

BT Remedial Work: Leith Walk

Issues

The main items of remedial work on Leith Walk involved:

- Resolving blocked ducts that would not pass the mandrel test as per LN550.
- Resolving the acceptance of BT Manhole 513 which BT would not sign off due to quality issues. (Launderette Manhole)

The ducts runs had to be inspected by BT – (Fujitsu representative) and passed by witnessing a brush and mandrel test. Virtually all of the duct runs passed the ‘brush’ test but many runs did not accept the mandrel test. These issues occurred at numerous locations on Leith Walk.

Leith Walk ducting was tested prior to Christmas 08 and during the early part of 09 – (January – March 09). By the end of Spring 09 the ducting on Leith Walk had been signed off and accepted.

The quality issue of the chamber was discussed over several months in early 09 and resulted in BT not accepting the chamber. It was then agreed to demolish and re-build the chamber. Due to the location of the chamber this took a period of several months and was finally completed and accepted by the end of June 09.

Impact

The impact of not having the ducting and manholes signed off and accepted by BT meant that they would not cable for the new diversions and hence decommission the existing cabling. With the existing cabling still ‘live’ within the centre of the road Infracore could not excavate in Leith Walk without working around the ‘live’ ducting and cabling. Ie they could not work productively.

One of the main BT exchange depots is located down Jane Street and the main cabling on the bottom of Leith Walk is diverted through the Jane Street manholes and through BT Manhole 513 –(Launderette Manhole). This makes the new manhole a focal point of the lower section of the new diversions on Leith Walk.

BT Programme

While it is difficult for Carillion to know the details of the BT cabling sequence and programme of works it is not un-common for this type of work to take 4 - 6 months on a section the size of Leith Walk.

No contractual milestone dates existed other than that agreed in Settlement No2 and no formal notification has been received but there is correspondence complaining about CUS failure to complete the Work Sections