





## Service damage Somerset Highways



Incident notification 	Alert 	Information 	Toolbox talk 
Date and time of incident:	20/02/17   11:45	Injury severity:	n/a
Location of incident:	Blagdon Hill Road, Taunton	Level of investigation completed:	Full
Operating unit:	Infrastructure Services	Potential severity:	Fatal/catastrophic
IN reference:	IN011123	Operational disturbance:	Contact with electricity or an electrical discharge
Alert completed by:	David Reeves		
People involved:	Mowgate Ltd		

### Details of incident: IN011123

Whilst conducting ditch clearance works using a 6 tonne rubber duck excavator, an 11kv cable was damaged during the operation which crossed the ditch from the carriageway to a nearby pylon.

A ditching bucket was being used to carry out the works and sustained slight damage.

It was reported that smoke and sparking was observed but no major flash at the point of impact.

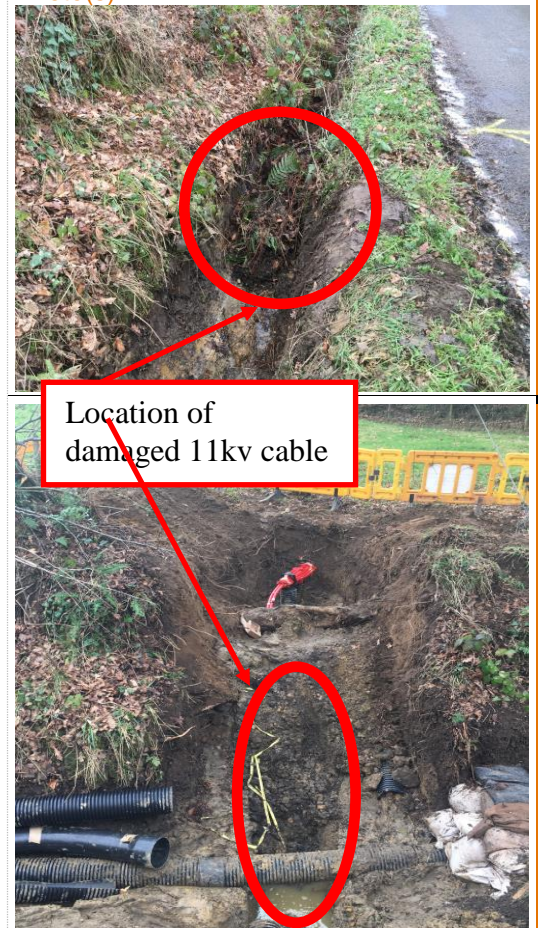
The investigation has identified the following:

The HV service was installed in the 1970's and would have been originally excavated below the ditch base. Following years of ditch clearance works, the base level of the ditch may have been reduced over time which then left the cable exposed. The ditch at the time of the initial investigation was flowing with a good stream of water and this, over time, could have eroded the base of the ditch.

Statutory drawings were available on site but were only verbally briefed to the excavator driver conducting the ditching.

Cable Avoidance scanning was not conducted prior to the ditching works but there was a scanner being used on the drainage works conducted close by.

### Photo(s):



### Learning points:

- Any additional works added to a schemes package post start date must be suitably and sufficiently planned
- Cable Avoidance scanning must be conducted prior to breaking ground operations
- Visual inspection of surrounding area, including reference points from statutory drawings to be mandated as part of the excavation process
- Approved Safe Systems of Work (SSoW) to be in place for all operations.
- SSoW must include the provision of statutory drawing & Cable Avoidance Equipment.
- Ditching activities: All OU's to review their current procedure regarding ditch clearance. As part of the operation,

statutory drawing must be presented to the site team along with the Mandatory use of Cable Avoidance Equipment.

- All OU's to discuss this alert with all current ditch clearance contractors.

**Basic risk factor:**

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Defences                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Design                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Error enforcing conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping             | <input type="checkbox"/> Incompatibility of goals   | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance management | <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedures    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tools/equipment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training    |   |

**Distribution:**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMT/SMT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All OUs/EFs (via Environment Manager or EF lead) | <input type="checkbox"/> Originating OU only |
|---|--|--|

**Action required:**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Display | <input type="checkbox"/> Information only |
|---|---|---|