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NJUG

Vision for Street Works

*National Joint Utilities Group -
the utilities' focus on Street Works*

2010/2011

NJUG



For further information, please visit the NJUG website at www.njug.org.uk, or write to NJUG at 111 Buckingham Palace Rd London SW1W 0SR, or telephone 020 7340 8737.

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NATIONAL JOINT UTILITIES GROUP THE UTILITIES' FOCUS ON STREET WORKS

Since it was launched in April 2007, the NJUG Vision For Street Works has generated significant interest and debate and has become a focal point and catalyst for change for utilities and their contractors.

To continue to make the Vision a reality, we must all embrace changes to the way we operate, and constantly plan to minimise the impact of our works. Indeed you will see the Vision has been amended to reflect this, with the 2010/11 edition aimed at making Street Works in the UK consistently World Class. We have also listened to those affected by our works and, in line with the findings of a public opinion survey, introduced a new statement to improve communications, whilst also looking for ways to ensure sites are fully occupied and disruption is reduced.

I was pleased to launch the NJUG Awards in 2008 for our members to demonstrate how they are meeting the Vision and this resulted in over 50 examples of good practice. Many of these case studies have been shared across the industry and I am pleased to say many are now becoming common practice rather than simply examples of good practice. The 2009 Awards have delivered even more entries and these will be shared via our website, the Department for Transport, The Scottish Road Works Commissioner and through HAUC(UK) events and NJUG Fora throughout the coming year. To view, and for further information, please visit www.njug.org.uk



Les Guest
CEO NJUG

NJUG'S VISION FOR WORLD CLASS STREET WORKS

- Safety is the number one priority
- Utilities deliver consistent high quality
- Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities and contractors to minimise disruption
- Utilities keep the public fully informed on all aspects of works
- Utilities maximise the use of sustainable methods and materials
- Damage to underground assets is avoided



“ Safety, quality and protection of underground assets are principles embedded in our Environmental Leadership strategy which aspires to go beyond compliance in our approach to our stakeholders' expectations. ”

*Richard Flint, Chief Operating Officer,
Yorkshire Water*

NJUG'S VISION FOR WORLD CLASS STREET WORKS

Street works are essential activities carried out by electricity, water, gas and communications utilities to maintain, enhance, extend, renew and repair their networks.

Utilities undertake street works for four main reasons - safety, security of supply, to connect new customers/ enhance existing customers' supplies, or to divert apparatus to facilitate major urban regeneration or transport infrastructure projects.

NJUG is the UK industry association representing utilities and their contractors on street works issues. Our members include the Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas companies), Water UK (representing water and sewage companies), National Grid, Openreach and Virgin Media.

NJUG is the utility arm of the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee representing street works in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales known as HAUC(UK).

NJUG's focus is on promoting best practice, safety, quality, co-ordination and communication of works as well as representing utilities in discussions with Government and other stakeholders on street work issues.

NJUG will continuously promote this Vision and the NJUG Strategy to all utilities and their contractors, and will provide the expertise and experience to deliver it.

“ We make every effort to demonstrate our commitment to managing high-standard street works. This is reflected in the CE Electric UK Street Care Charter. This is a public statement of our commitment to responsible street works which embraces the objectives of NJUG's Vision for Street Works, a vision which we fully endorse. ”

Phil Jones, President & Chief Operating Officer, CE Electric UK

“ Safety, continual improvement and the encouragement of best practice remain uppermost in the day-to-day operations. ”

Graham Edwards, Chief Executive of Wales and West Utilities

SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

Our Aim

To encourage all utilities and their contractors to act in a responsible and caring manner whilst carrying out street works. The safety of the general public and street workers being the number one priority.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Continually raise awareness and promote compliance with the Code of Practice, 'Safety at Street Works and Road Works', utilising method statements and risk assessments.
- Encourage all utilities and their contractors to maintain high standards of training and competence.
- Promote awareness of other safety related legislation and codes of practice.

NJUG members are:

- Working with Department for Transport (DfT) and local authorities to keep the HAUC(UK) Safety Code of Practice up to date.
- Reviewing and re-issuing NJUG's suite of Publications providing technical, safety and quality standards guidance on working in the public highway.
- Working with the Highways Term Maintenance Association on Safer Practices.
- Reviewing equipment holdings in vehicles and launch of a site safety DVD (Openreach).
- Successfully implementing a 'Road to Zero' Safety campaign (National Grid).
- Promoting safety DVDs, such as EDF Energy's 'On Any Work Day'.



UTILITIES DELIVER CONSISTENT HIGH QUALITY

Our Aim

To promote all utilities and their contractors to strive for continuous improvement and high quality in all aspects of carrying out street works.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Continually raise awareness and promote compliance with all relevant Codes of Practice relating to street works.
- Encourage all utilities and their contractors to maintain high standards of training and competence.
- Encourage utilities to support coring programmes.
- Develop a suite of management information for comparison across the utility sector.
- Promote best practice through the NJUG Awards and through the HAUC(UK) Best Practice Group.
- Understand how street works in the UK compare to other leading countries.
- Commit to supporting the five year reassessment plan.



NJUG members are:

- Promoting NJUG Street Works Fora - events around the country explaining the Vision with utilities and contractors, presenting examples of best practice and engaging with key stakeholders.
- Continuing to review NJUG's suite of Publications providing technical, safety and quality standards guidance on working in the public highway.
- Improving the quality of notices through a range of initiatives - National Grid's 'No Notice, No Dig' campaign, Openreach Notice Improvement Programme and EDF Energy's goal of Destination Zero.
- Carrying out independent site audits, and joint inspections with local authorities.
- Sharing best practice by:
- Contributing to HAUC (UK) Good Practice Guide updates.
- Producing NJUG's own Best Practice documents.

UTILITIES WORK TOGETHER AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CONTRACTORS TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION

Our Aim

To ensure all utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Continually raise awareness with utilities over the need to improve co-operation, co-ordination and long-term planning of works; with utilities, their contractors and with local authorities.
- Encourage all utilities to ensure durations for street works are minimised wherever possible, and the number of overruns (prolonged occupation) are reduced.
- Support initiatives such as Transport for London's Advanced Planning and London Works and considerate contractor schemes.
- Encourage more instances of joint occupation.



NJUG members are:

- Proactively supporting HAUC(UK), RAUC (Scotland), NIRAUC, Welsh HAUC and Regional HAUCs.
- Encouraging members' contract partners to become Associate Members of NJUG (bringing their expertise and commitment to the delivery of the Vision).
- Establishing long-term Planning Co-ordination Programmes in London (EDF Energy, National Grid, Thames Water and Southern Gas Networks) and West Midlands (National Grid, Severn Trent Water, South Staffs Water and Central Networks).
- Working with Transport for London and lead London boroughs to co-ordinate street and road works on the seven road networks that make up the Olympics 2012 Road Network under the banner Clearway 2012.
- Creating partnership with local authorities to identify and achieve common goals.
- Working with London Mayor to implement the London Code of Conduct and to establish a common national Code of Conduct.



UTILITIES KEEP THE PUBLIC FULLY INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS OF WORKS

Our Aim

To encourage all utilities and their contractors to communicate effectively with the public on all aspects of street works before they take place and whilst in progress.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Identify best practice and share with all members.
- Engage with key stakeholders to understand how they regard street works in the UK and how they can be improved.
- Work with local authorities to publicise activities effectively through appropriate media.
- Engage with stakeholders to explain the need for essential street works.

NJUG members are:

- Establishing consistent information boards to explain who is carrying out the work, why and when work is taking place, why a site may be unoccupied, and to provide a 24/7 contact number.
- Using where appropriate, variable messaging signs.
- Engaging with motoring groups (such as the AA and RAC Foundation) to understand the most effective way of keeping motorists informed.
- Explaining the need and extent of works to local communities and residents before major works take place, by leaflets or meetings.
- Communicating with the public via media such as local and national press.
- Improving all stakeholders understanding of the need for street works and promoting the value added to society by these essential works.



UTILITIES MAXIMISE THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE METHODS AND MATERIALS

Our Aim

To ensure all utilities and their contractors take all practical steps to maximise the use of sustainable methods and materials such as minimum dig technology, reducing the amount of material that goes to landfill through reusing or recycling excavated materials.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Continually raise awareness and promote the use of more sustainable methods and materials.
- Promote the reduction in the amount of material that goes to landfill through reusing or recycling of excavated materials.
- Engage nationally to promote wider and expeditious approval of recycled materials.
- Develop from current available sources a system to measure sustainability within member organisations, to identify and reduce the impact of utility companies in social, environmental, and economic fields.
- Understand how sustainability of street works is achieved across Europe for comparison with the UK.
- Identify volume of materials sent to landfill to assist waste reduction.
- Create a sustainability vision for 2012.

NJUG members are:

- Using the NJUG Sustainability Working Group to drive this key area forward, sharing best practice and co-ordinating sustainability activities on behalf of NJUG members.
- Actively Participating on WRAP (Waste, Recycling Action Programme).
- Promoting recycling through a range of initiatives - EDF Energy Recycling Project (Destination Zero) and National Grid's 'Road to Zero' Project.
- Creating regional action groups.
- Continuing to promote Graffiti Partnerships with local authorities (Openreach and Virgin Media).
- Reducing the use of virgin materials through new contracts.
- Supporting academic research.
- Promoting the use of alternative fuel vehicles and equipment.
- Promoting national use of locally approved materials.



DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND ASSETS IS AVOIDED

Our Aim

To ensure all reasonably practicable steps are taken to ensure damage to underground assets is avoided whilst carrying out works.

Therefore NJUG will:

- Continually raise awareness with utilities and their contractors of the need to improve the accuracy of recording locations of underground assets; namely electricity cables, gas and water pipes, communications cables and ducts, waste water pipes, and other structures such as tunnels and sewers.
- Encourage high standards of training and competence to ensure everything is done to avoid damage.
- Encourage all to follow good practice prior to any excavation being carried out; including obtaining and using plans to check location of underground services, and using underground service location equipment and professional surveys.

NJUG members are:

- Actively supporting all the following projects. These are driving improved accuracy and timeliness of underground asset records, ultimately enabling all those working in the street to access more accurate data on the location of underground services and to work safely:
- Participation in NUAG (the National Underground Assets Group).
- VISTA - (Visualising integrated information on buried assets to reduce street works).
- Project ORFEUS - (Optimising Radar to Find Every Utility in the Street) - identifying plant using radar technology.
- Mapping the Underworld - better mapping of underground assets.
- Proactive membership of the DFT Records Group.



“We support and look forward to working with NJUG and believe your initiatives will take the industry forward and minimise the disruption and inconvenience of unavoidable street works by the utility sector”.

Tony Cooke, Managing Director, Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water

“Central Networks is pleased to endorse the NJUG Vision for Street Works. We take our safety, environmental and social responsibilities seriously and feel that the objectives of the NJUG Vision for Street Works align well with our own”.

John Crackett, Managing Director, Central Networks

“As Associate Members of NJUG, we are pleased to endorse their Vision for Street Works, as it aligns closely with our own aspirations and values. We look forward to working collaboratively with our fellow NJUG members and Local Authority partners to bring the aspirations of the NJUG Vision to reality and the benefit of all”.

Phill Price, Business Unit Leader, Laing O’Rourke Infrastructure

“Virgin Media, one of the UK’s leading entertainment and communications companies, is delighted to support NJUG’s vision for street works. As a founder member and active current member of NJUG Ltd, we will continue to work with utility colleagues, highway authorities and governments to raise quality, maintain safety standards and reduce unnecessary congestion”.

Paul Buttery, Managing Director - Access Division, Virgin Media

