



## Undermining of Street Lighting Columns

### Introduction

There have been a couple of recent near misses reported where excavations for joint pits have undermined nearby street lighting columns with the potential for them to collapse and on one recent occasion, where it did. In this instance the street lighting column was prevented from coming down on to the Joiner (by his Mate) who was in the excavation finishing off the service joint to it.



### Undermining Nearby Structures

The information below is an abstract from HSE Guidance HSG150 Health and Safety in Construction:

- Make sure excavations do not affect the footings of scaffolds or the foundations of nearby structures\*. Walls may have very shallow foundations which can be undermined by even small trenches.  
*\*This includes street lighting columns and other street furniture.*
- Decide if the structure needs temporary support before digging starts. Surveys of the foundations and the advice of a Structural Engineer may be needed.

### Actions and Recommendations

- All jointing activities are to be risk assessed and where the hazard from undermining structures including street lighting columns is considered likely, operatives are **NOT** to undertake the work as there is a high risk of the column collapsing leading to severe injury of the individual and/or others including members of the public.
- The operative is to report this type of hazard immediately to both the Site Manager and their respective Engineer and record the fact on the Site Specific Risk Assessment, then raise an abortive job which must include a photo with any additional notes.

It is the responsibility of all recipients to ensure that all appropriate employees and contractors are briefed about this safety alert and that their understanding of the contents is checked. Please also display this safety alert on all relevant notice boards.