

# Conditions and information regarding electricity mains

These general conditions and precautions apply to the electricity distribution system of Electricity North West Limited.

Please ensure that a copy of these conditions is passed to your representative and contractor on site.

1. There may be other Electricity North West Limited apparatus in the vicinity, which is not indicated on the cable records. Other apparatus may also be present which a third party owns other than Electricity North West Limited

2. Before any machines are used all of Electricity North West's underground apparatus should be located by manual excavation taking the appropriate safety precautions in accordance with the **Health and Safety Executive Guidance note HS(G)47 "Avoiding danger from underground services"**. This contains advice to site personnel when working near underground services.

Underground services, particularly electricity and gas, can be dangerous. Damage to electricity cables can cause a dangerous flash, leading to severe burns or even death. Gas leaks can cause fire or explosion.

Damage can result from excavation or penetration of the ground, e.g. by a road pin.

Underground services may be found in roads, footpaths and on sites. Always assume that they are present. Treat any services found anywhere as live.

Accidents have happened because people have mistaken one service for another, e.g. black plastic covered electricity cables look like black plastic water pipes and cast iron gas and water mains look alike. Check before you act.

3. Before starting work you must:
  - Make sure you have plans of the underground services in the area. This may not always be possible for emergency or unforeseen works. **Remember that service connection cables and pipes from the main to building or streetlight may not be shown.**
  - Use a cable and pipe locator to trace electricity cables and metal pipes.
  - Look for signs of service connection cables or pipes, e.g. a gas meter or service connection entry into a house or a streetlight.
  - Hand dig trial holes (as many as necessary) to confirm the position of services in close proximity to the area of work.

4. When you start work:

- Hand dig near buried services whenever possible. Spades and shovels are safer than picks, pins or forks.
- Remember that cables may be embedded in concrete. Electricity cables embedded in concrete **must** either be made dead before the concrete is broken out or another safe way of working agreed with the cable owner.
- Watch out for signs of services as work continues.
- Report damage to a cable, pipe or pipe coating however slight.
- Do not use hand held power tools within 0.5m of the marked position of an electricity cable, unless this is impracticable and the line of the cable has been identified by plans and positively confirmed by a locator.
- Do not use hand held power tools directly over the marked line of cable unless:
  - a) You have already found the cable at that position by careful hand digging beneath the surface and it is at a safe depth (at least 300mm) below the bottom of the surface to be broken, or
  - b) Physical means have been used to prevent the tool striking it.
- If an excavator is used near an electricity cable keep everyone clear of the bucket while it is digging. Buckets should not be used near cable – hand dig.
- Do not use exposed services as a convenient step or handhold.
- Do not handle or attempt to alter the position of an exposed service.
- Do not install plant close to an existing service.
- Do not build existing services into a manhole or other structure or encase them in concrete.

Would you also ensure that all site operators have this information and if any electrical apparatus is damaged, they/you should contact Electricity North West Limited fault desk on **0800 195 4141 (option 1)**

5. Overhead lines are not necessarily shown on the Electricity North West Limited cable records but may be present. In the event of work being carried out adjacent to overhead lines (including access, storage etc.) please always ensure strict adherence to the requirements of the **Health and Safety Executive's Document GS6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines"**.

Extreme personal danger can result from contact, or near contact, with live conductors or overhead lines.

**Treat all overhead lines and other electrical apparatus as live. If in doubt, get advice.**

6. Electricity North West Limited must be consulted if work is to take place within 15 metres of overhead lines on steel towers or 9 metres of overhead lines on wood, concrete or steel pylons. (All distances should be measured at ground level from a position estimated by eye to be vertically under the outermost conductor at a tower or pole position) Any person involved in work in the vicinity of overhead lines should:
- Understand and follow the instructions given on safe working areas and methods of work.
  - Make sure that warning notices are in the cabs of machines working in the vicinity of an overhead line.
  - Make sure that barriers and warning notices are erected as required.
  - Not tip soil or stack material underneath overhead lines as this may reduce the clearance to an unsafe distance.
  - Make sure when handling or using platforms, scaffold, poles, piping, ladders, hand tools etc., that they are kept at a safe distance from overhead lines.
  - Not steady a suspended load, skip, hoist wire, slings etc., unless satisfied that there isn't any danger from overhead lines.
  - Remember that when mobile plant, such as a crane or excavator, is operating near overhead lines, the raising or slewing of the jib may introduce danger.
  - Always keep overhead lines in view when manoeuvring mobile plant.
  - Never operate a machine unless carefully guided by an experienced banksman.
  - Not approach or touch any broken or fallen conductors or any plant in contact with an overhead line before Electricity North West Limited confirms that conditions are safe. Warn others to keep well clear.

**Machine operators should note that:** if a machine comes into contact with an overhead line and cannot be disentangled by backing off, remain seated in the cab and warn others to keep clear of the machine until Electricity North West Limited confirms that conditions are safe. If it is essential to

leave the machine while it is in contact with the overhead line, for example if it catches fire, jump well clear – and **do not** attempt to climb down in the normal way nor touch any part of the machine when on the ground.

7. Electricity North West Limited provides approximate locations of its electricity mains or apparatus according to its records but these records are not necessarily accurate or complete and do not always show the position of private cables from mains to properties. No person or company shall be relieved from liability for any damage caused by reason of the actual positions and/or depths being different from those indicated.

8. Care should be taken when excavating near cables. Known road crossings are highlighted on the enclosed plans. Should any cable, or Electricity North West Limited apparatus indicated on the attached plans, be affected by your proposals please contact us as follows:

Data Management  
Linley House  
Dickinson St  
Manchester  
M1 4LF

Telephone: **0800 195 4141 (option 2)**

Details of diversion costs, if any, will be provided on request once your firm proposals have been submitted.

9. Please note that service cables may be affected by some of the works being carried out on site.

If any services do require temporary disconnection please phone **0800 195 4141 (option 2)** for domestic and commercial disconnection, so that arrangement can be made to disconnect before work commences on site.

10. For information regarding supplies please contact us on **0800 195 4141 (option 2)**.
11. Please note that cable records supplied may not be up to date, or may be incomplete, if the area concerned is a new site.
12. For information regarding wayleave or easement agreements contact:

Manchester	<b>0161 604 1341</b>
Preston	<b>01772 848639</b>
Kendal	<b>01539 796082</b>

13. The latest cable records are always available for inspection during normal working hours and you should satisfy yourself that the information you have is up to date at the time you commence work. This service is consistent with the requirement of Regulation 36 of the Electricity Supply Regulations and paragraph 79 of the New Road and Street Works Act.

Please contact Data Management on **0800 195 4141 (option 2)** to arrange an appointment to view the records.



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Registered Number 2366949