Off-track – Piped Drainage and Catchpit Maintenance

Scope

Includes: Manual clearance of catchpits and pipes on Network Rail-controlled infrastructure

Excludes: Pipes or Culverts exceeding 450 mm in diameter
Specialist On-Track drain cleansing equipment

Preparation

Tools, equipment and plant items required but not limited to:

- Drain rods, rod heads and accessories
- Gully grabs
- Drain Keys
- Drain bungs
- Warning signs

Work planning considerations:

- Weather precautions
- A site inspection shall be undertaken (during daylight) prior to commencement of work.
- Proximity of electric traction supplies
- Infrastructure or equipment, that may be damaged
- Drainage outfalls where pollution may be caused
- Environmental issues
- Disposal of arising
- Confined spaces
- Road closures

Method

Catchpit Cleaning

1. Catchpits or manholes that require man entry shall not be undertaken without full confined spaces certification.
2. Dispose of removed material from site in a safe manner and in accordance with NR/PRC/MTC/EN0100 Waste Management. Do not dispose to bank.
3. Where significant arisings occur, these shall be stored on Network Rail land in a suitable container for removal at the end of the shift.

Drain Cleaning

4. Identify and remove the manhole or catchpit cover that provides access to the drains.
5. Where contamination is likely the outfall will be stopped off and any arisings removed by other means.
6. Select the most appropriate rodding piece. Assemble two or three rods along with appropriate rod-head. Insert slowly from the downstream direction into the drain so that the rod-head penetrates two or three feet or until resistance is met. Agitate the rodding to displace blocked material (rotate rodding clockwise to ensure connection of rods).

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7. With the rod-head and rods in the drain, very quickly pull the rods out - this is often sufficient to start the drains flowing.
8. Add more rods and clear further up the pipe until the next catchpit is cleared.
9. Repeat above process as required until drain is running freely or location of blockage has been established.
10. Take care when adding or removing drain rods that the rod within the drain is never rotated counter clockwise. This might result in the unscrewing of the rods or the rubber disk.
11. If blockage cannot be cleared refer to line manager with clear description of what has been achieved and what appears to be the blockage.

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