

TRIAL PITTING STILL FIT FOR PURPOSE?

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Why Trial Pitting

- Economical investigative tool
- Good site coverage
- Clearly identify subtle strata changes, water entries, stability and excavatability
- Obtain a range of and large volumes of samples
- Can undertake other tests e.g. CBRs, BRE 365, hand vanes etc

Legislation

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 Section 2
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 Reg 22
- Avoidance of Danger from Underground Services HSG 47 2014
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005
- Confined Space Regulations 1997
- The Safe Use of Vehicles on Construction Sites HSG144 2009

Managing the Risks

- Adequate/sufficient training
- Falls of people and/or vehicles into excavations
- Collapse of excavations - surcharging
- Underground services
- Contaminated ground – e.g. asbestos
- Contact with excavation plant and equipment
- Confined space – asphyxiation
- Manual Handling

Managing the Risks

- UXOs
- Water ingress / contaminated water
- Protection to the public or livestock
- Struck by flying debris
- Undermining buildings or structures
- Fatigue – travel home
- BRE 365 tests – additional risks?

Managing the Risks

- Secondary Risks
 - Poor reinstatement – trip hazards
 - Inadequate backfilling - hazardous material left at surface e.g. asbestos, reinforcing bars
 - Potential soft spots beneath foundations
 - Inadequate repair of damaged services (e.g. land drains)

Excavation Accidents & Incidents

- Trial Pit Fatality
- Unreported incidents? How many have fallen into pits, being struck by plant, damaged services? Are they always reported?
- Industry experiences and lessons learnt

The Alternatives

- Window sampling
- Non intrusive methods
- Remote technology - drones

Summary

- Safe Practice?



Courtesy of AGS

Summary

- Should we rethink trial pitting?
- Does the industry need better training?
- A robust safe system of work
- Adequate emergency procedures
- Free safety guidance from AGS
- How can you help?

Thank You For Listening



Courtesy of HSE