

# Theme of the Month October 2018 – Ground Working

## Your Health and Safety

## Our Environment

## Quality Requirements

Ground Working is a fundamental part of our construction projects, however without sufficient planning, identification and safe handling of the work the task can carry severe implications such as service strikes and environmental incidents. Note: For information on avoiding danger from underground services see: [HSG47](#).  
When carrying out the task consider if additional PPE is required (e.g. Hearing protection, RPE).

### Contaminated Land

Be aware of the potential for contaminated ground – if you encounter discoloured soil, unusual odours and/or presence of foreign objects **STOP WORKS** and inform the Site Manager.

### Service Strike Reporting

Where a service strike occurs. Stop works immediately and report to a Site Manager / Safety Advisor. A full investigation following [SYPRO8 Investigation and Review](#) is required.

### Physical Identification of Services

Where physical identification of services takes place, mark-out underground services using spray paint or similar. Do not mark out using metal spikes.

### Driver Competence

Plant drivers to have the correct level of competence evidence (e.g. CPCS or NPORS).

### Ground Investigation

Prior to ground working, gain a copy of, or carry out a ground investigation / survey to adequately plan and mitigate risks.

### Quality Inspections

Complete Quality Inspections as detailed on the ITP, which may include those for Structural Excavation / Formation or Structural Backfilling and Filling.

### Identify Protected Trees

Establish fencing to mark out tree root protection areas to prevent damage to roots, branches and trunk. No digging within this area.

### Hand-dig

Do not use power tools or excavators within 500mm of any services. Adopt a hand digging method with insulated tools.

### Spoil Storage

Compact and shape stockpiles to prevent silty run-off. Consider seeding. Cover if contaminated.

### Safe System of Work

Document and brief RAMS to all relevant workers. Ensure a Safe Start is completed and a permit to disturb ground is in place.

### People / Plant Interface

Ensure pedestrian / plant segregation is in place with sufficient signage, barriers, pedestrian walkways etc.

### Plant Inspections

Records of Thorough examination must be valid for all plant used on site. Carry out and record daily inspections as per [HSPR15 PUWER](#).

### Silty Run-Off

Ensure drains and watercourses are protected from silty run-off from stockpiles/exposed ground with gully guards and/or silt fencing as per EVGD01-23 Silt Control Measures

### Calibration

Where a CAT and Genny are used to locate services, ensure they are calibrated and visually sound before use.

### Live Services

Never assume that a service is dead. Always treat it as live until confirmed otherwise.

