

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (VIA VINCI CONSTRUCTION)

Water main design to adoptable standard to replace existing private main

The Problem

The Ministry of Justice, via Rochester Prison, were providing water to several privately-owned houses with supplies entering the properties through the rear of each house. Ordinarily, water mains would be laid in the public highway to the front of properties and the individual house supply laid through the front gardens. Laying a new main in the highway would have caused considerable disruption both to vehicular traffic and more importantly to each individual household.

The Approach

The initial design relied on a new main in the public highway as there were issues with the easement along the line of the existing water main to the rear of the properties. Waterco highlighted the potential disruption issues as all the properties had the mains supplies connected through the rear and laying new connections to these locations would inevitably cause major upheaval and damage to gardens.

We advised the client that the proposed route would have considerable costs involved with claims for damage and disruption, so an alternative was investigated. This in itself created concerns as the alternative route was through privately owned land and would then be the subject of issues with the ultimate adoption by Southern Water.

It was eventually concluded that the MOJ would negotiate an easement with landowners as they would ultimately benefit from the new water main and Southern Water were happy that they would be able to access their asset via the new easement.

The Outcome

The design was carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Self-Laying of Water Mains and Services England and Wales - 3rd Edition and the SW Self Lay Policy/ Addendum to enable installation by Vinci's appointed Self-Lay (Water Industry Registration Scheme-WIRS) contractor and adoption by Southern Water with easements for access. The original design in the carriageway had been approved. A revised design, in private land has recently been submitted to reduce disruption to the residents by maintaining the locations of the existing points of supply.



Key Statistics

66

properties affected

1300m

of new water main

Southern Water

Adoption by Southern Water (SW) agreed

KEY BENEFITS



Technical

Design of replacement water mains for adoption by Southern Water



Money

66 properties currently being fed from prison supply



Risk

Reduction in Ministry of Justice (MOJ) liability



People

Flexibility to attend meetings in the south of England



Time

Critical to reduce client liabilities



Value

Reduced customer bills



Compliance

Meeting Water Industry Registration Scheme (WIRS) requirements



Environment

Alternative design provided to remove proposed main from public highway