

NJUG



NJUG CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 8: Working in Partnership – The Kinver Project

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The thirty-eight companies¹ we represent work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc.

NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Damage to underground assets is avoided
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption
4. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
5. Utilities maximise the use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Street works in the UK are regarded as world class

This case study is an example of NJUG delivering on these principles and turning the Vision into a reality.

Overview:

In the summer of 2008, a major collaboration between numerous promoters resulted in six individual sets of works taking place at the same time in order to reduce disruption to the local community.

The works took place in the village of Kinver, predominantly on Dunsley Road, (a C class road that acts as a vital corridor in and out of the village from the A449) but also incorporated works on the High Street (a critical route within the village) and also the A449 (a major arterial route running parallel to the village). The reduction of time to complete the works caused residents and road users minimum disruption and offered maximum customer service rewards.

This scheme, overseen by Staffordshire County Council, was a direct result of forward planning and the desire by all involved to work in partnership in order to reduce disruption.



maintaining the infrastructure of the UK

¹ NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, Virgin Media and THUS, a Cable and Wireless Business. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion and Enterprise. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-eight utility companies.

Case Study

The works and organisations involved in the project were as follows:

| Types of works | Operators | Estimated duration time if work undertaken individually |
|--|--|--|
| Installation of HV electricity reinforcement | Central Networks (promoter) / Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions | 7 weeks |
| Water main replacement | South Staffs Water (promoter) / May Gurney | 4 weeks |
| Pedestrian access improvement scheme and 8 no. bus stop upgrades | Staffs Highways (promoter) / Enterprise | 5 weeks |
| Localised gas main replacement | National Grid (promoter) / Enterprise | 3 weeks |
| Street lighting replacement | EON Energy Services (promoter) / Energy Services | ½ week |
| Private sewer connection | CC Contracting | 1 week |
| Tree felling, requiring signanls | Adrian Hope Tree Services | 1 day |
| Single supply of traffic management | Traffix | |

As demonstrated in the above table, if undertaken individually and the works had not be co-ordinated, the resulting disruption would have lasted over twenty weeks. However the duration of the joint programme resulted in only **seven weeks** of co-ordinated works under joint publicity and traffic management with the majority carried out under a one-way closure.

Additional benefits resulting from this joint occupation scheme were as follows:

- Water and electricity works identified on the A449 (prior to Dunsley Road commencing) could not be carried out at the same time but traffic disruption on this incredibly sensitive road was a real concern. Discussions resulted in Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions laying both the electricity ducting AND the water main under single traffic management.
- Some minor works identified at short notice were incorporated into the works thanks to the contractors on site. These included tree felling and a private sewer connection on Dunsley Road, and Openreach works co-ordinated with water main replacement on the High Street.
- The HV cable installation was the last operation to be carried out, following the water main replacement south towards Kinver High Street. As a result, Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions carried out numerous reinstatements for both sets of works as well as the private sewer connection reinstatement incorporated at short notice. This led to a reduction in resource costs for both labour and materials.
- As well as the cost savings mentioned above, numerous promoters shared the cost of the traffic management.
- Some of the cost savings were directed into joint publicity which included attendance and involvement (South Staffs Water mobile media vehicle) at the annual Kinver Country Fayre, information added to the community website (Kinver Online), press article in the Kinver newsletter, a banner displayed in the local Spar supermarket and the publication of leaflets that were delivered to frontages. All of the publicity contained both the Highway Authority and Utility logos to strengthen the awareness that promoters are working together.

