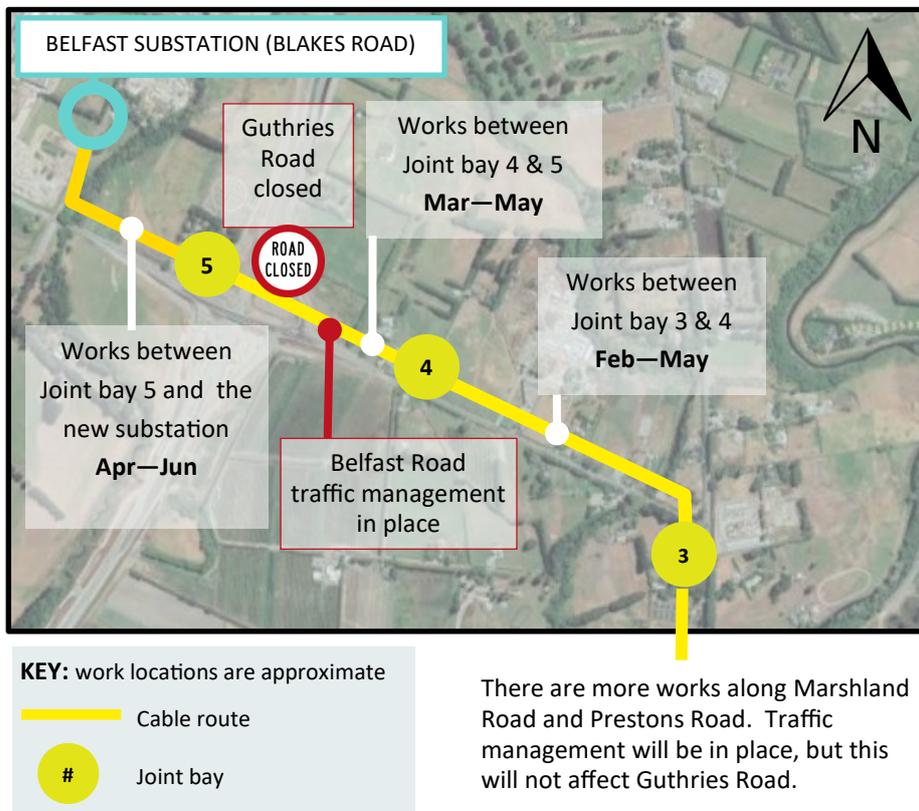


Guthries Road access—update for residents

What	Guthries Road closure
Where	Guthries Road
When	From March to June 2021
Why	To enable an underground cable install on Belfast Road.

Where we are working near Guthries Road



What are we doing?

Orion is installing a new 66kV underground power cable between Blakes Road and Prestons Road.

This cable will increase the capacity and resilience of the local electricity network to serve the future needs of this growing area.

To enable the works on Belfast Road, access to Guthries Road has been restricted as part of the traffic management plan for the area.

In response to the concerns raised with us about the local impact of this closure, we'd like to explain the reasons for our traffic management arrangements.

Why is north bound access to Guthries Road closed?

Some residents have told us that the restricted access to Guthries Road makes their daily travel longer and more difficult. We understand how disruptive the restricted access is and we apologise for this.

As a bit of background, a traffic management plan looks at four factors—safety, impacts on the community, impacts on the road network, and ease of construction. In the development of a plan we work to find a balance across all these factors. The safety of our crews, and the public around our worksite is vital.

Why is north bound access to Guthries Road closed? *Continued...*

Belfast Road has narrow berms within which there are existing services. It is too narrow to safely maintain two-way traffic, and this is why one-way sections and temporary traffic lights are needed. This is a busy stretch of road, and the traffic management affects both local and commuter traffic movements.

Had Guthries Road remained open while the traffic management on Belfast Road is in place, the traffic travelling from Belfast would use this route to get to Marshland Road. This would divert a lot of traffic on to a narrow residential road and cause significant queuing at the Marshland Road intersection. This would not have been a safe option, with cars queuing on the blind corner before the intersection.

Why can't Guthries Road be open to residents only?

Some residents have asked that we open north bound access to Guthries Road for resident access only. While this sounds like a good solution, it would be difficult to enforce and would be unlikely to stop non-local traffic from using the route.

Why can't the one-way system along Belfast Road be pulled back to Guthries Road to allow access?

This is something we looked at and while it would improve access for locals it would also do the same for everyone else. This would mean traffic would either:

- Do a risky U-turn on Belfast Road when drivers realise they can't proceed to Marshland Road, or
- Use Guthries Road as an alternative route to get to Marshland Road

When will full access to Guthries Road be restored?

Our works on Belfast Road are going well. We are laying the new cables now through to early May. Our next steps will be to encase the cables in thermal concrete, fill in the trenches and reinstate the surface. **We aim to have these works finished by early June, when we will be able to re-open Guthries Road.** Note, there will be more works on Marshland Road and Prestons Road and traffic management will be in place but this will not affect Guthries Road.

If you would like to be kept up to date with regular emails on developments of this project, please email us at info@oriongroup.co.nz with **Powering up Belfast** in the subject line.

If you would like more information now, please contact our **Customer Support** team on **0800 363 9898, day or night.**

We understand the access restrictions to Guthries Road are inconvenient for you, and thank you for your patience while we complete this important work.

Orion