

Industry Safety Share

Piling Contractor Strikes Water Main



Association of Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Specialists

Incident Details:

A piling contractor working on the Nottingham College site in Chilwell (AECOM were not involved in this project), struck a water main which runs through the site.

Arriving on the scene a Severn Trent operative records video footage of water, brick and spoil being ejected from the excavation across the nearby houses and streets.

The incident resulted in several houses being evacuated and roads close due to flooding.

The piling contractor declined to comment, as did the principal contractor.

Investigation is ongoing.

Severn Trent Recording: [Here](#)

Overhead Footage: [Here](#)



Causation:

As with almost all utility strikes the cause will be as a result of a breakdown in the utility avoidance processes.

Potential causes;

- Insufficient or poor communication of utility mapping & record
- Inadequate permit process
- Setting out errors
- Non-conformance or violations of workforce

Corrective Actions:

N/A

Industry Learning:

1. Always check for existing utilities.
2. Confirm existing utility locations through PAS Type B Survey.
3. Ensure the use of a robust permit to dig system.
4. Always fully read the permit to dig and apply controls.
5. Ensure competent supervision for all work tasks.

More Information:

Additional reading on safety excavation and the identification of underground utilities, refer to the AGS Client Guides for Trial Pitting.

AGS Client Guides: [Available Here](#)