

Shared Learning

COSTAIN
The Thameslink Programme

 Issue Date: 28th Sept 2015 - For further info contact sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP041
Title: Unauthorised Removal of Temporary Works

Overview of Event:

Scaffolders were deployed to erect a section of scaffold decking to provide waterproofing detail along the top of the steelwork to which the new station façade sections are attached. Acrow props were 'in the way' of the proposed decking and were removed, by the scaffolders, without authorisation. An Engineer noticed these had been removed 4 days later and raised the issue. There had been a breach in the temporary works process.

Causes:

Immediate - 6 no. Acrow push – pull props which were providing temporary support to the parapet section of the pre-cast façade were removed.

Root and Underlying Causes

- Design - The design of the façade required the installation of the pilasters either side of the main arch parapet sections. An alternative design of the parapet fixing detail would have removed the need for a temporary support detail.
- Training – The scaffold supervisor had no formal training in the temporary works process and was not competent to make the decision to remove the temporary works.
- Procedure – The temporary works procedure was not utilised and there was no permit to strike in place.
- Communication – There was a failure by the supervisor to adequately communicate to the engineer / temporary works supervisor when he observed that the Acrow props were 'in the way'.

Photo of Event :



Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- Acrow props were re-instated
- Event and initial findings were communicated to the Supervisors
- Design team consulted with regards future designs
- Briefing sessions for CREs and Network Rail Engineers
- Engineers and Supervisor to be reminded of the temporary works procedure
- Temporary works procedure overview to be included in site induction
- Scaffold Supervisor to be retrained and monitored

General Key Messages:

- Ensure that all temporary works activities are coordinated by the project team and understood by those carrying out the works.
- Verify that procedural controls of temporary works are robust.