

Red Doles Road Cable Strike

Project Name: LNE Structures CP5
Project Number: 140710
Location: Bridge 96, Red Doles Road, Huddersfield
Date and time of event: 12th November 2015 at 12:20hrs
Date of issue: April 2016
Contact: IP SNE S&SD
Ref: SNEL 16/024



Overview

A site tour, as part of completion of works which included masonry repairs and extension of palisade fencing, determined a number of requirements. These included cutting back visible cables to the cable trough to prevent the likelihood of cable theft.

Despite being advised that none of the cables were live, one of the cables produced an arc of electricity when cut. No injuries were sustained. The cable was identified as a live 650v signal cable which resulted in significant disruption to railway operations.

Underlying causes

Appropriate cable management, including protection/ identification of live cables, had not occurred as part of previous works.

Cable management was not included in the CPP, WPP or TBS for the current project.

A risk assessment was not carried out when additional work was identified.

The contractor team felt pressurised to respond to verbal instructions by Network Rail in order to complete work and vacate site.

Network Rail buried service data / diagrams were not available

Life Saving Rules were breached by both Network Rail and contractor:

- Always be sure the required plans and permits are in place, before you start a job or go on or near the line.
- Never undertake any job unless you have been trained and assessed as competent.
- Never assume equipment is isolated - always test before touch.

Key message

In your role, consider the following aspects to mitigate risk and prevent recurrence:

- How do projects ensure sites are in an appropriate condition prior to commencing works?
- What mechanisms would enable conditions, such as those in the photographs, to be dealt with **prior** to work commencing?
- When genuinely unforeseen risks emerge on site, what processes are in place to help you and/or your managers and supervisors manage these effectively? How do you measure your success in this activity?
- What evidence do you have that Life Saving Rules are always observed in day to day activities?

What conversations would you like your contractors to instigate if such conditions were encountered?

How would you respond to contractors and other appropriate parties to gain appropriate, efficient and timely resolution?

Discarded cable on site:



Existing "cable management" on site

