

Wall Collapse Safety Alert

Document No: **IW-HSQE-SA-46**

Approved By: James Cullen

Revision:1.00

1. What Happened?

While carrying out excavation works to expose a burst water main a section of an old stone retaining wall adjacent to the works collapsed.



Stone retaining wall following collapse.

2. Immediate Actions

Barriers were put in place and the soil behind the wall was battered back and all loose wall stones removed before the leak was repaired safely. A new foundation was put in place for the wall which was subsequently reinstated.

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3. Further Actions

In advance of the commencement of excavation works a detailed risk assessment must be conducted. The assessment must take into account nearby structures to ensure that work will not cause other structures to become unstable or collapse. When dealing with burst water mains the assessment must take into account any potential impacts of leaks on adjacent structures. Where an excavation is likely to reduce the stability of a nearby structure suitable control measures must be put in place. Control measures that may be required include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Removal of a structure in close proximity to excavation.
- Temporary support before excavation work starts.
- Shoring support
- Where required, engage the services of a registered professional engineer to determine that excavation work will not pose a hazard.

Where controls measures are required to be implemented in advance of an excavation, a suitable safe system of work must be developed, documented and fully implemented for the duration of these works.

4. Further Information

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For further information on this alert please email hsqe@water.ie.

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Am I SAFE?



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5. Distribution List

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input type="checkbox"/>
All IW Staff <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Please Specify _____		