

Environment & Transport Committee

Managing Utility Works on the Highway



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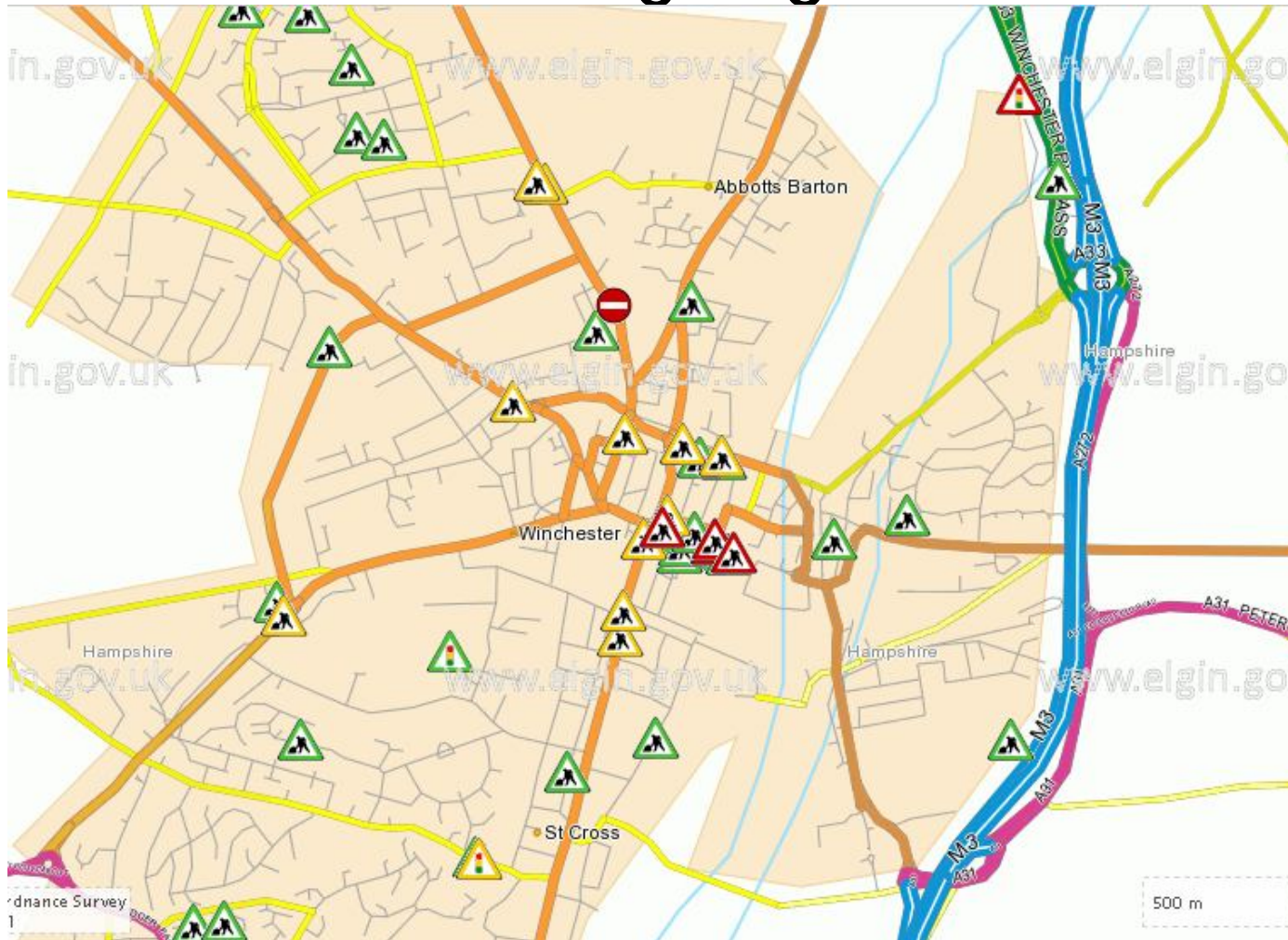
Background

- Works account for 10% of traffic congestion
- 50% of all works on the road are Authority works
- 80% of utility works are 'urgent' unplanned repairs.
- Disruptive works cost economy up to £64,000 / day
- New Roads & Street Works Act 1991 – Powers & duties to regulate & undertake works.
- Traffic Management Act 2004 – Duties to coordinate all works. Rules apply to HCC work.

Works Management

- 70,000 notifiable HCC & utility works / year
- 14,000 are 'major' works
- Works are notified 3 days to 3 months in advance
- HCC holds a register of all notified works
- Quarterly meetings to discuss works schedules
- Road closures / trenches shared where possible
- Trenchless technology & out of peak hours working
- HCC can set conditions on timing & durations
- 30%+ of works inspected (paid for by utilities)

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Contractor Performance in HCC

- Only 60% of utility reinstatements comply with spec
- 95-100% of utilities are compliant on rules for minimising disruption & safety
- Only a few works overrun
- £400,000 in penalty charges invoiced for utility works that failed to comply in 2009/2010.
- Most utilities are very cooperative
- 300 days disruption saved by sharing closures in 2009/2010 - Saving economy approx £3.5 million





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New Pressures 2010 Onwards

- HCC's Street Lighting PFI – Replace 150,000 lamp columns in Hants. 2010 – 2015
- Winter damage to roads and utility network. - Major repair programmes for HCC & utilities in 2010.
- Gas – National project to replace all cast iron mains to comply with Health & Safety legislation.
- Southern Water Co's water meter programme – ½ million new water meters. 2010 - 2015
- Network Rail – 28 bridge replacements 2011 - 2012
- Government initiative to deploy high speed broadband across the country



Permit Schemes

- Applies to all works
- More powers to set additional conditions
- Able to charge for permits
- May reduce complaints (KCC – 50%)
- Cannot recover costs for HCC works permits
- Additional resources (10+ staff in KCC)
- Utility costs passed on to customers
- High set up costs (£1million in KCC)