

Best Practice Document



Apparatus at an inappropriate depth or position

The attached best practice was agreed by SEHAUC.

Cross Reference Information:

NRSWA 1991	: Section 79
Code of Practice	: Records
Regulations	:
SEHAUC Meeting	:15th June 2012

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

This item is registered under the SEHAC administration reference:

SE/ 81 / BP001	Secretary	Date	15/06/2012
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Revision	Made by	Comment

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Aim

To highlight and improve understanding regarding apparatus found to be not conforming to the recommended levels (NJUG V1) or at an inappropriate position and to reduce the occurrence of damage to buried apparatus as well the possibility of injury to the operatives, loss of service inconvenience and extra costs.

1.2 General

- During works, due consideration should always be given to minimise danger, HSG47 and to avoid compromising existing plant with regard to the future workability of operations by other work promoters/contractors. Action to resolve conflicts, should they arise, should be by agreement with all parties concerned.
- Should plant be of such a position or depth as to make other promoter's works impracticable without damaging/removing the plant in question it is in the interests of all parties to make every effort to agree a way forward at minimal expense to all parties.
- Where work promoters are carrying out works and find their apparatus at an inappropriate depth or position they should take action to remediate the situation if practical to do so. In the case of excavations where it is not practical to affect a change the depth and position of the plant should be recorded on their plant records.
- Work promoters to report any third party plant found to be at an inappropriate depth (NJUG V1) or position, they should make their best efforts to alert and resolve any issues with the owner, if they cannot they must record the apparatus as required by section 80 NRSWA.
- It will therefore be important to ensure that up to date line and level apparatus records are kept and maintained by the license owner (section 79 NRSWA) and these records should be made available according to current procedures in dealing with plant enquiries. These records will augment the recommended procedures for safe excavation and help to avoid unnecessary plant damage and possible injury to staff.

References.

- Section S1.8 of the SROH third edition April 2010.
- Section 22 of the HAUC (UK) Advice note No 2010/1 Diversionary Works.
- NJUG Guidelines on the positioning and colour coding of underground utilities' apparatus. Volume 1 issue 6 : 9th January 2012 and successive issues.
- Sections S79 to 81 of NRSWA.
- HSG47 Avoiding Danger from Underground services.