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| **Business Unit:** | C2V+ | **Contract No. & Name:** | Macclesfield C14998 |

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| ACTIVITY: | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | | Rev: | 1 |
| Location and scope of Works: | This method statement covers the removal of approximately 80m³ of dried sludge from the bases of Storm Tanks 1, 2, and 3 at Macclesfield Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). The task is weather dependent and will require a two-week window of dry conditions. In the first week, a long reach excavator will be brought to site to agitate and spread the sludge material under direct sunlight to promote drying. In the second week, a combination of a long reach excavator and a 3-tonne excavator (lifted into each storm tank) will be used to scrape and load dried sludge into sealed 20-tonne wagons. The sludge will be transported to Stretford WwTW for disposal. No flows are expected in the storm tanks unless there is a heavy rainfall event. Gas detectors will be in use due to potential biological gas release. The site road to the east of the storm tanks will be closed throughout for wagon access and excavator positioning. A road sweeper will be deployed as necessary. | | | | | | |
| Start date: | April 2025 | Anticipated completion date: | | | May 2025 | | |

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| APPROVAL & AMENDMENT RECORD | | | | | | | |
| Rev | Prepared by | | Date | Reviewed / Approved by | | Date | Amendment Details |
| 0 | Name | Jonathan Jackson | 11/04/25 | Name |  |  | First issue |
| Signature |  | Signature |  |

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| REVIEW / CHANGE LOG | | | |
| Date | Reviewer | Comments | Rev No. |
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| Personnel consulted during preparation of this document: |  |

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| Distribution List: | | |
| Name | Company | Position |
| James Woods | C2V+ | Foreman |
| Ellen Griffin | C2V+ | Senior Engineer |
| Josh Price | C2V+ | Commissioning Manager |

| **RISK ASSESSMENT for:** | | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | | | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | | Rev: | 1 |
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| No. | Hazard | Person(s) at Risk | Undesired event | Control Measures  *(List control measures that are required)* | | | Actioned by | | Date |
|  | Slippery surfaces due to residual moisture | * All site personnel | Slips, trips, and falls | Use absorbent granules, signage, appropriate footwear | | |  | |  |
|  | Heavy plant movements | * Operators, Groundworkers | Collision or crush injury | Banksman in place, exclusion zones, trained operators | | |  | |  |
|  | Excavator tipping in tank | * Excavator Operator | Equipment rollover | Lift plan, lifting eyes tested, stable base, experienced operator | | |  | |  |
|  | Overhead strike from long reach excavator | * Groundworkers | Head or upper body injury | Clear communication, banksman guidance, exclusion zones | | |  | |  |
|  | Dust inhalation from dried sludge | * All personnel | Respiratory issues | Dust masks, damping down, rotate tasks | | |  | |  |
|  | Manual handling of tools | * Operatives | Back strain or injury | Training, correct lifting technique, use mechanical aids | | |  | |  |
|  | Noise from plant and excavation | * All personnel | Hearing damage | Hearing protection, limit exposure | | |  | |  |
|  | Vehicle movements on closed road | Drivers, Operatives | Traffic collision | Road closure signs, banksman, vehicle speed control | | |  | |  |
|  | Potential gas release from sludge | All personnel | Asphyxiation or poisoning | Gas detectors, ventilation, stop work if levels unsafe | | |  | |  |
|  | Unauthorized access to tanks | Public/Uninformed workers | Injury or fall | Fencing, signage, access control | | |  | |  |
|  | Excavator lift failure | All near lift zone | Dropped load | Certified lifting equipment, competent slinger/signaller | | |  | |  |
|  | Spillage from sludge into environment | Environment | Watercourse contamination | Sealed wagons, use of road sweeper, environmental team on call | | |  | |  |
|  | Overturning during 3T excavator lift | Crane Operator, others nearby | Crush injuries | Lift plan, stability matting, weather monitoring | | |  | |  |
|  | Sudden weather change | All workers | Flood risk, loss of traction | Check long-range forecast daily, delay works if needed | | |  | |  |
|  | Exposure to biological hazards | All personnel | Illness or infection | Hygiene stations, PPE, medical briefing | | |  | |  |
|  | Unstable sludge edge | Groundworkers | Entrapment or collapse | Barriers, probe before stepping, rescue plan | | |  | |  |
|  | Driving through contaminated site roads | Drivers, public roads | Pollution or hazard to public | Wheel wash, sealed wagons, road sweeper | | |  | |  |
|  | Chemical residue in sludge | Operatives | Skin burns, inhalation | PPE, COSHH assessment of materials | | |  | |  |
|  | Equipment breakdown mid-task | Operators | Delays, unsafe stoppage | Pre-start checks, backup equipment | | |  | |  |
|  | Fatigue from extended task duration | All workers | Mistakes, injuries | Rest breaks, shift rotation, monitoring | | |  | |  |
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| ACTIVITY: | | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | | | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | Rev: | 1 |
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| METHOD STATEMENT | | | | | | | | |
| Personnel REQUIRED  *Give the number and role of personnel required to carry out activity including any specific skills, fitness levels, training or qualifications required.* | | | | | | | | |
| No. of | Role | | Qualifications / Experience required | | | | | |
|  | Site Supervisor | | | SSSTS or SMSTS, experience in heavy plant operations and excavation tasks | | | | |
|  | Plant Operator (Long Reach) | | | CPCS or NPORS, experience in deep tank and long reach excavations | | | | |
|  | Excavator Operator (3T) | | | CPCS or NPORS, confined area experience preferred | | | | |
|  | Slinger/Signaller | | | CPCS or NPORS A40 qualification | | | | |
|  | Banksman | | | Recognised site banksman training, experience in road vehicle movement | | | | |
|  | Environmental Manager | | | Knowledge of EA waste codes, spill response, and environmental control measures | | | | |
|  | Topman | | | Confined space awareness, safety/rescue trained | | | | |

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| Associated Documents: | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | Required | | Location of document if not attached to this RAMS | | | |
| Yes | No |
| COSHH Assessment Ref. | | | |  |  |  | | | |
| Lift Plan (Nonroutine) H5503 / R07 | | | |  |  |  | | | |
| Rescue Plan *(for working at height)*: | | | |  |  |  | | | |
| Other Documents: *(such as drawings, sketches, consents, licenses, etc.)* | | | |  |  |  | | | |
| Permits / PLANS Required *Indicate those that apply or add other contract specific permits* | | | | | | | | | |
| Permit to Break Ground  H1401 / H1401R | Hot Works Permit  HSE27 | Confined Space Permit  HSE21 | Routine Lift Plan  H5503 /  R07 | | Permit to Operate Plant  H0909 | | Work Near Power Lines  H1408 | Temporary Works  Q25 | Permit to Pump  EMS29 |
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| ACTIVITY: | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | Rev: | 1 |
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| RESOURCES REQUIRED | | | | | |
| Operated Plant | | | | | |
| Long Reach Excavator (week 1 and week 2): used to stir and excavate sludge.  3T Mini Excavator: lifted into tanks for scraping sludge to centre.  20T Sealed Wagons: for transporting dried sludge to Stretford WwTW.  Clamshell bucket | | | | | |
| Non-Operated Plant / Small Tools / Equipment | | | | | |
| Gas detectors (portable)  Hand shovels and scrapers (for minimal manual repositioning)  Spill kits and pads  Traffic cones and barriers  High-pressure washdown hose (if needed)  Cklamp on davit arm and rescue winch  Rescue harnesses | | | | | |
| Materials | | | | | |
| Absorbent granules  Safety signage  Temporary fencing and barriers  Diesel for plant refuelling (from site COSHH store) | | | | | |

| ACTIVITY: | | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | Rev: | 1 |
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| Programme of Operations and Potential Interface with Others: | | | | | | |
| Sequence of Activities / Safe System of Work  *(to include access / egress, plant & pedestrian segregation, limitations & constraints and state any HOLD POINTS)* | | | | | | **Hold Point** |
|  | **Scope of Works**  This method statement covers the removal of approximately 250m³ of dried sludge from the bases of Storm Tanks 1, 2, and 3 at Macclesfield Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). The task is weather dependent and will require a two-week window of dry conditions. In the first week, a long reach excavator will be brought to site to agitate and spread the sludge material under direct sunlight to promote drying. In the second week, a combination of a long reach excavator and a 3-tonne excavator (lifted into each storm tank) will be used to scrape and load dried sludge into sealed 20-tonne wagons. The sludge will be transported to Stretford WwTW for disposal. No flows are expected in the storm tanks unless there is a heavy rainfall event. Gas detectors will be in use due to potential biological gas release. The site road to the east of the storm tanks will be closed throughout for wagon access and excavator positioning. A road sweeper will be deployed as necessary. | | | | |  |
|  | **Personnel and Responsibilities**  The task will involve operatives from various disciplines including plant operators, slinger/signallers, banksmen, environmental officers, and supervisors. Each role is outlined in the following list:  **Site Supervisor** - SSSTS or SMSTS, experience in heavy plant operations and excavation tasks  **Plant Operator** (Long Reach) - CPCS or NPORS, experience in deep tank and long reach excavations  **Excavator Operator** (3T) - CPCS or NPORS, confined area experience preferred  **Slinger/Signaller** - CPCS or NPORS A40 qualification  **Banksman** - Recognised site banksman training, experience in road vehicle movement  **Environmental Supervisor** - Knowledge of EA waste codes, spill response, and environmental control measures  **Topman** - Confined space awareness, safety/rescue trained | | | | |  |
|  | **Hold Points**  **The following are critical hold points during the task:**   1. SHED Permit must be in place before any activity begins in non-handed-over areas. 2. Lifting plan must be approved prior to the 3T excavator being lifted into each storm tank. 3. Environmental control measures must be inspected and signed off prior to excavation. 4. Road closure and traffic management measures must be installed and verified. 5. Gas detection equipment must be tested and confirmed operational before use each day. | | | | |  |
|  | **Sequence of Activities:**  The storm tank emptying operation will be carried out over two continuous weeks of dry weather, broken down into two defined phases: the Drying Phase (Week 1) and the Excavation and Removal Phase (Week 2). The operation is weather dependent and will only proceed following confirmation of a suitable weather window. Each step is critical for safe and efficient progress and has been detailed below.  **Week 1 – Drying Phase (Preparation and Sludge Conditioning)**  **1. Weather Assessment and Programme Lock-In**  The project team will first review long-range forecasts, specifically targeting a minimum of 14 days of dry, stable weather. The drying process relies on consistent exposure to sunlight and ambient air. If heavy rain is forecasted during the period, the works will be delayed. Once the forecast meets the minimum criteria, the programme will be locked in, and resources, plant, and personnel scheduled.  **2. Permit to Work and Safety Planning**  SHED permit documentation will be completed and submitted for approval to allow access into the storm tanks and surrounding infrastructure. All activities must remain within handed-over areas unless specifically agreed by United Utilities via permit. Daily permits and safety documentation will include RAMS briefing sheets, lifting plans, gas detector calibration records, and traffic management plans.  **3. Site Setup and Road Closure Implementation**  The internal site road on the east side of the storm tanks will be formally closed to allow safe movement of plant and wagons. Signage will be installed at all access points warning of the closure, and diversion routes within the site will be implemented. Barriers, cones, and fencing will be used to create an exclusion zone around the work site. All stakeholders will be informed.  **4. Delivery and Positioning of Long Reach Excavator**  The 20-tonne long reach excavator will be delivered to site and offloaded in the designated hardstanding area. It will be tracked carefully into position parallel to Storm Tanks 1, 2, and 3. A banksman will guide the excavator into the exclusion zone and ensure sufficient clearance is maintained from other assets. The excavator will be checked over by the fitter and operator to ensure readiness.  **5. Atmospheric Testing of Tanks**  Before any work begins, each storm tank will be tested for hazardous gases using calibrated gas monitors. Although the task is not classified as a confined space, tanks may hold low levels of methane, hydrogen sulphide, or depleted oxygen. The tanks will be vented as necessary. Results will be logged, and access will not proceed unless all readings are within safe parameters.  **6. Sludge Agitation and Spreading Process**  The long reach excavator will be used to systematically agitate the sludge at the bottom of each storm tank. The aim is to break up crusted or compacted material and spread the sludge evenly across the base of each tank to maximise its exposure to sunlight and wind. The operator will work in an arc pattern to cover all accessible areas from the tank perimeter. Each tank will be worked sequentially.  **7. Daily Monitoring and Condition Logging**  Each day, a designated member of the team will inspect the sludge for drying progress. Photos and notes will be taken on sludge consistency, appearance, and estimated moisture content. Any pools of liquid will be noted and targeted the next day. The aim is to achieve a crumbly, dry texture across most of the surface area by the end of Week 1.  **8. Housekeeping and Haul Route Maintenance**  Throughout the week, a road sweeper will be deployed as required to prevent dust buildup and debris on haul routes and traffic areas. Although wagons will not yet be active, keeping the road clean prevents issues during Phase 2. Plant refuelling will be carried out using spill kits and plant nappies to prevent environmental impact.  **Week 2 – Excavation and Removal Phase (Sludge Transfer and Disposal)**  **9. Lifting of 3T Excavator into Tanks**  At the start of Week 2, the 3-tonne mini excavator will be lifted into each of the storm tanks using a certified lifting plan, slinger/signaller, and excavator lifting frame. Each lift will be carried out individually with exclusion zones and a topman present to guide placement. The mini excavator is essential for moving sludge from corners and hard-to-reach areas to the tank centre.  **10. Sludge Repositioning to Reach Long Reach Access Zone**  Once placed inside, the mini excavator will operate to push and scrape sludge from edges and low points into central mounds accessible by the long reach excavator from above. Operatives will ensure that the mini excavator maintains a safe operating distance from tank walls and any built-in structures.  **11. Excavation and Loading into Sealed Wagons**  The long reach excavator will begin loading dried sludge directly into 20-tonne sealed tipper wagons stationed on the closed eastern road. Each load will be weighed if possible and verified against the estimated total volume (250m³). Wagons must have sealed covers in place before leaving the site to prevent odour or spillage on public roads.  **12. Haulage to Stretford WwTW and Documentation**  All sludge will be hauled to Stretford Wastewater Treatment Works for disposal under agreed waste carrier licenses. Each load will be tracked using weighbridge tickets and Waste Transfer Notes (WTNs). These will be logged and submitted to the Environmental Supervisor. The number of loads required is expected to be 6–8 based on average capacity.  **13. Ongoing Gas Monitoring and Safety Oversight**  Gas detectors will continue to be used daily before tank entry or re-entry. Start of Shift Briefing will be given each morning with task-specific hazards, such as fatigue, weather conditions, and machine interfaces. A site supervisor will remain present throughout all operations to manage any deviations or emergencies.  **14. Progressive Cleaning and Resetting of Each Tank**  After each tank is completed, the access area will be cleaned using brooms, hand tools, or mechanical assistance. Any plant moved in or out will be cleaned of debris. Barriers will be reset, and the team will move to the next tank. Once all three tanks are complete, final cleaning of the exclusion zone and roadways will take place.  **15. Road Reopening and Demobilisation**  Once all works are complete, the road closure will be lifted. All plant will be inspected, refuelled or drained, and loaded out by low loader or flatbed. Barriers and signage will be removed, and the area will be handed back. The site team will complete an end-of-task review and lessons learned discussion before final demobilisation | | | | |  |
|  | **Quality Control:**   1. Site Supervisor to check all permits and pre-start paperwork is complete before each shift. 2. All wagons to be inspected prior to exit for secure loading and potential contamination. 3. Daily photos and sludge depth monitoring to confirm progress. 4. Toolbox talks to include reminders about environmental controls and health precautions. 5. End-of-task review to ensure tank is cleared to required standard and no damage has occurred. | | | | |  |
|  | **Key Points:**   1. SHED Permit: Required for all non-handed-over areas. No access is permitted without formal SHED control. 2. Lone Working: Prohibited during excavation, lifting, or sludge handling. Risk assessment required for any permitted lone tasks. 3. 6-Point PPE: Must be worn at all times on site. 4. Gas Monitoring: Mandatory for any work within the storm tanks. 5. Spill Response: Spill kits must be deployed where plant is refuelled or sludge is handled. 6. Topman Cover: Required during all tank access and recovery support scenarios. | | | | |  |
|  | **Rescue Plan:**  For this activity, a clamp-on davit arm system fitted with a mechanical winch will be installed at the access point to facilitate emergency retrieval. All personnel entering the confined space or working below ground level shall wear a full body rescue harness at all times, secured via retrieval lines to the davit winch. A competent topman will remain stationed at the davit arm for the duration of all entries to monitor for signs of distress, operate the winch in the event of a rescue, and liaise with emergency services as needed.  The following rescue scenarios and corresponding responses have been identified for this task:  **Operative Collapse Due to Heat Stress or Harmful Gas Exposure**  In the event that an operative collapses within the confined space, possibly due to high temperatures, oxygen deficiency, or exposure to harmful gases:   * The topman will immediately raise the alarm and initiate an emergency response by calling 999 and clearly identifying the site location, entry point, and condition of the casualty. * Simultaneously, gas monitor readings will be reviewed and relayed to emergency responders to inform them of atmospheric conditions, including oxygen levels, flammable gases, or toxic vapours. * The operative shall be carefully retrieved using the mechanical winch system on the davit arm. The topman will ensure a smooth and steady lift, maintaining control of the harness line throughout. * Once the casualty is recovered to the surface, first aid will be administered by a trained operative while awaiting the arrival of paramedics or the fire and rescue service.   **Entrapment in Sludge or Soft Ground Conditions**  If an operative becomes partially submerged or stuck in sludge or unstable footing at the bottom of the chamber:   * All plant operations in the immediate area shall be halted to prevent any vibration or disturbance. * The working area will be made safe and isolated from any further access until the rescue is complete. * The topman and a designated second person will utilise retrieval equipment such as rescue ropes, reach poles, or retrieval boards to assist the operative out of the sludge without causing further harm. * If the operative is unable to exit under their own power, the winch system will be used, ensuring that pressure on the harness does not exacerbate any potential injury. * Once the operative is removed, they shall be assessed for shock, hypothermia, or injury and treatment given accordingly.   **Plant Operator Incapacitated While Operating Machinery**  Should a plant operator within the vicinity suffer a medical emergency or become otherwise incapacitated while operating machinery:   * The closest team member will approach the cab using installed access steps, platforms, or designated safety access points, ensuring no contact with moving parts. * The plant item will be isolated by engaging the emergency stop or isolator switch if safe to do so. * The site supervisor will be informed immediately, and emergency services contacted without delay. * The operator will be monitored for consciousness and breathing; if safe and possible, first aid will be administered. * The machine shall remain out of service until a thorough inspection and investigation is completed.   **Injury Occurring During Excavator-Assisted Lifting Operation**  In the event that a team member is injured while involved in the lifting or lowering of items using an excavator (e.g., lifting a wall bridge or blanking plate):   * The lifting operation will be suspended immediately, with all personnel standing clear of the lifting zone. * The area will be cordoned off, and the banksman will ensure no further activity occurs until the site is deemed safe. * A first aider will attend to the injured operative, ensuring that no further harm is caused, especially in cases of suspected fractures or crush injuries. * The Appointed Person (AP) and Site Manager will be informed immediately, and the emergency services called if the injury is serious. * All lifting equipment involved will be quarantined pending an incident investigation.   **Contamination or Chemical Exposure Incident**  If a worker is exposed to chemicals (e.g., sludge, ferric, or contaminated water):   * The affected worker will be removed from the contaminated area and taken to a safe location. * Immediate use of the on-site emergency wash station or portable decontamination kit will be carried out to flush the affected skin or eyes. * The site’s Environmental Manager or Lead will be notified of the incident to assess any further action required, including containment and reporting obligations. * If the chemical poses a health risk, or if the worker shows signs of severe reaction (e.g., burns, respiratory distress), emergency services will be called immediately. * Contaminated PPE and tools will be safely bagged and labelled for hazardous waste disposal in accordance with COSHH procedures. | | | | |  |

| ACTIVITY: | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | | | RAMS Ref.: | | 000 | Rev: | 1 |
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| Mandatory and additional PPE required:  *(rigger boots or similar are banned from use, wellingtons can only be used following inclusion in the RA)* | | | | | | | | |
| Mandatory PPE: | | | Task Specific PPE: | | | | | |
| Safety helmet  Safety boots  High-visibility vest  Cut-resistant gloves  Orange Hi-viz Overtrousers | | | Waterproof PPE/ Waders  Rescue harness for tank entrants | | | | | |
| Environmental considerations: *Consider Waste Management pollution prevention measures, protected wildlife / sites / trees, noise / vibration / dust, resource use. Refer to H02G03 Environmental Guidance for RAMS* | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Management | | | | | | | | |
| Sludge to be removed in sealed wagons to Stretford WwTW; weighbridge tickets retained for traceability. | | | | | | | | |
| Pollution Prevention *(water & ground; consider fuels, concrete & silt)* | | | | | | | | |
| Spill kits deployed. Road sweeper on standby. No open discharge from sludge handling area permitted. | | | | | | | | |
| Protected & Invasive Species | | | | | | | | |
| No protected species observed. Any sightings to be reported to the environmental supervisor immediately. | | | | | | | | |
| Nuisance *(noise, dust, vibration)* | | | | | | | | |
| None | | | | | | | | |
| Resource Use *(fuel, water, aggregates, etc.)* | | | | | | | | |
| Diesel usage logged per machine. Water used for cleaning kept to minimum and from authorised source. | | | | | | | | |
| Other *(archaeology, NRMM, etc.)* | | | | | | | | |
| Road closure signage and route planning to avoid disruption to nearby operations and sensitive receptors. | | | | | | | | |
| Emergency response: | | | | | | | | |
| Event | | Action to be Taken *(indicate location of first aid facilities, fire extinguishers, spill kits, rescue lines)* | | | Emergency Contact Details | | | |
| Fire: | | Raise the alarm, go to the muster point at car park one entrance, fire extinguishers located at MCC notice boards. | | | Alert Fire Warden or 999 | | | |
| Accident: | | Administer first aid (first aid kits in operatives canteen, office reception and MCC noticeboard). Call 999 if needed. | | | Alert First Aider  Ellen Griffin – 07557 104412  Mike Robinson – 07545 345335  Jon Jackson - 07929024920  or 999 | | | |
| Pollution: | | Emergency spill procedure to be actioned. | | | Alert Site Management | | | |
| Water: | | Site management to be informed who will alert UU. | | | Alert Site Management or UU | | | |
| Service strike: | | N/A | | | N/A | | | |

**Record of briefing of the personnel who are to undertake this work:**

*(Extend the table as necessary to record the briefing on any revisions in separate rows)*

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| ACTIVITY: | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | RAMS Ref.: | 000 | Rev: | 1 |
| Briefing Given by: *(name)* |  | Signed: |  | Date: |  |

I confirm that I have received and understood the briefing for the task(s) outlined.

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| Forename | Surname | Role  *(in relation to this task)* | Signature | Date and time |
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| ACTIVITY: | Removal of Dried Sludge from Storm Tanks 1-3 | RAMS Ref.: | | 000 | | | Rev: | 1 |
| **MINOR AMENDMENTS** | | | | | | | | |
| AMENDMENT TO RAMS CARRIED OUT BY *(Supervisor responsible for works)* | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Position | Signature | | | | Date | | Time |
|  |  |  | | | |  | |  |
| AMENDMENT SUMMARY *changes required & reasons for minor amendment(s)* | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| Outline of the significant hazards involved: | | | Outline the controls to be followed to do the work: | | | | | |
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| AMENDMENT TO RAMS APPROVED BY *(Manager responsible for works)[if approval by phone call record date & time]* | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Position | Signature | | | Date | | | Time |
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I confirm that I have received and understood the briefing for the task(s) outlined:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Forename | Surname | Role  *(in relation to this task)* | Signature | Date and time |
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