

Design and Access Statement

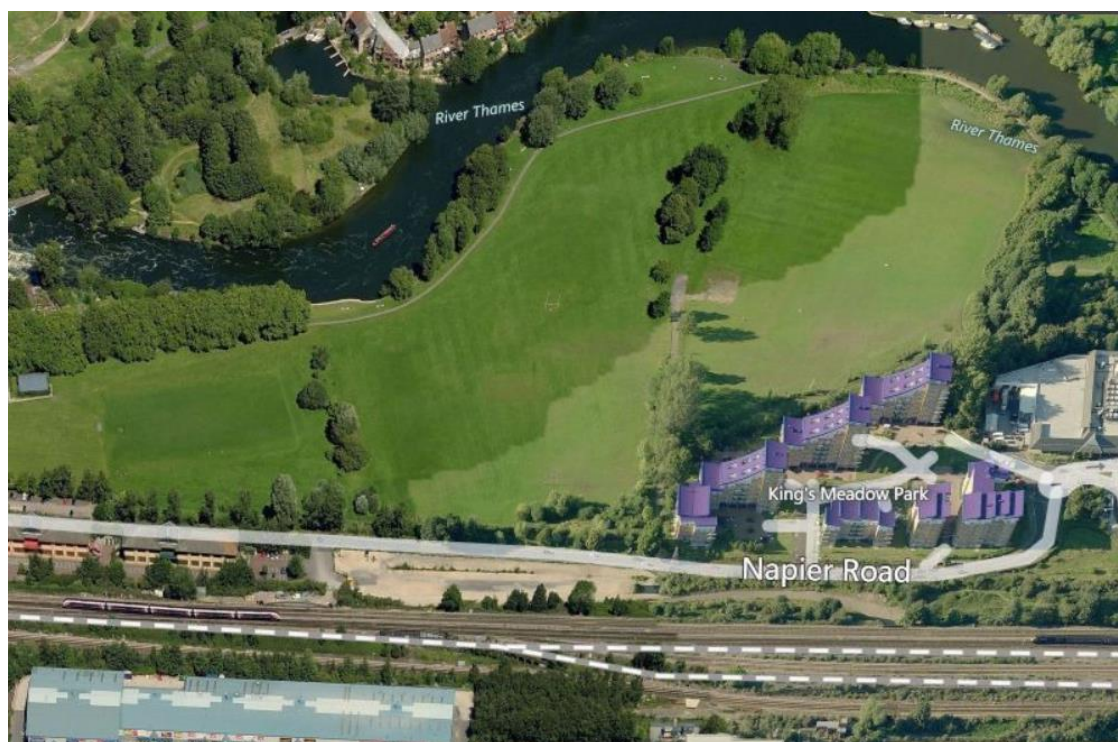
Southern Gas Networks – Gas Governor

1. The proposal

Southern Gas Networks would like to erect a building to act as Gas Governor. This Gas Governor will act to regulate the pressure of the gas distribution as one of the large diameter mains is being removed across the canal. This was removed due to severe corrosion and it is difficult to replace without impacting on the environment. With this in mind, this Gas Governor and a smaller regulator on the other side of the canal are required to maintain gas pressure in the area.

2. Existing Site Features

The proposed development is located the southern side of Kings Meadow Park in Reading, Berkshire. The proposed location is currently an area amongst the small copse of trees on the corner of Kings Meadow. The site boundary, adjacent to Napier Road, is made up of dense hedging and trees which provide a visual shield from the highway. Luscinia View, a housing development, is situated to the East of the site, as shown on the below



3. Access

The existing access direct from the public highway (Napier Road), down a public access track and is suitable for the proposed development and so will remain unaltered. The same access will be used by the contractors undertaking the construction works.

The kiosk will be secured within a palisade fenced area, to maintain an access boundary from members of the general public. This kiosk will require periodic maintenance.

4. Layout

The site is currently used as part of Kings Meadow Recreation Ground.

The existing layout of the site can be seen in the enclosed dwg plan no. 151569-LOCA-INFO-001.

SGN have an obligation/requirement to replace at risk mains which currently cross the river Kennett. The requirement of the governor location is to facilitate the replacement of these mains and negate any associated risks.

5. Scale and Appearance

The kiosk will be 3.8m x 6.9m metal cabinet with a height of 2.95m. The kiosk will be made of fibre glass and will be finished in Green, in keeping with the current aesthetic characteristics of the site.

6. Landscaping

The proposed development should not require the removal of any mature trees, although mature trees close to the footprint could potentially be damaged by construction activities, therefore the following precautionary recommendations should be followed to ensure trees are protected from damage during the construction phase.

An area of immature multi-stemmed willow & shrubs would be lost as part of the proposed development, and although not of high ecological value, it is potential bird nesting habitat as well as habitat for other wildlife.

Furthermore, this habitat has an aesthetic value as part of this public green space and would to some extent act to screen the new gas governor from public view.

Recommendations and conclusions for the landscaping aspects of this application can be viewed in the enclosed "Phase 1 Ecological Assessment."

7. Summary

The proposal is for Southern Gas Networks to erect a building to act as Gas Governor.

This Gas Governor will act to regulate the pressure of the gas distribution as one of the large diameter mains is being removed across the canal. This was removed due to severe corrosion and it is difficult to replace without impacting on the environment. With this in mind, this Gas Governor and a smaller regulator on the other side of the canal are required to maintain gas pressure in the area.

Should this governor site not be obtained, and the condition of the mains currently crossing the river deteriorate, there may be significant risk in term of security of supply to large proportion of those customers supplied by the Reading distribution system.