

# Best Practice Bulletin #5

## Maintaining sight of buried services

### The problem

There have been occasions when having successfully located a service by exercising best practice and high standards of care, we've then inadvertently damaged the service during subsequent works. Sometimes this is due to the delineation of the 500mm exclusion zone being lost during the excavation process. Conventionally, spray paint is used to define the line of a known service which tends to get covered or removed.

Timber posts with warning signs attached driven into soft ground either side of a proposed dig are an effective means of highlighting the presence of services. However, there are occasions when posts can not be driven i.e. through an asphalt road surface; in these circumstances steel pins welded to flat plates do offer an alternative method.

However, using steel pins or timber posts either side of the dig does not give the banksman the actual line of the exclusion zone. In most cases the banksman uses an inaccurate means of sighting himself between the posts or pins.

### The solution

The solution is based on a method adopted by a fellow NCF2 contractor using a laser to solve a problem relating to batter control. To delineate the extent of the mechanical dig exclusion zone, two lasers are used.

The banksman can easily determine the line by placing his shovel in front of one of the lasers. The alignment and effectiveness of the lasers can be checked by looking for the laser dots on a board established on the opposite side of the dig.

The trial at Steeple Bumpsead FAS showed that the solution was suitable for situations where there are only a few services, and the line of the services is known to be straight. A very simple and relatively cheap solution – materials costing less than £50!

