

Risk Assessment & Method Statement

Groundworker Example RAMS – Drainage trench and reinstatement works

Version: 1

PUBLISHED

Trade: Groundworker

Review Date: 31/07/2026

Basic Information

Organization: RAMS Builder Example

Client: Example Groundworker Client

Site: Groundworker Example Project - London SW1A 1AA

Scope of Work

Example RAMS covering Drainage trench and reinstatement works with hazards, permits, COSHH controls, emergency planning, and sign-off ready for project review.

Persons at Risk

Operatives, supervisors, visitors, neighbouring trades, and members of the public near the work area.

Hazards & Risk Assessment

5 hazards identified

Excavation collapse

Example control set for groundworker works on Drainage trench and reinstatement works.

Pre-Control: 14 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 5 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Trench support / battering back
- Barriers and signage
- Spoil 1 m from edge

Buried services strike

Example control set for groundworker works on Drainage trench and reinstatement works.

Pre-Control: 13 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 4 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- CAT & Genny scan completed
- Hand dig within 500 mm
- Service plans obtained

Plant / pedestrian interface

Example control set for groundworker works on Drainage trench and reinstatement works.

Pre-Control: 12 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Exclusion zones established
- Banksman in place
- Hi-vis mandatory

Uneven ground / slips

Example control set for groundworker works on Drainage trench and reinstatement works.

Pre-Control: 11 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Housekeeping
- Suitable footwear
- Walkways maintained

Silica dust (cutting slabs / kerbs)

Example control set for groundworker works on Drainage trench and reinstatement works.

Pre-Control: 10 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Wet cutting methods
- RPE (FFP3 mask)
- Dust suppression

Method of Work

6 steps outlined

1

Locate underground services (CAT scan)

Related hazards: Excavation collapse

2

Set up exclusion zones and signage

Related hazards: Buried services strike

3

Excavate safely (trench support as required)

Related hazards: Plant / pedestrian interface

4

Install drainage / services / foundations

Related hazards: Uneven ground / slips

5

Backfill and compact in layers

Related hazards: Silica dust (cutting slabs / kerbs)

6

Reinstate surface and tidy site

Related hazards: Silica dust (cutting slabs / kerbs)

Personal Protective Equipment & Permits

PPE Required

Hard hat

High-visibility vest

Gloves

Steel toe-capped boots

Permits Required

Permit to dig / excavate

Plant movement permit

COSHH Assessments

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

Concrete release agent

Use: Preparing formwork before concrete placement.

Exposure: Skin contact, eye contact

Controls:

- Apply sparingly
- Wear gloves
- Prevent overspray onto walkways

SDS: <https://rams-builder.app/sds/examples/groundworker-release-agent.pdf>

Emergency Procedures

First Aid

Stop work, make the area safe, and summon the appointed first aider. Escalate any serious injury through the site emergency procedure and record the incident before work restarts.

Fire Emergency

Raise the alarm, stop the task, isolate energy sources where safe to do so, and move to the agreed assembly point. Only trained operatives should attempt first-aid firefighting.

Spill Response

Stop the source if safe, isolate the area, use the spill kit or absorbent materials listed in the COSHH controls, and dispose of contaminated waste in line with the SDS.

Nearest Accident & Emergency

Nearest A&E to be confirmed during site induction and briefed to all operatives before works start.

Signatures & Approvals

This document has been reviewed and approved by:

Example Site Supervisor

Groundworker Supervisor

15/01/2026, 09:30:00

This Risk Assessment & Method Statement must be reviewed before work commences.
All operatives must be briefed on the hazards and control measures outlined in this document.