

# STOPThink!

## High-Potential Excavation Incident



Final position of mini digger



Sidewall failure and make up of ground

### What happened?

During a night shift at Motspur Park station, works were being undertaken to excavate a 600mm(w)x1m(d) trench for the footings of a new station building.

After a change in the agreed method of working, a 1 tonne mini digger slid into the excavation following the trench side wall failing.

There were no injuries to persons and the operational railway was not affected.

The investigation is ongoing and an update will be issued upon the conclusion of the investigation.

### Impacts

- Work on the section where the incident occurred was suspended and made safe immediately.
- A safety standdown briefing was delivered to the workforce to reinforce awareness around excavations and mobile plant.

### Whilst this investigation is on-going, please consider the following points on your project...

- Has the safe system of work for any excavation activity considered the risk of plant and materials surcharging the sides of any excavation?
- Has the planning for the work considered obstructions nearby which may change the required methodology? Have these changes been risk assessed?
- Has a competent person reviewed and assessed the ground conditions and considered the need for shoring of excavation sides?
- Where there agreed methodology needs to change, stop, reassess the works and brief any changes to personnel involved.
- For any work activity the STOPThink! fundamentals should be in place at all times!

