

## Japanese Knotweed

Recently, PLCS Technical Manager, Mary Perry received an urgent call while on his way into work. A JCB, being used by a contractor to clear Japanese Knotweed from a railway embankment in a public recreation area, hit and very badly damaged the tee piece protruding from a major gas main, resulting in three separate escapes.

After the call, Mark and his colleague Mark Cartwright quickly made their way to the site to meet with two senior GDN engineers and assess the damage. On close inspection they realised that two joints and the tee on the 18" off 18" unit were badly damaged.



Detailed measurements were taken and, almost immediately, back at PLCS headquarters, work was underway to manufacture two bespoke polyurethane-coated nylon moulds for each of the joints as well as a metal case to seal the escape from the main valve.



At 8.30am the following morning, a team of five from PLCS Ltd arrived on site where they first had to manoeuvre the repairs kits and materials from the roadway down the embankment to where the actual repair site was located. There, the repairs were carried out successfully and completed by 2.00pm with the metal case involving 224 litres of encapsulant.

“It’s immensely important to us that our clients know that they can depend on us to respond quickly to such situations and deliver professional, permanent solutions,” said Mark.



The PLCS team fitting the metal casing were Alan Clarke, James Poole, Ross Fairley, Chris Derby and Mark Cartwright. The fabric repair kits were fitted by Chris Derby and Alan Clarke.

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