

TOOLBOX TALKS

EXCAVATION RISK ASSESSMENT

1



DOCUMENTS

- Ensure **PRE-START SURVEY** and **RISK ASSESSMENT** carried out.
- Where required **PERMIT TO WORK MUST** be used.

SAFE DIGGING

Always carry out a Risk Assessment.

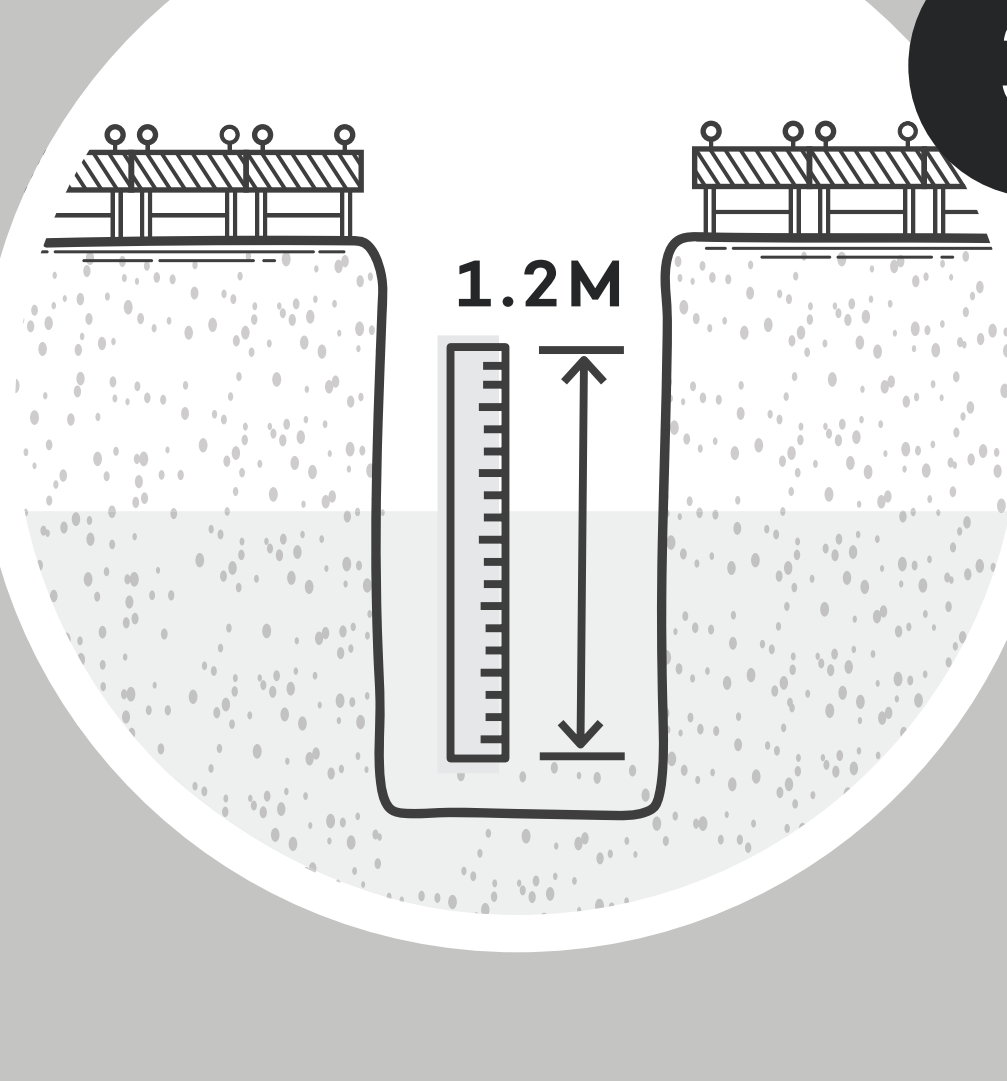
IF IN DOUBT - SHOUT!

- Always use utility plans to help locate plant.
- However, remember:
- They are **NOT** accurate to within 1 metre.
- Utility services are sometimes not shown on plans.
- Use your eyes to check for stop cocks/scars, meter boxes, etc.

2



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UP TO 1.2M

- **COMPLETE** site specific Risk Assessment.
- **IMPLEMENT** Control measures.
- **REVIEW** weekly as a minimum.

1.2M TO 1.5M

- **COMPLETE** Excavation Risk Assessment.
- **IMPLEMENT** Control measures.
- **BRIEF ALL PERSONNEL** on requirements.

4



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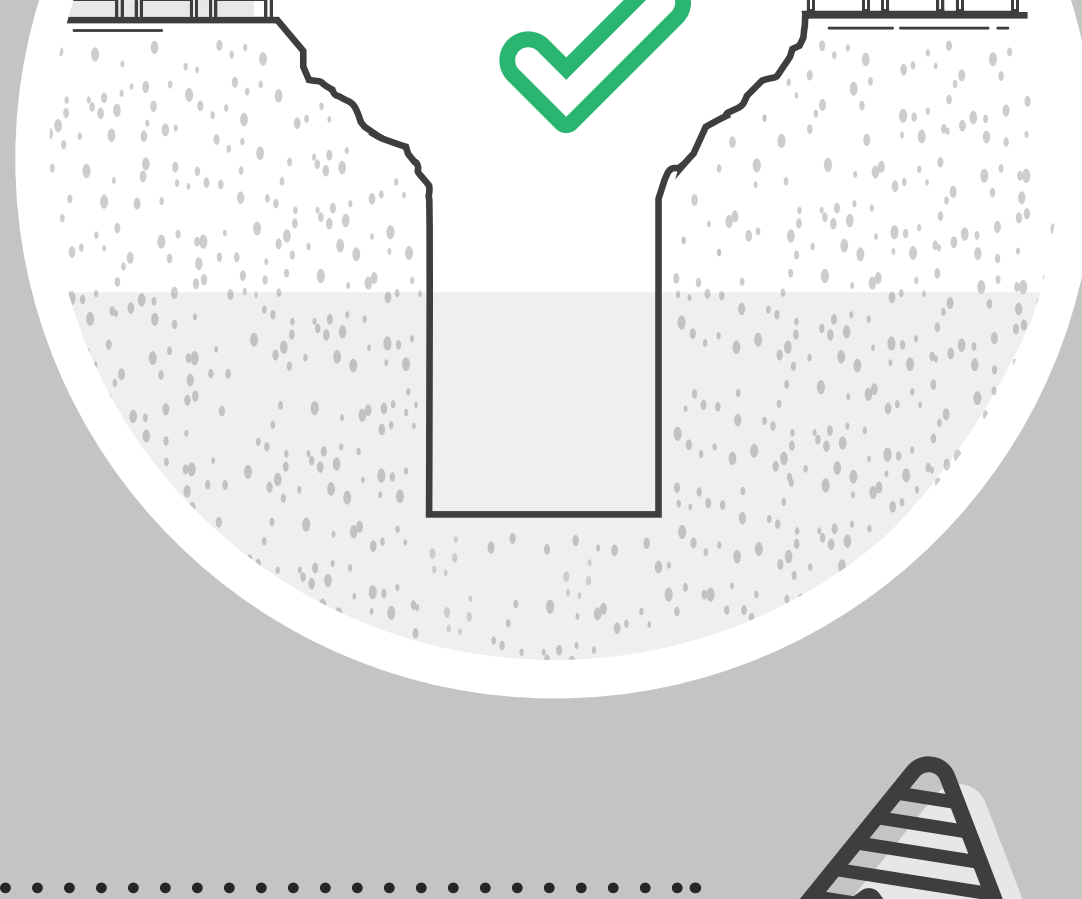
OVER 1.5M

- Permit to Work **REQUIRED**.
- **IMPLEMENT** Control measures.
- **BRIEF ALL PERSONNEL** on requirements.

BATTERING BACK

- Batter back the ground where **SAFE** to do so.
- Ensure angle of battering is safe.
- Ensure vehicle movement is **CONTROLLED**.

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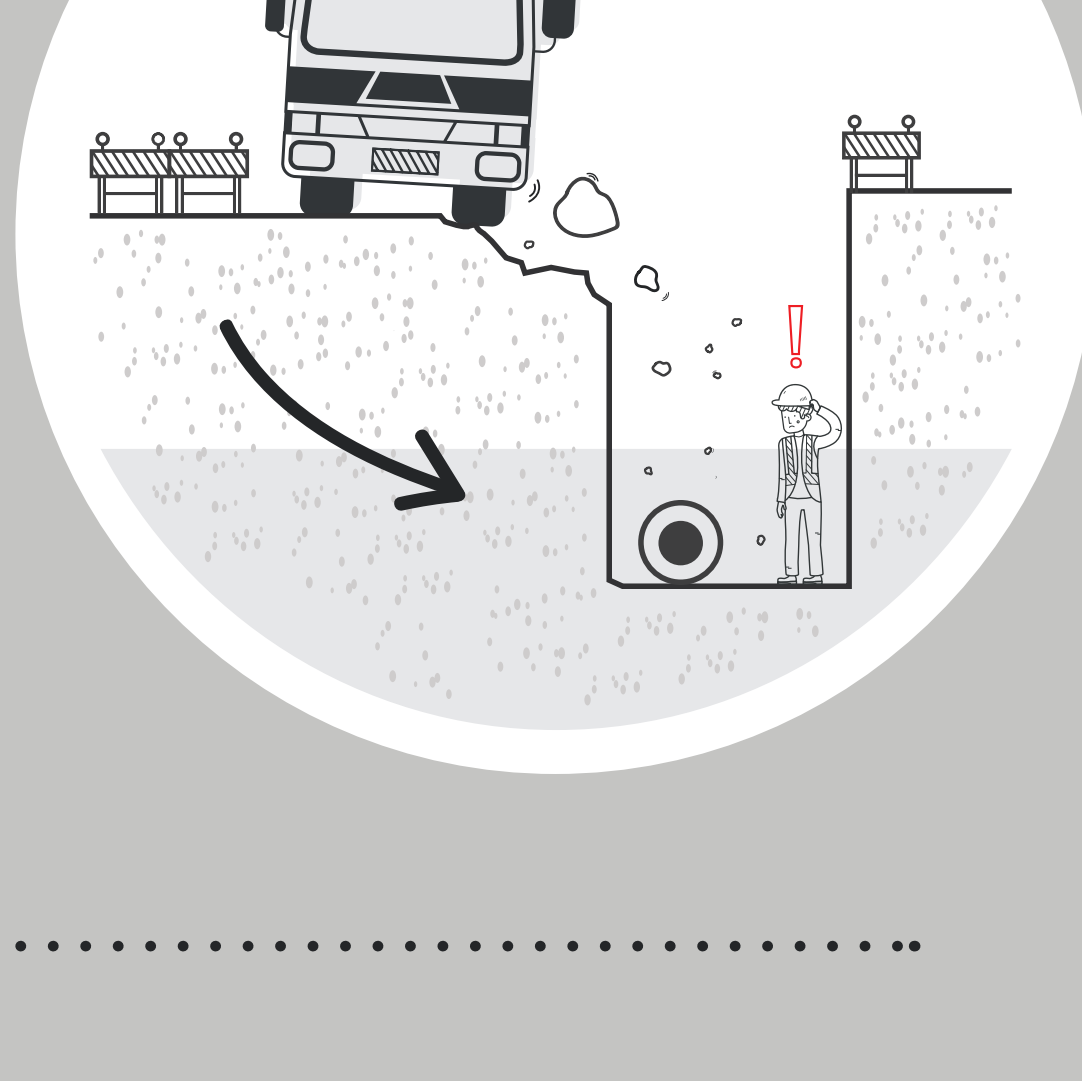
UNSTABLE GROUND

- **CHECK** nearby area for cracks.
- Ground is more **LIABLE TO COLLAPSE** if previously excavated or if there is a high water table.

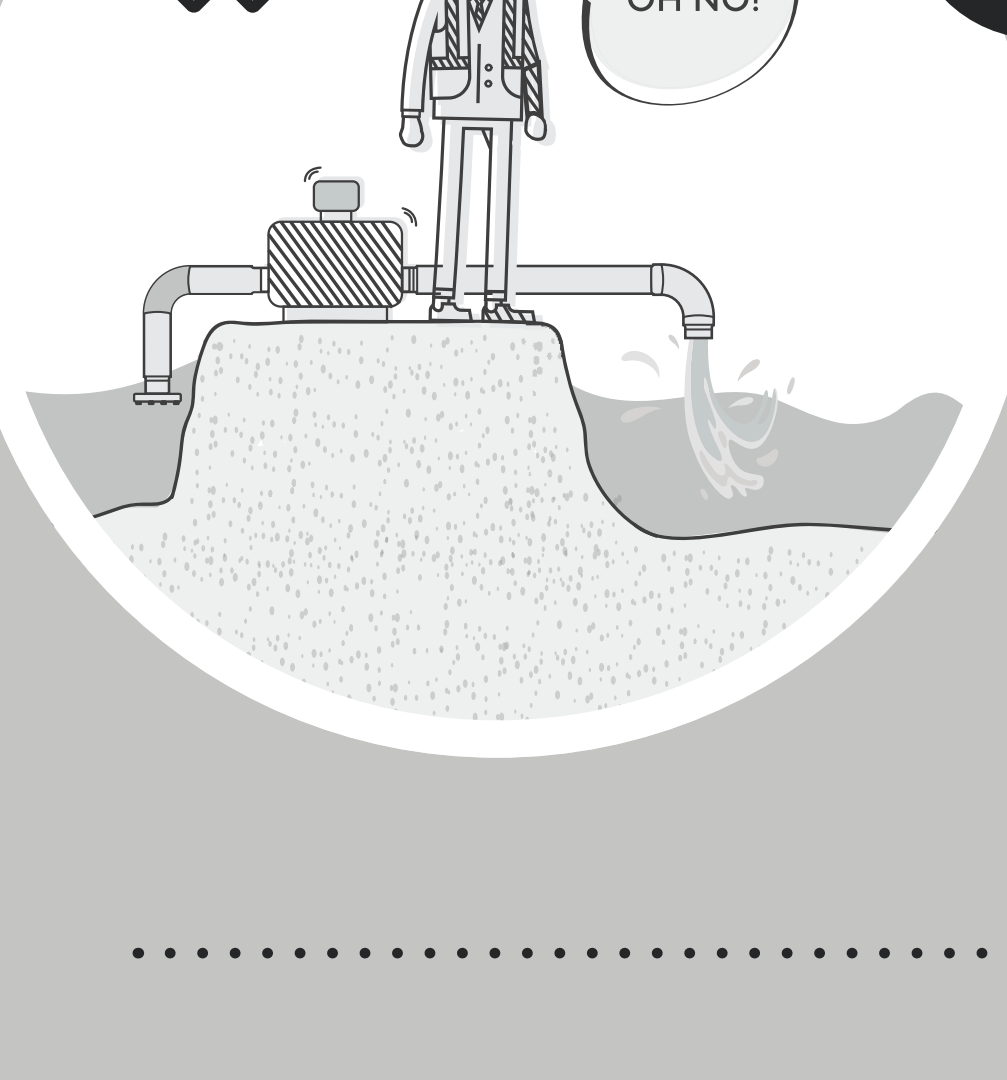
UNDERMINING & TRAFFIC LOADING

- Be aware of a risk of trench collapse when undercutting trench wall.
- Vehicle movement will add loading and may cause collapse.

8



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DE-WATERING

- **BE AWARE** of potential for subsidence and trench collapse.
- De-watering may cause adjacent building to become **UNSTABLE**.

SUMMARY

- Carry out a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment and ensure you have a Permit to Work where required.
- Use utility plans, check scarring and look for street furniture to locate plant
- Batter back where safe to do so and control vehicle movement
- Be aware of unstable ground
- Avoid trench collapsing when undermining, traffic loading and de-watering

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT