

Latest Project News

Fairmilehead Pipelines Update – 22nd September 2011

A major part of the Glencorse Project has been connecting the new Water Treatment Works to the existing water distribution network in the City. This has involved laying 15,000 metres of new pipelines through the Midlothian countryside as well as a programme of work in the Fairmilehead and Alnwickhill areas of Edinburgh.

Currently there are two large (30" and 33" diameter) pipes within Biggar Road which carry water from the reservoirs to the South of Edinburgh into Fairmilehead WTW where it is treated and made safe to drink. These two pipes were laid in 1904 and 1952. As part of the Glencorse project, rather than laying new pipes within Biggar Road, Scottish Water are re-using these two pipes and making them fit to carry the clean, treated water from Glencorse WTW to customers' taps in Edinburgh. This approach avoids very disruptive pipelaying up the full length of Biggar Rd from the A720 city bypass to Fairmilehead WTW

Below is an outline of the work completed near Fairmilehead and the work still to be done.

Stage 1 (November 2010 to Feb 2011) – COMPLETED

Initial investigation work and utility surveys. Due to age of the existing pipes, extensive work had to be carried out to establish their depth and position in the road. Biggar Road also has a large number of other buried services such as gas, electricity and telecoms. During this stage we also removed an old flow monitoring device close to the crossroads (pictured below).



Stage 2 (March to June 2011) – COMPLETED

Investigation for pipeline rehabilitation. Part of this stage involved draining the water from the pipes and sending a camera up to film the condition of the insides of the pipes. We also cut out small sections of pipe in order to complete tests. Throughout this it was vital that we avoided disrupting the supply of water to customers' taps.

Stage 3 (July to September 2011) – COMPLETED

Cleaning and testing of pipes. The pipe laid in 1952 was jet-washed and swabbed in sections to make it ready to carry treated water. Another camera was then used to film the inside of the pipe.

Stage 4 (August to October 2011) – Underway

Cross connections and re-lining on Biggar Road. A plastic liner has been pulled through the existing 1904 pipe. Cross connection pipework is also underway within the junction with Frogston Road West and Biggar Rd.

Stage 5 (October to November 2011) – To be completed

Tunnelling Works. A new section of pipe needs to be laid from the crossroads into Scottish Water's compound. To minimise disruption this will be done via a tunnelling exercise.

Stage 6 (October to December 2011) – To be completed

Re-lining work at Fairmilehead Junction. This work was initially planned to finish in November 2011, due to ground conditions and existing services within the road, completion of the work will be extended one month.

Stage 7 (January to February 2012) – To be completed

Re-instatement of Biggar Road. To minimise traffic disruption over the festive period, final re-instatement work will be carried out early in 2012.