

Risk Assessment & Method Statement

Groundworker RAMS – Drainage trench and reinstatement works

Version: 1

PUBLISHED

Trade: Groundworker

Review Date: 03/12/2026

Basic Information

Organization: Foundations Civil Engineering Ltd

Client: Eastway Infrastructure Ltd

Site: Eastway Logistics Drainage Works - Peterborough PE1 1NG

Scope of Work

This RAMS covers Drainage trench and reinstatement works at Eastway Logistics Drainage Works. It sets out the planned sequence of work, foreseeable hazards, control measures, permits, PPE, COSHH arrangements, emergency actions, and supervision requirements. The supervisor must review this document with the site-specific induction, construction phase plan, drawings, permits, and changing conditions before work starts.

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

Excavation collapse can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Drainage trench and reinstatement works. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 14 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 5 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Trench support / battering back
- Barriers and signage
- Spoil 1 m from edge
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Buried services strike

Buried services strike can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Drainage trench and reinstatement works. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 13 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 4 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- CAT & Genny scan completed
- Hand dig within 500 mm
- Service plans obtained
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Plant / pedestrian interface

Plant / pedestrian interface can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Drainage trench and reinstatement works. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 12 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Exclusion zones established
- Banksman in place
- Hi-vis mandatory
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Uneven ground / slips

Uneven ground / slips can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Drainage trench and reinstatement works. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 11 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Housekeeping
- Suitable footwear
- Walkways maintained
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

Silica dust (cutting slabs / kerbs)

Silica dust (cutting slabs / kerbs) can affect operatives and adjacent trades during Drainage trench and reinstatement works. Controls are to be verified at the point of work by the supervisor.

Pre-Control: 10 (Medium Risk)

Post-Control: 3 (Low Risk)

Control Measures:

- Wet cutting methods
- RPE (FFP3 mask)
- Dust suppression
- Brief operatives at the daily start-of-shift coordination meeting and stop work if conditions change.

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 contact the appointed first aider via the site emergency number confirmed at induction. The supervisor must report serious incidents to Foundations Civil Engineering Ltd management and prevent work restarting until the area is safe.

Fire Emergency

Raise the site alarm, stop the task, isolate energy sources only where safe, and proceed by the signed escape route to the designated assembly point. Do not attempt firefighting unless trained and it is safe to do so.

Spill Response

Stop the source if safe, cordon the area, and use the site spill kit or absorbent materials specified by the relevant SDS. Prevent entry to drainage, segregate contaminated waste, and report the event to the supervisor.

Nearest Accident & Emergency

Nearest A&E and the agreed emergency vehicle access point must be confirmed during the Eastway Logistics Drainage Works induction, recorded in the daily briefing, and communicated to all operatives.

Signatures & Approvals

This document has been reviewed and approved by:

Lewis Carter

Groundworker Supervisor

03/08/2026, 10:30:00

Demonstration document using fictional project information. It must be reviewed, adapted, and approved for the actual site before work commences.

All operatives must be briefed on the hazards and control measures that apply to the live task.