

No: IGS 251

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Reading DU – Track worker Near Miss at Westbourne Park

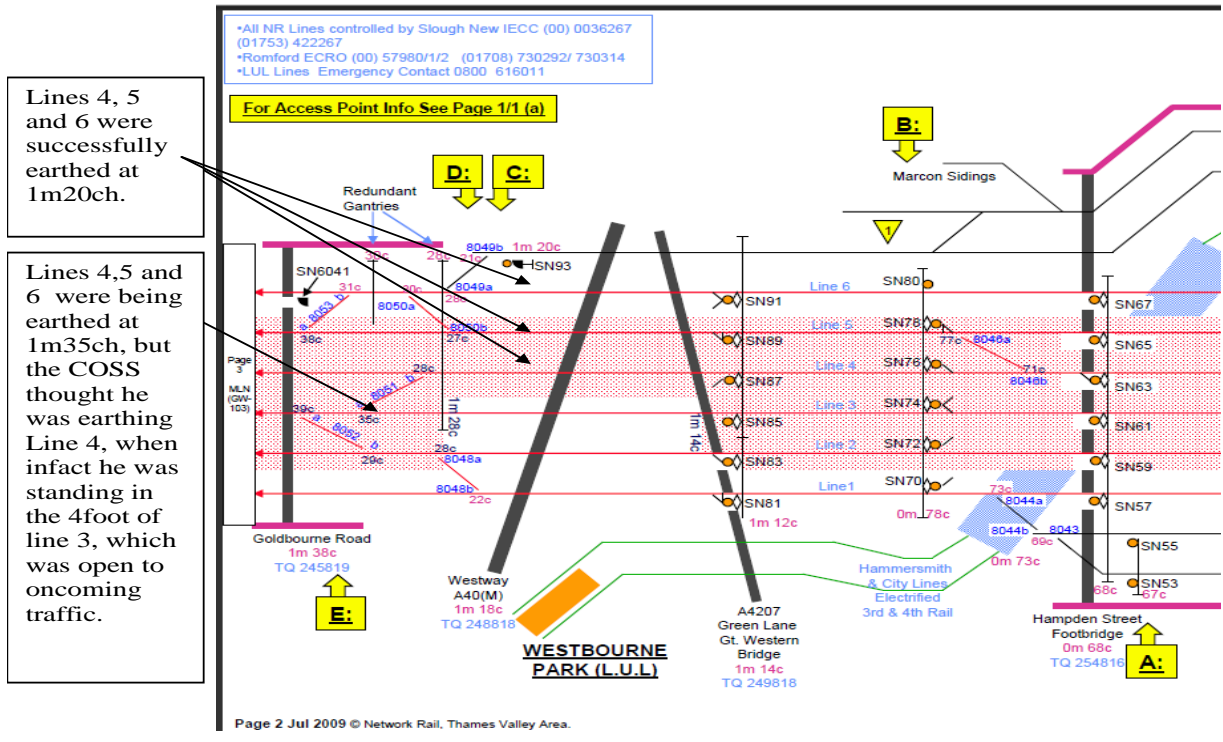
Background

On the 12/06/11 at 01:10 hours there was an electrical flash from Gantry J02/18. Thames Turbo 2P97 was travelling towards Paddington on Line 3 and had become stationary after the flash, as the driver thought he had struck someone. A COSS subcontracted by the Reading DU from JBS McGinley, had been standing in the four foot of Line 3, carrying out the isolation of the OHLE, which he believed to be Line 4. The COSS had successfully applied earths to Lines 4, 5 and 6 at Gantry J01/35. He then went to Gantry J02/18 to apply earths to Lines 4, 5 and 6. Upon initial investigation it appears the COSS had mistaken Lines 3, 4 and 5 for Lines 4, 5 and 6.

The COSS successfully applied earths to Lines 4 and 5 and then stood in the four foot of Line 3 and attached the earth to the OHL which resulted in an electrical flash. The track worker assistant who was standing in the four foot of Line 4 saw a train approaching the COSS on Line 3 and he shouted to the COSS to clear the line. The COSS jumped to a position of safety, but left the fibre glass isolation pole in situ, which was struck by the train. It was the train striking the pole, which made the train driver mistakenly; believe he had struck a person.

Initial Investigations

Upon initial investigations, it appears the COSS was mistaken when he was applying the earths. The COSS says he had worked in the general vicinity on the previous Saturday, but had not worked at this location before. It is reported that a site visit had not been carried out prior to the COSS attending site to apply the earths this weekend. The lines are numbered up in the signalling gantries. The COSS had been briefed by ES. The COSS had been issued earthing details from the Nominated Person



Action

- All employees who work on and around the track are to be briefed on the circumstances surrounding this accident before commencing their next shift.
- During the briefing employees should be reminded of the need to be vigilant when on and around the track and to know their position of safety at all times

Issued by Justin Page Head of Safety & Compliance