

Working on or near highways

Highways include public accessed land and includes roads and pavements.

Working on or near the road

If you are:

- excavating any part of the highway;
- lifting manhole covers on the road or footpath;
- causing significant obstruction to road users;
- undertaking mobile works along the highway, such as grasscutting;
- obstructing the footpath which leaves less than 1.2m of footpath for people to pass or forcing people to cross or use the road;

then there must be a Unit 2 signing, lighting and guarding certificated person on site at all times when the work is being undertaken.

They should undertake a site risk assessment before any works can continue.

When doing mobile works

- You must have a roof-mounted amber flashing beacon operating on the vehicle.
- The vehicle must be fitted with a Keep Right/Left sign to warn drivers approaching on the same side of the carriageway, and telling drivers, which side to pass on.

Working on major roads

- Major roads are motorways and dual carriageways.
- No work can be carried out on major roads unless you're working under the direct supervision of either the Highways Agency or the Emergency Services.

Sampling and borehole monitoring

Many borehole monitoring and sampling sites are located in the grass verge or on bridges and because of their location/position there is a risk of:

- staff being struck by vehicles;
- other vehicles colliding with our stationary vehicles;
- drivers of oncoming vehicles being distracted and causing an accident.

As a general guide you must:

- park to ensure compliance with the highway code and good practice;
- never obstruct the road/footpath so that we force people to cross or use the road;
- ensure oncoming drivers have the maximum opportunity to see our operatives working in the grass verge or on the bridge;
- not use our vehicle as a form of protection against oncoming traffic;
- park to avoid the need to reverse back onto the main carriageway when moving on to the next site.

Where the vehicle has been parked within sight of the sampling point the vehicle's roof mounted flashing lights must be in operation.

Access routes to the site should be along footpaths where feasible, where this is not possible then the route should provide good visibility of oncoming vehicles and good visibility of the site for the drivers of oncoming vehicles.