



Safety Alert

Street lighting cable strike

12 April 2021

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

R&W Civil Engineering



Safety Alert

A30 Crooked Billet– Street Lighting Cable Strike.

Overview

During pavement resurfacing works, the task was to reduce the ground down to formation level, which included identifying and exposing two charted street lighting cables by use of hand digging, both cables were successfully identified during the CAT Survey and appropriately marked prior to breaking ground.

The gang began hand digging to expose the two cables, with the first cable found to be routed through orange ducting and the second one with no form of ducting or warning tape, both cables were found at a shallow depth (200mm deep from finished level).

The ground was very hard which made the hand dig more difficult, during the process an operative using an insulated shovel made contact with the second cable, piercing the outer sheathing which in turn created a small flash.

The gang immediately acknowledged they had damaged the cable and stopped the work, reported the incident to the CPS supervisor, R&W Safety team and to SSE the service owner. SSE came to site and repaired the cable with a safe and secure joint.

Immediate actions taken

- All elements of this task were stopped, and the area segregated.
- Cable Avoidance Tool quarantined, ready for data to be downloaded.
- Incident procedures were followed with relevant parties informed.
- Service provider notified, and assessment and repair requested.
- A full investigation is currently in progress.

