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RDU scanner selection

When selecting a radio detection unit (RDU) scanner to scan for cables and other buried services before and during installation of safety earthing systems, the following shall be taken into consideration:

- The RDU scanner shall have Network Rail product acceptance.
- The environment in which scanning is to be performed shall be considered in relation to any limitations that might apply to a particular scanner as, for instance, not all models that have product acceptance are suitable for all areas of the network.

The main issue in this respect is that some models of scanner are subject to performance degradation in areas where high levels of 50 Hz interference exist, such as near to high voltage feeder substations or near to energised overhead line equipment. The following link provides details of the models affected:

<https://www.safety.networkrail.co.uk/Home/On-site-Solutions/Electrification/Buried-Services>

NOTE: The web page opened by the above link also includes links to the product acceptance certificates for approved products and a detailed list of them, including part numbers, in the 'Locator XX' file, XX being the number of the current version of the file.

Due to new equipment becoming available on a regular basis, the pages opened by the above link may not be fully up-to-date and a search for more current information should be made.

As a result of the above, and with the available models with product acceptance changing on a regular basis, it would not be appropriate to recommend any particular model of RDU scanner or range of models. However, as long as the above advice is followed, it should be possible to determine a suitable model of RDU scanner for any given situation.

Figure 1 shows an example of a typical scanner.



Figure 1 – Example radio detection unit