

Planning Policy Briefing



Audience: All Planners and Planning managers

Category: Regulatory, Quality & Governance

Important Policy Update

Planning For Pole Erection/Replacement Near Water

Introduction

This briefing should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Briefing [746 - Planning and Surveying for Network Near Water](#).

The new policy has been designed to help reduce the amount of times field engineers are required to climb poles that are situated within the 5 metre "working near water" zone.

The new policy is to be followed whenever we are required to replace an existing pole that is sited within 5 metres of a watercourse.

The new policy

The new policy is to be followed with immediate effect:

- All new poles should be positioned >5 metres from water as per existing policy.
- If we need to replace an existing pole, it should be relocated to a new position >5 metres from water.
- If we can divert our network without additional cost to avoid replacing/planting a pole near water, this should be a priority planning decision.
- If there is no alternative but to replace a pole that is situated within 5 metres of water then a hollow pole should always be used in the first instance.
- If a hollow pole cannot be used then by exception a wooden pole should be used.
- The only valid reasons for not using a hollow pole are:
 - Additional height requirements
 - Connectivity/termination capacity
 - Weight capacity of aerial cable(s)

Policy ISIS documents will be updated to reflect the new policy.

Issued by: Ada Hilton

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Further Guidance

All external planners or survey officers should complete the following CBT.

- The 'safe working on or near water' web-based training is for anyone who works near to water (**course code ORWATER01**).

All external planners or survey officers should read the following documents:

- [Working on or near water policy](#)
- [Working in flood water policy](#)
- [Life jacket usage](#)
- [Duty of care and lone working](#)

Further advice and support

Please contact

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