

Woodman Drive Sewer Rehabilitation

Client: Yorkshire Water

Location: Swinton, Rotherham

Value: £85k

Duration: 4 Weeks

Traffic Management Challenges...

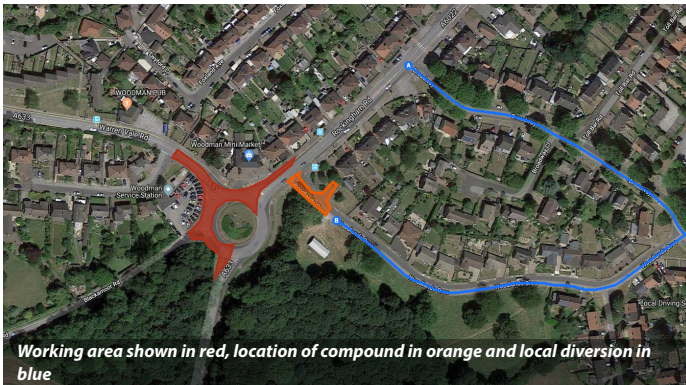
It was apparent from the inception of the solution that the traffic management required to install the new sewer safely and efficiently would cause major disruptions to the local road network. In total three class A roads, a busy roundabout and 2 access roads to local properties and businesses would be impacted by our project.

We therefore engaged very early with Rotherham Council Highways department to look at coordination and agree the traffic management. Understandably Rotherham were very concerned about the location of the works and the impact it would have.

We worked collaboratively with Yorkshire Water, our subcontract partner Indepth Civil Engineering and Rotherham Council to come up with a plan that would minimise the disruption.

We discussed several strategies and devised and agreed to the following:

- The works would only be carried out over the summer school holiday period due to the proximity of some schools and the fact that no bus services would be impacted by closing A633 Warren Vale Road during that period
- We would work 7 days a week and with the extended hours of 8am to 7pm
- A633 Warren Vale Road, Woodman Roundabout, Blackamoor Road and Woodland Crescent would be closed to through traffic to facilitate temporary 2-way traffic lights on Warren Vale and Rockingham Road which would need to be manually controlled from 7am to 7pm
- Two separate diversion routes would be signed, one for HGV traffic and one for non-HGV traffic. This meant that we had to also consult and liaise with Doncaster Council Highways department for the HGV diversion route as it entered a part of their network
- Two additional traffic management agents would need to be on site to help maintain access for residents, businesses and pedestrians from 7am to 7pm



Project Background...

Woodman Drive is a small cul-de-sac situated in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. A history of localised internal and external flooding from the sewer during storm events led Yorkshire Water to promote an investigation scheme to try and resolve the flooding. The subsequent investigation carried out by Barhale and GHD found that during storm conditions the main sewer backed up and became overloaded, resulting in the flows backing up the connections to properties flooding them with sewage and escaping out of the gullies flooding driveways.

The proposed solution was to lay 47m of new 225mm diameter sewer parallel to the existing sewer in the adjacent A633 Warren Vale Road and abandon the connecting sewer from Woodman Drive to alleviate the flooding. The project was then promoted to delivery stage to install the above solution.



Customer and Community Engagement...

With the traffic management and delivery strategy agreed in principle, our next challenge was to promote this project with the local businesses and residents and get them to buy in to our approach.

Yorkshire Water and Barhale visited all the businesses individually to give advice about the works. The local businesses, including a very busy convenient store, a local pub, a servicing garage and a used car dealership were all concerned about loss of business and access for their operations and impact on their customers. With agreement from Rotherham Council, we were able to adjust aspects of the traffic management to facilitate their needs.

The business that would be most impacted was the convenient store, which is situated off the Woodman Roundabout directly in front of our connection manhole and sewer excavation. Our working area and need to close the road there meant that the customer access to the parking forecourt would be blocked during our works, therefore limiting potential passing trade and impacting deliveries.

We worked closely with the store owner and incorporated an alternative access to the parking outside the shop within our temporary lights set up. In order to ensure safe access for the customers in cars, pedestrians and deliveries we employed an additional traffic management agent. We also provided an additional parking area within our road closure of Woodlands Crescent.

The site team worked really hard and used foam concrete as backfill to complete the works in the roundabout ahead of programme by 4 days to allow for the temporary lights to be removed and opening up the access to the store once more. This was much appreciated by the store owner and he thanked the site team for their efforts.



Foam concrete used to speed up reinstatement allowing for the road to be opened earlier

Feedback from Local Highway Authority...

The project was completed ahead of programme and the team onsite received positive comments for their efforts from the local residents.

Rotherham Council were also very happy with how the project was planned and how it was managed. They commended the site team for their hard work and proactive approach to residents and road users and said that they had minimal contact from them regarding these works. They also praised our approach with getting them involved early in the planning stage and are using us as an example of best practice with other contractors and Utility companies.



Vehicular access to convenient store blocked, alternatives provided

Residents...

Working collaboratively with Yorkshire Water's communications team and Rotherham Council's customer service team we did an extensive mailing advising the local community of the upcoming works and we invited them to come for a drop in session at a local school so that they could find out more about the project and ask any questions. We had representation from both Barhale and Yorkshire Water as well as the local highways inspector at the drop in session to advise the residents around the traffic management and the project.

The local residents advised that they were most concerned about access to their properties as we would be crossing their driveways with our excavation and the general noise from our activities. The long diversion route was also a concern, however we advised that this was to ensure that congestion to local routes was kept to a minimum.

Each concern was addressed on site by the team with our proactive approach. We spoke and consulted with each individual property owner prior to closing any access to the drive and any noisy activity was planned after 8am every day. We adjusted our traffic management to minimise any closure of access. We used the road closure space available to us to provide local alternative parking. Pedestrian access was maintained at all times, with a traffic management agent made available during working hours to help pedestrians.

Additionally, whilst we were carrying out survey works during the investigation phase of the project, we noticed the smell of a gas escape nearby and reported this and followed up on the repair works to ensure that the leak was fixed. The resident adjacent to where the leak was found appreciated our concern and diligence in helping resolve this issue even though it was not part of our works.



Access to residents driveways maintained