

Chelsea Bay / Birkenhead Wastewater Upgrade Project

Ground surveys and geotechnical investigations

Watercare will soon begin undertaking ground surveys to help inform the design of the Chelsea Bay/Birkenhead Wastewater Upgrade Project. This Project involves the construction of a new wastewater pump station on Colonial Road and a 1.7-kilometre long wastewater pipeline that will divert the flow of wastewater to the existing Birkdale Diversion Branch Sewer in Highbury. Once complete, this project will contribute to reducing wastewater overflows into the environment and improving the quality of waterways and swimmable beaches such as Chelsea Bay and Little Shoal Bay. The project will also allow for additional capacity ensuring that the wastewater network is able to keep up with population growth in Birkenhead, Chatswood and surrounding suburbs.

Our contractors for the project, McMillan Drilling will be investigating several locations in the road, berms and reserves along the proposed pipeline route (see map overleaf). In the unlikely event that we need to access your property, we will contact you in advance to arrange a suitable date and time to complete these works. As part of these investigations, you may notice our staff using the following equipment:



Figure 1
Vacuum truck or hand digging to identify and avoid underground services



Figure 2
Drilling rig used to collect core samples. The rig may be supported by a four-wheel drive ute and a truck with a water bowser covering an area of approximately 15m²

How will these investigations affect you?

- Date of these works – will take place from **October 2023 – December 2023 (weather depending)**.
- Each investigation will take between one and seven days to complete depending on the depth required to drill.
- Working hours of Monday to Friday 7:30am to 6pm. To reduce the impact on traffic the investigation site on the corner of Highbury Bypass and Mokoia Road will be complete at night between 7pm to 5am.
- Geotechnical investigations will generate some noise and vibration; however, levels will be kept to a minimum and in accordance with Auckland Council requirements.
- Temporary fencing may be setup around the geotech investigation sites.
- Traffic management will be in place around the works area and partially in the road corridor. We ask that you please follow the direction of traffic management staff and traffic signage to keep everyone safe.
- All investigation sites will be fully reinstated on completion of the works.

Borehole groundwater testing and piezometers

In some locations groundwater testing will take place in the borehole after drilling to further understand the permeability of the underlying bedrock. This could include water pumping tests and placement of groundwater monitoring sensors. These tests will typically take an hour or two. Each test will be supervised by a geologist. Special meters, called piezometers, may also be installed in some boreholes to monitor groundwater levels and water quality. These may include a flush mounted box or a small data recording device as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3

Soil testing

We also collect surface soil samples to test for contaminated land. This is so any excess soil is disposed of correctly and to ensure our workforce and site visitors are safe. All sites will be fully reinstated upon completion of the works.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about regarding the ground surveys and what they entail, please contact us through this email address: chelsea@water.co.nz

For general information on your water or wastewater services please visit: www.watercare.co.nz or telephone 09 442 2222.

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