

Devonport 2 Watermain Replacement Project

Ground surveys and geotechnical investigations

Watercare and our contractors will soon begin geotechnical investigations and various other topographical surveys as part of the Devonport 2 Watermain Replacement Project. These early-stage surveys are essential to inform the design of the new water infrastructure and ensure it is tailored to the local environment.

The Devonport water supply zone serves approximately 12,300 people through over 5600 metered connections. This area includes the suburbs of Narrow Neck, Devonport, Stanley Point, and North Head. Currently, the area is serviced by two watermain called Devonport 1 and Devonport 2. Devonport 1 was renewed in 1997 but has reduced capacity, while Devonport 2, an asbestos cement watermain installed in 1960, is in poor condition and has now reached the end of its serviceable life.

Watercare plans to replace the Devonport 2 watermain with a new 4.5-kilometre pipeline. This upgrade will improve the resilience of the water network, reduce ongoing maintenance requirements and increase water supply capacity in the area.

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in early-2027 and is expected to be completed by late-2028. In preparation, our contractors, will be conducting geotechnical investigations and various other topographical surveys within roads, berms, and reserves along the proposed route – see map over the page.

These early-stage investigations involve the use of specialised equipment to study the soil composition and underground conditions. The data collected will help us ensure the new watermain is designed to suit the local terrain and built to last. During this phase, you may notice our staff using equipment such as drilling rigs, surveying tools, and ground scanning devices as shown in Figures 1 to 4.



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



Figure 3
A hand auger is a manual drilling tool used for shallow soil sampling



Figure 4
Underground services mark-out using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

How will these investigations affect you?

- Investigations will take place from mid September 2025 to November 2025 between 7am - 6pm Monday to Friday and occasional Saturdays if required. Should there be any changes you will be notified in advance.
- Investigations may generate some noise and vibration; however levels will be kept to a minimum and in accordance with Auckland Council requirements.
- Temporary fencing and road barriers may be setup around the investigation sites.
- All investigation sites will be fully reinstated upon completion of the works.
- We do not anticipate disruption of vehicle access to your property however, if there is a need to restrict access, we will notify you in advance.

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How will these investigations affect you? (continued)

- You may notice the following temporary traffic management changes to various roads in the area:
 - Stop/go systems in place
 - Reduced lane widths
 - Reduce off-street parking
 - Reduced speed limits
 - Pedestrian detours/reduced footpath width
 - Bus stops along the proposed route. Please refer to the Auckland Transport website or app and plan ahead.
- We ask that you please follow the direction of traffic management staff and traffic signage to keep everyone safe.

Once the design for the watermain replacement is confirmed we will update the community with further information. We thank you in advance for your patience and we will ensure measures are in place to minimise any unnecessary disruption to the community.

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 5.



Figure 5

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.

Pātai/questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about regarding the ground surveys and what they entail, please email: devonport@water.co.nz

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

Fast facts about the project:

Investment



Project cost
is an estimated
\$41million

Water Upgrade



4.5km of new
watermain to Devonport
and neighbouring suburbs

For the latest information regarding this project please visit:
www.watercare.co.nz/devonport