

Underground services

Designers can identify all relevant services on drawings which show their adjacency to other features such as foundations, piles and excavations. However, exact locations cannot always be guaranteed without site investigation or surveys. Consideration of existing and even proposed services at concept design stage is important from a strategic perspective.

When carrying out works where there is a risk of underground services which cannot be isolated or diverted, principal contractors and their sub-contractors must therefore, at later stages:-

- Obtain layout drawings from the statutory Authorities.
- Consult the statutory authorities/service owners and follow any advice given.
- Complete permit to dig/break ground.
- Ensure only a competent person uses cable and pipe locating devices.
- Mark and identify route of services.
- Dig carefully by hand to establish and confirm position of buried services.
- Hand held power tools, mechanical excavators; etc. Must not be used within 0.5 metre of the indicated line of a buried service. Ensure that once services are exposed and identified, they are clearly marked using appropriate signage/ marker tape at least every 2m.
- Stop work immediately if an unidentified service is located, and the safe system of work reviewed.
- Ensure exposed services are adequately supported once surrounding earth has been removed.

The PC's Project team must ensure an up to date drawing showing the position of all existing, new and temporary services on site is maintained and made available to all Subcontractors

