

Excavation warning

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has issued a series of warnings about safe work practices to the ground engineering market after a number of recent court cases.

The calls for care follow the successful prosecution of two basement contractors for failings. Another contractor was fined after a worker was injured following a trench collapse.

HSE principal inspector Emma Stiles said: "Basement work must be properly planned to ensure the structural integrity of the building throughout the construction work. When this type of work is done badly, workers and members of public are at significant risk of serious injury or death. In addition, we cannot underestimate the impact on the homeowners

when their properties are extensively damaged."

HSE inspector Alison Outhwaite commented: "The trench case highlights the need to be aware of the risks of working in and near excavations. The groundwork industry needs to appreciate the risks even where excavations are thought to be 'shallow' or the ground considered to be stable."



HSE has started an investigation after a worker was trapped in a collapsed trench on a housing development in Harrogate, North Yorkshire in April. The man's injuries are not believed to be serious.

PROSECUTIONS

PVAD was recently fined £52,859 for several safety breaches found during an inspection. They included no protection around a 4m deep basement excavation in London and failure to improve following the inspection.

Glen Peters was imprisoned

for seven months and ordered to pay £7,000 after a house collapsed in Brighton during basement work in 2015 after failing to ensure the structural integrity of the building during the work.

KDS Construction Company was fined £70,000 and ordered

to pay over £4,000 in costs after a worker suffered life threatening injuries while working in a trench. KDS' employee was working in a 2m deep excavation in September 2016 when he was struck on the head and pinned down by a large concrete segment.

National Grid tenders three tunnel schemes

National Grid is seeking supply chain partners for three tunnelling projects across the UK.

The cable tunnel projects are the 33km second phase of the London Power Tunnels tunnels between New Cross and Wimbledon and from Hurst to New Cross, the 4km Menai Tunnel in South Wales and a 3.3km tunnel in Snowdonia in North Wales.

National Grid is calling on all potential supply chain partners to express an interest to participate in a pre-procurement early market engagement process, ahead of the invitation to tender for the cable tunnelling projects and associated infrastructure.

Public consultation for the second phase London Power Tunnel project has also got underway after the first £1bn phase of the project opened in February. Work on the second phase is expected to start in summer 2019 and will take approximately eight years.

● **Turn to page 20 to read about the latest National Grid tunnel to start construction in Humberside**

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