



Location of service strike with chamber adjacent.



Marked up area for service.

What Happened?

On Wednesday 5th February at Long Stratton, a BT cable supplying an isolated property bordering site, was severed whilst works were being undertaken to remove existing tarmac and locate the pathway and depth of the known service. Trial pits had failed to locate the service in two areas, so an excavator was used to scrape off some of the top soil as the ground was hard, at which point the BT cable ducting was struck and broke the cable.

What we know

- The service had been traced with a CAT & Genny prior to works, markings were made with red line-paint, and the permit had been briefed to the team.
- SSoW / RAMS does not state about digging within 500mm is prohibited. This is only a note on MG permit.
- The POWRA does not identify that a service is known to be in the area.
- Area was not left sterile after the event and the plant involved was moved to another location.

Actions taken.

- A review of the risk assessment for earthworks to be undertaken by supply chain.
- Work gangs were stood down and investigation commenced.
- Permits/permitting are being reviewed on site.

What you must do.

- Ensure safe digging practices are always followed.
- Ensure that the Point of Work Risk Assessments adequately address all known risks present.
- Ensure that all persons involved in the task detailed in the SSoW understand and comply with control measures
- Supervisors must ensure that operatives comply with works in their control.
- Ensure that all the “Stop Think Fundamentals” are in place prior to undertaking any works.
- If in any doubt whatsoever about what action to take “Stop Think” and consult your Line Manager or Safety Advisor.

