

Best Practice Document



Vehicle Crossing

The attached best practice was agreed by SEHAUC.

Cross Reference Information:

NRSWA 1991	: s86
Code of Practice	: Diversionary Works
Regulations	:
SEHAUC Meeting	:15th June 2007

Signed: Joint Chairs *Signed copy held in Master file*

This item is registered under the SEHAC administration reference:

SE/ 81 / BP002 Secretary Date 15/06/2007

With on-street parking restrictions and the ever-increasing numbers of vehicles on our roads, the numbers of requests from residents for “Vehicle Crossings” is unlikely to decrease.

This document is written as a Best Practice Guidance for the avoidance of damage to the highway, any furniture upon it, or any plant above or below the ground and does not alter the need to work to legal requirements and in a safe manner. Also, it does not address any issues associated with planning or other restrictions which may apply locally.

Although the specification and arrangements for the construction of a vehicular crossing point across the footway and/or verge does vary from highway authority to highway authority, there remains a number of common checks and actions that must be carried out to safeguard the integrity of the highway structure and to avoid damage to utility and authority plant and street furniture.

The prime aim of this document is to highlight and recommend the very necessary steps that need to be taken to minimise the likelihood of problems occurring with utility and highway plant and other assets during the process of planning, scheduling and executing the construction of “Vehicle Crossings”.

Sections 184 of The Highways Act 1980 and 86 of The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 detail the legal powers and responsibilities of those persons or authorities who sanction and/or construct vehicle crossings. It is very clear that such crossings are designated “works for road purposes” by section 184 and under section 86 fall under the category of “major highway works” and whoever constructs these crossings has the same responsibilities as the highway authority. Following construction of the crossing and any “guarantee” period imposed on the constructor, the highway authority will be required to maintain the crossing at the public expense.

The following list of checks and actions are intended to form a guide to best practice to endeavour to ensure that the planning and construction of these vehicle crossings meets the duties required of the promoter and constructor.

- 1) The site needs to be surveyed, by the authorising authority, to determine the presence of any street furniture, valve boxes, chambers and the like that may be affected by the construction.
- 2) Prior to any order for the work being given it will be necessary for the authorising authority to:
 - a) Verify that details of all plant and furniture in the vicinity of the proposed crossing have been obtained from utilities and authorities, and that these details have been checked for possible problems that may arise during the construction phase of the crossing.
 - b) Ensure that prior to an estimate of cost being given, reference has been made to the HAUC Diversionary Code of Practice should plant or equipment need to be moved or altered.

- c) Satisfy themselves that any requirements and costs; for alteration, protection of or working near plant and equipment, have been agreed with affected utilities or authority.
- 3) Prior to site work commencing:
- a) The correct Street Works Register entry has been applied for by the executor of the works and agreement obtained from the authority as to a start date.
 - b) Any necessary plant diversionary works are co-ordinated.
- 4) At the time of works on site:
- a) Ensure that all the required plant and equipment plans/records are on site.
 - b) Verify that the work force carrying out the works abide by the requirements laid down for NRSWA Accreditation.
 - c) Ensure that compliant signing lighting and guarding is in place.
 - d) Mark as necessary any plant located by a “cat” scan prior to any ground being broken and that the advice given in HSG47 and that of the HSE is followed.
 - e) Ensure that during construction all the necessary steps are taken to avoid damage to plant; however should damage occur or it become necessary to move/protect plant, then the affected utility or authority is immediately contacted so that any remedial action can be taken or arrangements made.
 - f) Inspect the works so that the construction and reinstatement of the area of works is to specification.
- 5) Following completion of works:
- a) Ensure that the street works register is updated with the completed site details.
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