

A Christmas Rush

A few days before Christmas Day, PLCS Ltd was called to a job which was located at the heart of one of the busiest and well-known thoroughfares in the country. A 36" gas main had developed an escape from the welded flanged joints either side of the Donkin valve.



PLCS was tasked with designing, fabricating and installing a permanent repair system while at the same time, retaining the operational capability of the valve. The major challenge faced by the team of engineers and designers was devising a way to create a pressure-tight seal around the irregularly-shaped valve body. Confronted with the busiest shopping week of the year, it was imperative the project be completed swiftly to avoid disrupting the smooth running of the forthcoming celebrations.

During the initial site visit, PLCS's Mark Bailey and Trevor Williams took precise measurements and prepared templates which they then returned to our technical office. Upon receipt, an engineering

drawing was immediately produced and passed to our fabrication unit for construction.

Three short days later, a team of six colleagues returned to the site with the bespoke fabricated repair shell and, using a fully approved sealant to GIS/LC8 standards, took seven hours to complete the technically-demanding repair.



Following inspection by Network Engineers the following morning, the backfill team immediately set to work on the reinstatement effort, ensuring open excavation time was kept to an absolute minimum.

“We thrive on challenge, but this was a particularly satisfying result given the nature of the repair, it’s location and, the pressure our team were under to meet the demanding time constraints to complete the job,”
said PLCS’s Director Darren Billington.

The client was equally encouraging, *“Thank you for all the effort and fantastic display of team work demonstrated by all your staff over the last few days. Every member of your team has been extremely helpful and supporting, in the interest of completing this work. I really appreciate everything that you and your team have done to help us complete this very challenging gas escape.”*

Following on from the success of this repair, PLCS Ltd has continued to develop the technologies needed to solve the problem of sealing onto irregularly-shaped mains and fittings.



This innovative approach has seen the company expand on its site repair services to the Gas Networks and, on many occasions, we are able to offer the option of a localised repair as opposed to a full encapsulation.

The use of this system has not only resulted in significant savings for our customers in materials, excavation and reinstatement costs but, it has also improved response times which has ultimately led to a reduction in open excavation times and the avoidance of any local authority fines.
