

Lessons Learnt from a Significant Event



Date of issue: 17th December 2013

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Issue Number: TLP013

Title: Cricklewood – Tripping of OLE Section 607 at F10/13 Structure

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Overview of Event

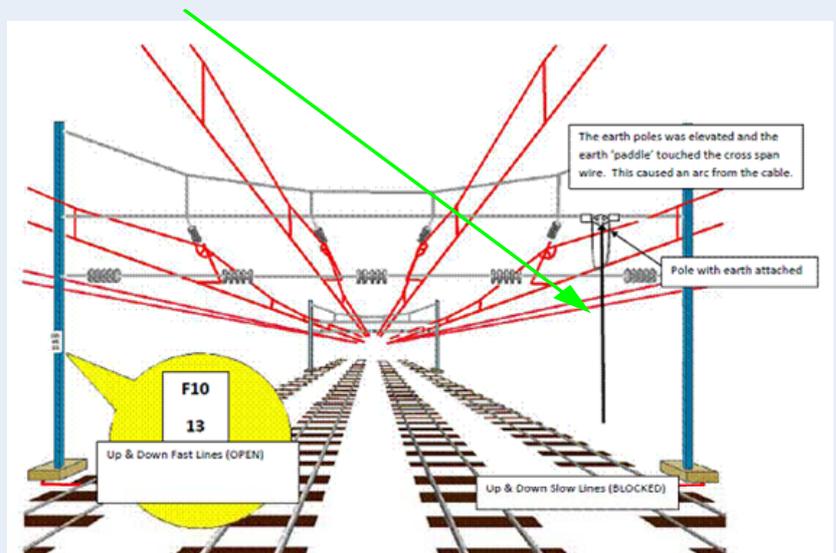
- 6th October 2013 - Before taking a Planned Isolation at Cricklewood, the Nominated Person issued a briefing to the Authorised Person (A.P.) and Earthing Assistant (E.A.).
- After the briefing, the A.P. and E.A. proceeded to lay out the equipment and began connecting the primary pole and extension poles.
- As this was a particularly high structure, the A.P. asked for 5 pole sections to be connected.
- Whilst the Overhead Line Equipment was still live and before he was given authority to apply earths, the A.P. elevated the earthing pole to check it would be sufficiently long enough to reach the cross span wire.
- The pole with 5 sections was close to, but not touching the OLE, when there was an arc causing the OLE Section to “trip”.
- At 0016, York Electrical Control Room (ECR) reported that OLE section 607, had tripped and reset.

Underlying Causes:

There are a number of underlying facts that contributed to the event: -

- The investigation has identified human error as an underlying cause. A series of measures have been incorporated that focuses on the human aspects that contributed to this event.
- The A.P. had offered his earth pole up to check it was long enough. The earth pole was close to, but not touching an insulator and still had the earth lead attached to the top of the pole, hence causing the arcing to occur.

The diagram below shows the track layout and the approximate position the earth pole was elevated



Key Message:

- The Appointed Person has been placed onto his employers 'At Risk Register' pending re-assessment and mentoring
- Personnel should not place any item of equipment or material in close proximity to Overhead Line Equipment until authorised to do so by the Nominated Person
- In attempting to be as prepared as possible for your task or work activity, take care not to put yourself at risk – think before you act. A few minutes saved in the short term could lose you more in the long run....