

Keeping you informed

The granite is going down well

We have started laying the first sections of the chequered pattern granite at the south end of Exhibition Road, between Thurloe Place and Thurloe Street and at the north end of the road near the park. Now we can really start to see how the road will look when it is finished.

The granite was chosen for its hard wearing qualities as well as its good looks. Our stone specialists tested a whole range of natural stone and man made materials for flexural strength, water absorption and compressive strength before choosing the beautiful charcoal grey and pale pink granite we are now laying in the road.

Once the stone is delivered on site every block is checked individually and any that are flawed or faulty are rejected. At the moment, three workmen are spending all day wetting and inspecting the stone, but soon we will need nine checkers to keep up with the paviors. In a couple of weeks there will be 15 or 16 paviors and 15 labourers involved in laying the granite setts. When the work is finished they will have laid 27,000 square metres with just under one million blocks of granite, weighing 9,000 tonnes altogether.

When finished, the stone setts, laid in a geometric pattern, will create an elegant and durable kerb-free surface that will last for generations – and never need resurfacing.



New granite at southern end of Exhibition Road



Wetting and inspecting the granite



Precision granite laying

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Traffic management at the moment

We have closed the northbound lane on Exhibition Road between Thurloe Place and Cromwell Road to start constructing the new road surface. The closure will remain in place until early 2011. This is longer than we hoped, but National Grid now need to do some work on Cromwell Road.

Princes Gardens is closed to vehicles at its junction with Exhibition Road until the beginning of August. Vehicles will need to enter and exit Princes Gardens via Ennismore Gardens but pedestrians are unaffected.

Programme

The works are progressing well and we are on track to finish the project in plenty of time for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics.

In the first newsletter in March we included the paving schedule for the scheme. Since then we have amended our schedule a little to fit around National Grid's work in Exhibition Road and Cromwell Place. Here is the new schedule:

Paving north of A4

1. Mar 10 - Jul 10
2. Jun 10 - Oct 10
3. Aug 10 - Jan 11
4. Aug 10 - Jan 11
5. Nov 10 - Apr 11
6. Feb 11 - Jul 11
7. Apr 11 - Aug 11
8. Sep 10 - May 11
9. Sep 10 - May 11
10. Mar 10 - Jun 11

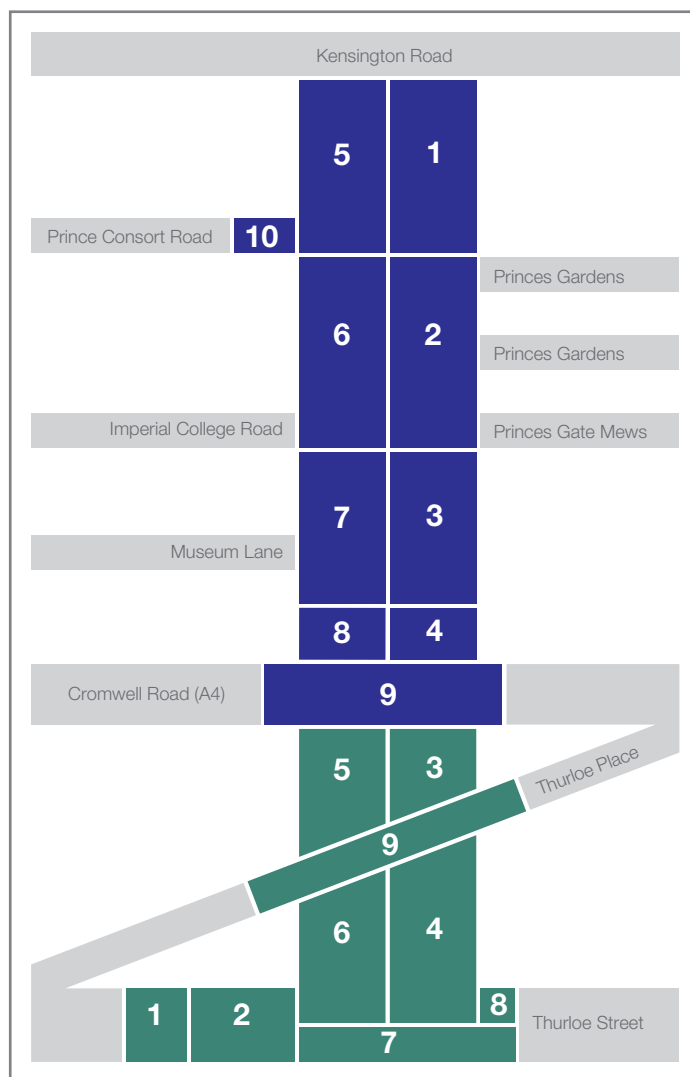
Paving south of A4

1. Jan 10 - Sep 10
2. Jan 10 - Sep 10
3. Sep 10 - Mar 11
4. Sep 10 - Mar 11
5. Jun 10 - Nov 10
6. Feb 10 - Oct 10
7. Jul 10 - Oct 10
8. Oct 10 - Jan 11
9. Feb 10 - Apr 11



A face on the street

Laying natural stone paving is highly specialised and needs skilled and experienced craftspeople. Balfour Beatty has sub-contracted the stone laying in Exhibition Road to G. U. Contracts Ltd, who are specialists in this area. Andy and Nouno are experienced stone paviors from Portugal. Every block they lay is levelled and measured with precision; all the gaps between the blocks are uniform—just like tiling a bathroom. Experienced craftsmen like Andy and Nouno can lay up to 20 square metres of granite every day, that's about 900 blocks, each weighing 15 kilograms.



This newsletter is delivered to all homes, businesses and organisations in the Exhibition Road area. Every month we will let you know how the project is progressing, as well as introducing you to some of the people and the work they are carrying out on this £25 million project.

