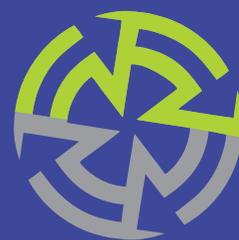


# MEADS HILL, SH3 “On the move”



“Drying out the slip zone”



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Meads Hill is located 5km south of Te Kuiti on state highway 3. This section of state highway was constructed across a steep gully of earth and in recent times was on the move. SH3 is a strategic link between the Waikato/Auckland and Taranaki regions and the stabilisation was a priority for Transit.



▲ Meads Hill Embankment

Several remedial actions were undertaken to stabilise the embankment. These included drilling and concreting three rows of timber piles up to 8m deep parallel to the road and into the Papa rock beneath the slip, removing trees, placing rock riprap and dewatering the slip zone.

Arguably the most important part of the work was to dewater the slip zone, however this part of the works was left to last. The three rows of tightly spaced piles required the dewatering pipes to be carefully threaded between them. This part of the work was a major challenge, requiring a carefully thought out design and an experienced contractor.

Universal Underground came up with a method to directional drill between the piles, following the rock all the way to the other side of the road and exiting the ground in a paddock where the pipe was connected and pulled back.

No supplier could be found to make the transit F2 pattern drilled coil PE pipe so Universal Underground made it themselves.

A bench and jig was set up on site and pipe drilling undertaken during installation. Nearly 1000m of pipe was installed with most pipes running half to nearly full of ground water immediately after installation.

The dewatering component of this project completed by Universal Underground was completed on time, under budget and with a better outcome than expected.



▲ 63Ø OD PE F2 drilled pipe



▲ After following the rock/soil interface the drill head exited the ground. The F2 pattern drilled pipe was connected and pulled back along the slip zone.