the infrastructure along Borough High Street.

#### **Case Study:**

The Borough High Street story, which has raised the bar in terms of highway stakeholder management and local community relationships, began back in 2009 when a series of works planned for the street - a busy London red route - included investment projects for:

- **Thames Water** –1,250m Victorian water mains renewal and associated services investment to support the company's leakage reduction programme
- **Southern Gas Networks** - 1,670m gas mains replacement and associated services investment to support the company's HSE abandonment programme
- **UK Power Networks** - 200m of new 8-way cable power ducts to the Shard, London Bridge, the iconic new tower which will house a hotel, apartments, shops and offices.

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<sup>1</sup> NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, and Virgin Media. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison Utility Services, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise, Laing O'Rourke and AMEC. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-nine utility companies, and twelve utility contractors.

- **Network Rail** – various utility diversion works associated with their investment in remodelling London Bridge station
- **Transport for London** – resurfacing investment for road users.

Transport for London, keen to bring as many of the jobs together as possible to avoid repeated disruption over an extremely long duration, organised a consultation meeting at which Morrison Utility Services took the lead in planning and stakeholder consultation.

Due to the layout of the existing buried infrastructure, work was expected to take place on both sides of the road so it was agreed that a temporary one-way system would be implemented for the duration of the works to enable both gas and water mains to be completed simultaneously by Morrison Utility Services. This meant Southern Gas Networks had to bring their investment plans forward and they were happy to oblige.



Just after work began in September 2009, UK Power Networks came to the table. They needed to lay approximately 200m of new 8-way cable power ducts to the Shard and it was agreed that Morrison Utility Services should also carry out this work in conjunction with the gas and water main projects.

During the initial phase, the one-way system was brought into operation to allow traffic to run on the northbound lane while gas and water mains were replaced in the southbound carriageway. This formed the bulk of the project as it included the electricity ducting work and the numerous side street connections required for gas and water. In April 2010, the one-way system was switched to the northbound carriageway to enable the second phase of the project to be completed.

The whole project was completed on **11 July 2010, exactly on schedule** – it had taken nine months in total. The team didn't need to apply for an extension, despite the addition of the electric duct work, and at all times were compliant with any highway notices in force.

**It is also worth noting that while the project was in progress, Transport for London completed 16 separate highway maintenance jobs within the Morrison Utility Services boundary of works and BT carried out a remedial repair to some of its apparatus.**

