

## **Toolbox talk – Environment**

# NetworkRail

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### **Archaeology**

#### What?

- archaeology is the scientific study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains
- where no other records exist, it is often the only source of information about previous occupation of an area from the earliest inhabitants many thousands of years ago to more recent times of just a hundred years or so
- □ it is not only buildings and foundations, but also artefacts such as jewellery, pottery, coins, bones and skeletons that need expert examination before removal and preservation
- many sites may have ancient monuments and/or listed buildings on them, which are protected by law and planning control. Any specific issues related to these should be identified before work on site begins.

#### Why?

- avoid environmental harm: archaeology is an important part of heritage and valuable and irreplaceable remains can easily be damaged on construction sites
- avoid prosecution: it is illegal to disturb human remains, remove treasure and to damage certain monuments and historical structures/buildings.



#### Questions

- 1 Are there any potential ancient monuments on this site?
- 2 What old artefacts might be found on this site?
- 3 What should be done if something is found that looks like it might be of archaeological interest?

#### Do

- stop work if anything is found that might be archaeological and immediately contact a line manager for instructions
- ✓ find out if there are any archaeological sensitive areas on site
- fence off any part of the site suspected of containing archaeological artefacts
- follow the advice provided by any appointed archaeologist.

#### Don't

- \* assume that any artefacts or features discovered are
- remove any 'finds' such as coins, pottery, or bones from the site it is illegal
- undertake work near to areas of archaeological importance without considering if any damage may be caused:
  - use vibrating equipment as it may cause cracking check with a line manager
- dewatering may cause a preserved feature to settle and crack – check with a line manager
- drive vehicles through protected sites.







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