

MANAGING UNDERGROUND SERVICES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH HSG47



Key Recommendations from HSG47:

PLANNING THE WORK

Obtain Service Drawings: Acquire current and accurate plans from utility companies to identify the location of underground services in the proposed work area.

Conduct Site Surveys: Perform thorough site assessments to detect and map underground services, ensuring that all potential hazards are identified before excavation begins.

Risk Assessment: Evaluate the risks associated with the planned work and develop strategies to mitigate them, incorporating safe systems of work into the project plan.

LOCATING AND IDENTIFYING BURIED SERVICES

Use of Detection Devices: Employ appropriate tools, such as cable and pipe locators, to accurately detect underground services.

Competent Personnel: Ensure that individuals using detection equipment are adequately trained and competent in their operation and in interpreting the results.

Marking Services: Clearly mark the identified services on-site to alert workers to their presence and prevent accidental damage.

SAFE EXCAVATION PRACTICES

Adopt Safe Digging Techniques: Implement methods such as hand digging or vacuum excavation when working near identified services to minimize the risk of damage.

Continuous Monitoring: Regularly monitor the excavation process, adjusting techniques as necessary to maintain safety.

Emergency Procedures: Establish and communicate clear procedures for responding to incidents involving damage to underground services, ensuring that all personnel are aware of the steps to take in an emergency.

By adhering to the guidance outlined in HSG47, organizations can significantly reduce the risks associated with working near underground services, thereby protecting personnel, the public, and the integrity of essential utility networks.

HX Civils Ltd to refer back to the HSG47 document.