

WORK ON OR NEAR HIGHWAY BRIDGES

When excavation work is required close to or on bridges the following rules **MUST** be applied:

- Ascertain the extent of the bridge including any retaining walls, closed arches, abutments etc.
- Excavation work **MUST** not encroach within **50 metres** of these points without seeking advice.
- Your line manager must communicate and notify relevant parties for approval e.g. bridge owners and the owner of whatever the bridge crosses – such as the Environmental Agency, Network Rail, British Waterways and private land owners of the work.



Before commencing work ask some key questions:



- What is the depth of cover for existing utilities?
- What method of excavation is permitted?
- What is the bridge's existing state?
- Document any existing damage.

Once a suitable and sufficient method of work has been agreed and approved ensure all personnel working on the project are:

- Part of the on-site risk assessment process.
- Briefed with the site rules.
- Understand the restrictions and limitations that have been put in place.

Do not forget that problems could still occur at the back fill and reinstatement stage of the project. Too much vibration may loosen under arches if made of brick and could again cause major damage.

Damage to a bridge can also cause disruption to the general public such as road users and railway commuters. This type of disruption can be extensive and heavily damage our reputation not to mention a very heavy financial loss.

NEVER TAKE CHANCES, IF IN DOUBT ASK FOR ADVICE!

