



MOLING MINIMISES DISRUPTION ON A RESIDENTIAL WATER PIPE REPLACEMENT

U Mole (a division of VP plc) of Gt Gransden, Cambridgeshire recently hired a 50 mm diameter, pneumatic HammerHead impact mole to Dyno-Rod Southampton (J A F Services Ltd) and Dyno-Plumbing for the completion of a project to replace a leaking water main.

The work required the use of the mole to bore beneath a residential driveway in Christchurch, Dorset. Using the company's philosophy of embracing new technologies to minimise disruption and inconvenience to its clients, Dyno-Rod Southampton decided that the project was well suited to the use of moling techniques which would allow the replacement pipe to be installed without the need to excavate the customer's tarmac and concrete driveway. Dyno-Rod's Justin Duale planned the works.

The problem with the original water main came to light when the customer realised his water bill was unusually large. Investigation showed this to be due to the leaking water main supply pipe feeding his property. The obvious fix would have been to excavate and replace the whole pipeline. However, given the location and the surface construction of the driveway, Dyno-Rod was sure that a more convenient, quicker, more cost effective and less destructive option was to utilise trenchless technology in the form of an impact mole.

EQUIPMENT CHOICE

When it came to choosing the equipment for the job, the contractor went for the hire option. A 50 mm diameter, pneumatic HammerHead mole, supplied by U Mole (a division of Vp plc) was selected as the best option available to install the new 12 m length of standard 25 mm diameter MDPE pipe. According to Andy Findlay, director of Dyno-Rod Southampton: "We chose the HammerHead mole because of its reliability and the knowledge that we would get excellent backup and



The driveway in Christchurch beneath which the new water pipe was installed using the HammerHead impact mole.

technical field experience from U Mole. Matt Russum, from U Mole customer support supplied the mole and undertook a familiarisation and training programme to ensure that we used the unit to its best efficiency. He also provided site supervision during

The new 25 mm diameter MDPE pipe being installed behind the HammerHead mole as it advances.



the course of the work."

The installation required just one entry and one exit pit as it was only a 12 m long run. Prior to the installation and pit excavations, a ground investigation and utility tracing survey was undertaken from surface in the immediate vicinity of the works to ensure that there would be no conflict with other existing buried services. In the event, the whole installation project from arriving on site, completing the survey and digging the start and reception pits to installing the pipe and reconnecting the supply was completed without incident in one working day at a cost to the client of just £1600 plus VAT. Something that would not have been achievable if traditional excavation techniques had been utilised.

Andy went on to say: "The combination of U Mole's technical experience and our choice of the HammerHead equipment made the job far easier than we first imagined. The end result was just what the customer wanted, a reduction in his water bill and piece of mind that there would be no further leaks for the foreseeable future."

HAMMERHEAD MOLES

The 50 mm diameter HammerHead mole used by Dyno-Rod for the Christchurch project is just one of a family of HammerHead moles available for hire or for sale from U Mole. The full range offers key features including:

- 50 mm – 200mm diameter range
- High impact performance
- Robust and simple to operate
- Active Head availability on units up to 75 mm diameter
- Rear bulbed machines available
- Simple maintenance
- No special tooling requirements
- Replaceable internal air seals
- Patented rear anvil
- ¼ Turn and multi-turn reverse
- Full range of towing accessories
- Suitable for piling & ramming
- Full factory warranty



The moles are suitable for work including the laying of gas, water, utility duct and cable through virgin ground without surface disruption as well as specialist crossings including Rivers, Motorways and Railways. Operating at air pressures of 7.6 bar with air consumption across the range varying from 509 l/min (18 cfm) for the 50 mm diameter moles to 8,700 l/min (308 cfm) for the 200 mm diameter moles, the units are very efficient yet powerful in most compactable ground conditions.

Accessories are also available to suit direct towing of PE and PVC pipe or duct as well as launch cradles, aiming frames and staffs.

U Mole also offers consumable support products and the availability of mini-compressors. As on the Christchurch project full on-site training and support is also available.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

U Mole is the approved UK distributor for Earth Tool equipment and offers their full range of products for



The small size of the access pits means minimum disruption to both the client and the surrounding area.

trenchless installation and pipeline replacement for either sale or hire. These include: Active and standard head HAMMERHEAD™ impact moles

(earth piercing tools), HAMMERHEAD™ ramming hammers, other HYDROBURST™ rod-based, hydraulic pipe bursting systems and the PORTABURST™ cable-based, hydraulic pipe burster range.

The company is also the representative for The Robbins Company in respect of the Robbins SBU (Small Boring Unit) product line, including provision of all spares and consumables within the SBU range. The territory across which U Mole acts in this capacity includes: France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, UK and Eire.

U Mole also supplies a full range trenchless and limited dig equipment including: MTS/Vac-Tron vacuum excavation systems, coring equipment for keyhole technology, Pipe to Site coiled pipe trailers, Acuster plastic pipe fusing systems, Rotair compressors, Reed Tools and a complete range of accessories such as pipe Cobra flexible rodding, towing heads, cable socks, pipe pigs, swivels, breakaway connectors.

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