

Best Practice in Avoiding Underground Services

Site Decision Map – Services Encased / Surrounded in Concrete

**Hold Point**

**Stop activity**

Service encased / surrounded in concrete

Continue to implement safe digging practices

End

No

Yes

Inform Supervisor or Service Co-ordinator

Confirm / identify the service from utility prints / drawings or if necessary expose extremities of concrete where possible to locate service entries

Is there a need to disturb concrete?

End

Yes

Continue to implement Safe Digging Practices

No



Identify the service



**Contact Service Owner and arrange site visit**

Update Designer / Planner



Can the service be diverted by the Service Owner?

No

Contact Client to discuss re-design / or alternative solution

Can the service be isolated?



No

Is there an alternative design solution?

End

Re-instate excavation and make safe

Discuss and implement re-design and abort excavation activity

Yes

Yes

Arrange for isolation \* and continue with careful removal of obstruction and safe digging practices

Arrange for diversion and continue with the excavation activity and safe digging practices

Is there a way of removing concrete to expose service without the need to use powered hand tools? \* (see note)

End

End

Confirm with the client that the works cannot proceed due to the high level of risk of striking a service and agree other alternatives to progress the works

**Re draft RAMS and engage with Service Owner to seek their approval before proceeding**

No



Yes

Complete task to remove concrete obstruction using alternative method

End

Protect exposed service from mechanical damage

End

Has approval been gained from Service Owner?