  
  
**Making Life Easy for**

**Utility Gangs**

**OXEMS Blog  
November 2014**

**SPAGETTI JUNCTION**

I was recently part of an OXEMS team working with a water utility gang as they uncovered a spaghetti junction of metal and plastic water pipes. Although some of the pipework they uncovered was comparatively recent, there was no record giving a comprehensive overview of what lay beneath the ground, until we arrived that is (See “Utility pipes go all kinky” for the full story).

In many ways I care just as much about convincing utility companies gangs of the advantages OXEMS technology brings, as I am in convincing the management. Although in this instance the guys on the street were so taken with OXEMS that it wasn’t exactly a hard sell! Here’s what sold it to them:

**MARK IT & MOVE ON**

Every time they uncovered or installed a point of interest such as a service ferrule, a joint, or a bend, we attached one of our OXEMS Tags (a unique, robust, inert tag which can subsequently be detected and interrogated from above ground). Then we took a photograph of the point, which our GPS unit automatically stamps with the GPS co-ordinates. Then that photo, along with other close-ups and wide shots of the area as appropriate, was uploaded automatically to the database. We also uploaded text and other information pertaining to that specific tag. So, now, each tag has a unique library of updatable information stored on the database and ready to access at any time.

Now that the work is finished and resurfacing is complete, it’s all ready for another gang to interrogate. They’ll use the GPS co-ordinates in the usual way to get to within a few metres of the site, before deploying the OXEMS Detector that will swiftly take them right over the top of each tag. Before a hole needs to be dug, the detector will uniquely identify the tags, which will then prompt the database to transmit all the stored information about that tagged asset to the detector’s screen.

The gang could see the clear advantage of no longer needing to search out a pipe or joint made of metal or plastic, but only needing to find an easily detectable tag.

This Blog was first published in November, 2014

To receive carefully selected relevant information, and to stay informed about OXEMS,

please go to www.oxems.com and provide your contact details.