

Local Government – Rochdale MBC

Town Head Junction

Utility Location and Mapping Services

Client

Rochdale MBC – Town Head Junction



Overview

One Council that has grasped the use of new surveying technology is Rochdale MBC. The Townhead Junction regularly causes delays for all road users, particularly in peak periods. As an important gateway into and out of Rochdale, proposals needed to be put forward on how the junction could be improved to make it safer and reduce delays.

The junction was particularly complex as it included a very difficult roundabout with a Grade 1 Listed Church sited on it. In total, 13,000 square metres were surveyed by 40SEVEN to locate underground services using a combination of Electromagnetic Equipment, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Flexitrac and Minisonde transmitters. A Topographical Survey was also carried out to plot all the surface features. All surveying work was carried out at night and in the early hours of the morning. This, combined with the use of Non-Destructive Technology (NDT), reduced the Traffic Management implications and removed the need for 'Permits to Dig'. It also reduced potential traffic congestion as there was no presence on site during peak times. Even the material used to mark the road was bio-degradable and washed away over a couple of weeks.

The results were supplied to Rochdale MBC as a two dimensional AutoCAD drawing with depths and surface features mapped out. With the information supplied, Rochdale has been able to use this higher level of detail to inform the design process during the development of the proposed new road junction and associated public realm improvements.

Client Feedback

The spokesperson for Highways and Engineering at Rochdale MBC explained :

"We have previously commissioned surveys of this type and were delighted with the results of this latest survey. It has proved to us how the adoption of new technology can give us not only savings in time and money, but also eradicate the congestion problems we would undoubtedly have had to face if we had used traditional surveying methods. An added benefit has been the amount of reliable information that has been assimilated, which can now be passed onto infrastructure contractors and all parties involved in the maintenance of the road. The risk of an underground services strike occurring whilst work is being carried out should be reduced significantly".

Providing Added Value

We live in an age when demand for underground space has never been greater, when Health and Safety Regulations have never been stricter, when market forces have never been more competitive, when congestion on our roads has never been worse and when the public's culture of complaint has never been stronger. We're putting more and more plastic utilities into the ground and yet we continue to emphasise the need for site workers to utilise traditional detection equipment, which is unable to detect these utilities.

There has never been a better time to re-consider the accepted surveying practices that we employ on site. Finally, faced with a service that really can improve efficiencies, safety and public relations (if managed by experienced Utility Surveyors), it's inconceivable that NDT methods will remain peripheral. If the initial disappointment and the resulting cynicism can be overcome, the value of modern underground utility surveying techniques will finally be realised. The underground construction and utility industries have a responsibility to their employees, the public and their shareholders not to ignore it. It has a valuable place within the market.

If you are interested in finding out more about how we can help with your project, please contact us on t: 08450 179 300 or alternatively email: info@40seven.com.