

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Provision of asbestos survey information

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRA 16/09

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Location: Wadborough Crossing Cottage

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Overview

Following an HSE audit of building works at Wadborough Station House, Network Rail was served with a 'Notification of Contravention' detailing 3 material breaches.

Notable amongst these breaches was a failure to carry out a refurbishment and demolition asbestos assessment in advance of intrusive construction works.

This had the potential to lead to the inadvertent disturbance of asbestos, thereby exposing the workforce to airborne asbestos fibres.

Network Rail is responsible, in liaison with the contractor, for assessing the adequacy of pre-construction information to identify any gaps in advance of works taking place.

In this instance, no assessment took place and the existing asbestos management information was not adequate.

Immediate action required

The Control of Asbestos Regulation (CAR) requires that before carrying out any work involving the potential disturbance of asbestos, Network Rail should find out if the part of the building likely to be disturbed contains asbestos and, if so, the type and condition. This should include assessing relevant information, such as that contained in construction plans or provided by those responsible for the maintenance and repair of premises.

All of Network Rail's management (non intrusive) asbestos survey information can be found on our [Asbestos Risk Management System \(ARMS\)](#). Access to these records will be granted to any member of Network Rail staff.

If no records are available, or there are doubts about their accuracy/relevance, Network Rail may need to arrange a survey and analysis of representative samples to determine the presence, type and condition of asbestos.

Network Rail's [CDM Note 004 – Pre-construction information](#) provides practical guidance on where information can be sourced, and practical examples of how to share it. The guidance states that for designers and contractors that it would be appropriate to raise the lack of provision of pre-construction information, using the Network Rail close call system.

Where existing information is considered insufficient and incomplete before intrusive works, additional information must be sought. This will be in the form of a Refurbishment and Demolition Survey. Network Rail have an approved framework of UKAS accredited consultants that can carry out these works on request.

Alternatively, Network Rail should assume that the part of the building to be disturbed contains the most hazardous types of asbestos, crocidolite (blue) or amosite (brown), and apply the appropriate control measures required by the Regulations, using a licensed contractor if required.

You need to assess the accuracy of information in surveys and plans provided to assess their relevance to the location and type of work to be done in the building:

- Has the survey been carried out by a person competent to do so?
- Does the building layout match that in the survey/plan provided?
- Does information on the condition of the Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in the survey/plan match what is seen on site?
- Is the information in the survey/plan relevant to the work to be done (e.g. ACMs in voids behind walls, or similar hard to access positions, may not have been included in the survey/plan)?

Copies of Safety Advice are available on [Safety Central](#).