



Safety Alert Bridge Deck Damage

12 October 2020

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Carnell

Safety Bulletin

HPNM

Bridge Deck Damage

On the 15th August, whilst undertaking the removal of the existing footpath on Trench Lane overbridge, the chisel point of an 8-tonne excavator mounted breaker struck the bridge deck. This contact dislodged a section of concrete around the bridge joint which fell onto the live M4 carriageway below. A member of the public drove over the concrete resulting in damage to the underside of their vehicle.

Fortunately, nobody was injured however this could have resulted in life changing injuries or even a fatality!



The investigation has identified that:

- The concrete was dislodged as Carnell operatives were removing an asphalt plug above the bridge joint. A task that was not covered in the RAMS and which had been programmed to be removed by another contractor.
- The operatives had previously been asked to remove the asphalt plug by the designated contractor on the opposite side of the bridge. The method of removal using the excavator mounted breaker was not within the contractors RAMS.
- The Carnell Supervisor entered the live carriageway to retrieve the concrete following the incident.
- The Construction Phase Plan detailed the use of a 3-tonne excavator. The change to an 8-tonne excavator was made on site and not included within the RAMS.

Safety Bulletin

This incident was a direct result of change on site:

- The scope of works was changed – no works should have taken place on the asphalt plug
- The method of work was changed – an excavator should not have been used to remove the plug
- The work equipment was changed – The excavator was swapped from a 3-tonne to an 8-tonne



REMEMBER

1. Ensure you have been briefed on the RAMS for any work you are undertaking
2. If you do not understand this briefing or have further questions, ask your supervisor for additional information.
3. Only undertake work which you have been instructed to complete
4. Always work to the requirements detailed within the RAMS
5. Never enter a live carriageway!

If you cannot work to the RAMS or if the work changes STOP work, report this to your Supervisor and wait until the RAMS have been updated.

Be: **SAFE**

- ✓ **Stop** work if you feel unsafe
- ✓ **Always** report unsafe acts, unsafe conditions and near misses
- ✓ **Follow** safety procedures at all times
- ✓ **Ensure** you are fit for work

‘Be SAFE’ - ‘Let’s All Go Home Safely’