

24/06/21 Explanation from LM regarding why Cadent's access cannot be shared

Regarding the use of the access created by Cadent, we had previously considered this as explained in the parish council meeting of 9th March. The work of both contractors was due to commence at the same time but due to issues previously explained by Cadent, this meant that LM started 8 weeks prior and therefore required a separate compound to be set up. It was then not possible to set up ****an extra compound – or alternative compound ****on land (acquired by) in Cadent's possession, due to health & safety reasons. There were concerns around plant vehicles potentially driving over the gas pipeline and in addition to that, there were complications as Cadent are the principal contractor and held responsibility for all actions on that site. We previously explained that this access was not originally viable due to topographical issues and a relevant crossing point across Black Brooke.

The archaeology works that LM have been undertaking were originally meant to be completed by the end of May. However the access that Cadent were creating and the compound they needed to construct was not completed by this time. It was not viable to halt works until the new access had been created. At this stage, LM were not aware that they would be required to extend the archaeological works due to features of interest that had been excavated towards the end of the original works. As the overlap between works by both LM and Cadent was not expected to be long, both contractors continued with plans to create the compounds originally planned.

To demobilise the LM compound now and expand the Cadent compound would come at a significant cost to the project. It would also extend LM's current works much beyond the proposed completion date, which would also come with a significant cost. This is further complicated by Covid-19 measures governing the maximum amount of people allowed in a small area, as well as issues around temporary land access constraints, with insurance and health and safety complications attached. This was not known to us at the time of our meeting on the 9th March and both Cadent and LM were very willing to collaborate on this matter.

Unfortunately, the nature of construction works is such that we often need to respond to unforeseen circumstances or site conditions (e.g. the archaeological finds) and need to adapt earlier plans to deliver the planned works. This can lead changes and updated plans or extended timelines. We always consider reducing the impact on communities as our first priority and will continue to do so and work with you on that.

Some of the plant vehicles that have been highlighted are only on site for a few days at a time as the machinery is only required for short periods of time. The machinery is used, in this case to back fill trenches, then either returned to the hire company or to the other work location from which it came.

We really look forward to sharing our archaeological findings with you and we hope there is much interest in the online presentation we have proposed on 13th July so our experts can give you an insight on how works have progressed in this location and what they suggest about the history of the area.