

PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO VULNERABLE CABLE CROSSINGS AND SUPPORTING STRUCTURES

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy defines the approach to be taken in the inspection and classification of all new and existing cable crossings, bridges and associated support structures with regard to the risks of unauthorised access, interference and the approach to be taken in preventing unauthorised access and interference. This policy only applies to cable crossings, bridges and associated support structures which are located on non operational land which is not covered by ESQC regulations.

PART 1 – POLICY

1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment shall be conducted by a person with the appropriate knowledge or experience and completed in line with the Risk Assessment outlined in TGN(E) 279 'Unauthorised Access Risk Classification and Inspection of Vulnerable cable Crossings and Support Structures', at a time identified in the document.

1.2 Routine Inspection

The routine inspections shall be conducted by a person with the appropriate knowledge or experience and shall be completed at a frequency identified by the Risk Assessment, i.e. in the period of October, November & December (winter period) and/or February, March and April (spring period) as appropriate.

2 CLASSIFICATION OF RISK

All cable crossings and bridges shall be the subject of a risk assessment (TGN(E) 279) and shall, as a result be classified as either *high or low* risk.

New crossings/bridges and supports shall be classified before construction and suitably designed to mitigate the risk.

High Risk crossings are defined as a crossing which by its nature and situation, has historically been, or is assessed as being liable to such that they present a higher than normal danger to persons from interference, vandalism or unauthorised access. The risk classification of each bridge and associated structures shall be reviewed at each routine inspection, which shall be undertaken in either the winter or spring periods for low risk structures, or both periods for high risk category structures (as stipulated in Section 1.2); or as necessitated by changes or events in the immediate area of the circuit. Any low risk structure shall have a maximum period between inspections no greater than 12 months.

The risk classification of an asset should not reduce once appropriate mitigating measures are put in place in accordance with the risk classification assigned. This is because in many cases the potential for danger from interference will remain. Only consider changing the risk classification when the equipment is replaced. Change of use of the surrounding land (such

as building of new housing estates) would normally increase likelihood, which in turn increases the risk assessment score.

However following a suitable and sufficient assessment the control measures (for example reducing the inspection frequency) can be altered in relation to the potential risks.

3 INSTALLATION OF ACCESS PREVENTION MEASURES (APM) AND SAFETY SIGNS

Where there is evidence of continued unauthorised access to a cable bridge, the lower parts of the supporting structure should be fitted with suitable and sufficient guarding to prevent unauthorised access, examples of which can be found in TGN(E) 279.

All gates, fences and APMs (Access Prevention Measures) shall be fitted with a safety sign to TS 3.05.07 facing in the most likely direction of approach.

Gates shall be locked (with a suitable lock) or otherwise secured in the closed position to prevent unauthorised access.

4 INSPECTION

4.1 Completion of Access Prevention Risk Assessment

In order to generate a risk score the details of the crossing are to be captured using the work script 'VUNCABRA - Cable Crossing Risk Assessment'. The subsequent risk score will determine the frequency of future inspection and whether the cable bridge / crossing require the installation of further access prevention measures (APM's).

4.2 Security Risk Ranking Matrix

When completing the risk assessment script, assessments shall be made in relation to accessibility to crossings/bridges including the possibility of access from structures that are not owned by National Grid. Where there is a high likelihood of this occurring communication shall be made with third parties to ensure that any risks are minimised and remedial actions are agreed. The details and outcomes of communication with Third parties should be recorded. The supervisor and / or Team Leader shall be notified to assess the appropriate course of action.

4.3 Assessment of Any Existing Measures

Existing measures which can include anti-vandal/climb guards, fences and any obstructive equipment preventing access to a crossing/bridge can be included in an assessment. Where these prevention measures are not owned by National Grid an assessment of their condition should also be made and this should be highlighted within the comments section (e.g. third party fencing or shared anti-vandal/climb guards). The person undertaking the inspection / SAP shall notify the supervisor and / or Team Leader to assess the appropriate route forward. (e.g utilise a known contact or engage Land & Development)

Note: Consideration should be given that third parties may not maintain their structural assets to the same standards as National Grid.

4.4 Evidence

When carrying out the inspection the person undertaking this shall record evidence of the crossing/bridge and any access prevention measures that are currently in place. In addition to this, to support the assessment, evidence should show:

- What the cable is crossing
- How high the crossing/bridge is from the crossed feature