



# SHE006 - Excavations

## Introduction

The undertaking of any activity which involves breaking ground or excavations is a high risk activity. Every year people are killed or seriously injured when working in excavations, when services are struck or from collapse.

This information sheet is designed to detail the mandatory requirements that anyone undertaking excavations on an Arqiva site should follow. A number of guidance sheets are available on a variety of subjects. This information should be read in conjunction with the other guidance sheets applicable to the activities you are undertaking.

## General Requirements

- Anyone undertaking excavation work must be trained and competent and understand the risks and the measures needed to control them.
- No excavations are permitted to take place and no permits will be issued without a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and/or method statement covering the proposed work from the contractor or staff engaged to carry out the work.
- The area of the proposed excavation shall be Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanned and consult any available site services drawings.
- Permit to Dig to be issued by a competent person.
- The persons appointed to carry out the excavation must be conversant with HSG47 Avoiding Danger from Underground Services 2000, or an equivalent approved standard. At all stages of the excavation a competent person must supervise the work and workers given clear instructions on working safely in the excavation.
- If work is within 500mm of buried services, only hand digging is permitted.
- Safe access and egress from the excavation is essential. Whenever possible the workings should be covered, or suitable warning notices and barriers placed around it.
- Back filling – Finally care is needed during the filling process. Sand should be laid around and over services with identification warning tape approximately 150mm above the service, or as the individual contract specifies. The excavation shall be back filled and compacted flat and even, not causing a trip hazard. Any excess spoil shall be removed from site.