

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

014

Incident Dates: *January to June 2014*

Location: *Rutherglen & Coatbridge Electrification Project*

Works Taking Place / Incident Type: *Piling Operations*

Issued By: *Iain McFarlane, Programme Manager IP SNE*

Project Name / Number: *Rutherglen & Coatbridge Electrification Project / 136031*

For the attention of: *All Scotland and North East*

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

During the project works, piles have struck culverts on two occasions.

In the first instance the culvert was situated over 8 metres below rail level, it was not visible at track level and the piling team was unaware of its presence.

On the second occasion the culvert had been identified by the OLE designer however, the considerable skew of the structure was not taken into account. The trial hole team did not locate the culvert and the piling team was consequently unaware of its presence. These work activities were done at night.

CAUSES

Culvert 1: The culvert had not been identified prior to the work commencing. Consequently, the culvert was not visible and there were no identification markers at track level.



Culvert 2: The considerable skew of the culvert was not taken into account by either the trial hole team or the piling team. Relying on visual perceptions at night may have been a factor.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement and/or facilitate the following:

- On future projects, ensure that all underground structures (UTX, culverts and under bridges) are identified at track level by the provision of ID markers.
- Where teams are tasked to carry out trial holes, the team should note and be responsive to any surrounding environment which may affect the installation of infrastructure.
- Future topographical surveys should be thorough and investigate all surrounding environment, especially in areas where ground breaking is to take place. Any evidence of 'hidden' infrastructure should be fully investigated and all findings noted.