

Highways Area Service Contracts 6 and 8



Desktop Underground Utilities/Stats Searches



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"We realised we had a bottleneck with utility searches at times that could delay our very demanding programme. We needed a solution to speed things up."

Darrel Holt, Principal Engineer, Highways

Amey works with the Highways Agency to deliver highways repair and maintenance, design and management and the delivery of capital investment works on the strategic highway trunk roads in East Anglia.

Amey maintain and improve approximately 1100 miles of roads on Asset support contracts 6 and 8. The contract runs until 2019 (with the potential for a further 3 years) and is expected to deliver more than £82 million of improvements to the network every year. Amey have also committed to delivering year on year savings for the Highways Agency.

Amey has a huge focus on continual improvement and cost management. There are a large number of improvement schemes - from road widening to junction improvements and all require underground utility searches for safe excavations and critical design input.

Amey struggled to resource this internally and looked to Cornerstone Projects Ltd to improve the speed, produce a more comprehensive pack and importantly free up internal resource to focus on design and delivery,

More Responsive, More Comprehensive, Less Hassle!

The PROBLEM

Amey struggled with resourcing for delivery of underground utility searches internally. There was **no dedicated resource** and what they had was shared with the local Highways also. This meant that any searches could take many weeks to deliver and there were **lots of inconsistencies** in the report format and content. Moreover, managing utility reports was always seen as a burden for those tasked with managing them - **an unnecessary distraction** from their other important duties. Unfortunately though, utility searches were also an extremely important and necessary step in the design process.

“This isn’t a problem specific to Amey. I would go as far as saying it’s an inherent problem for the industry. Our business was built to fulfil this problem and give control and focus back to the client”

Jim Burns, Marketing Manager, Cornerstone Projects



The SOLUTION

Amey now **outsource** all utility searches to Cornerstone Projects Ltd (CPL). CPL has also been provided with authority from Highways England which enables them to obtain **free plans** for Amey. Amey have been provided a **fixed and transparent pricing** scheme based on search length and **optional CAD drawing**. All searches are now complete in 10-15 working days Amey receive the most **comprehensive search** we offer covering Water, Sewer, Gas, Electric, BT, Line Search, Independent Gas Transporters, and full Cable.

The BENEFIT

Amey now receive plans faster as well as enjoying a consistent and comprehensive utilities search pack. Their resource is free from the administration and time consuming nature of the utilities search process.

By using Cornerstone Projects Ltd, the new process has helped ensure Amey are **more responsive** in scheme design and implementation, **safer** in respect to having a more thorough view of what lies beneath the ground and potentially more **cost effective** by unlocking expensive resources to focus on more important tasks and priorities.

“The headache has gone away for the team. We can depend on a much quicker response with a comprehensive report delivered. The team can focus in other areas which inevitably shortens final programme delivery”

Darrel Holt, Principal Engineer – Highways, Amey