

# Safe Digging Practice

Raymond Hamilton



# Introduction



**Wm Hamilton & Sons Ltd** was established in the 1870's and since then five generations of the Hamilton family have been involved in its evolution. Experience, coupled with modern technology and innovation keep us at the forefront of our sector helping our customers to maintain an advantage in an ever changing world.

Investing in our workforce is paramount to providing the highest possible level of service to our customers. In order to maintain this level of service we invest heavily in training our highly skilled and motivated workforce.

Our strategy is to work in partnership with our customers, delivering the best possible logistical solutions to the construction and waste industries both in the public and private sectors throughout the UK.



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- Damage to services / individuals
- Hydro-vac - sweeper
- Additional benefits

# Agenda



# Damage to Services / Individuals



# So where are we right now...

- We are all aware that 'Service Strikes' occur.
- Yet we continue to carry on with the same methods of digging
- There are different ways....



# The Hydro-vac sweeper



# In Action....





# Benefits....

- No need for an excavator or manual dig
- No damage to service apparatus
- Smaller and more effective than other non-intrusive excavation such as vacuum extraction
- Services exposed are totally clean
- Removes 'spoil' from area to keep presentation and walkways in place
- Flexible in its tasks - like a surgeon's scalpel
- Ability to focus on required areas no need for unnecessary digging.
- Site can be swept clean and all waste removed





# Existing Excavations

- Where excavations are open for a significant period of time
- Susceptible to the elements
- 'Clearing' this out can cause damage.
- Vacuum would be a great solution.



# Limitations...

- Legacy apparatus
- Reach (2.5m from side of vehicle)
- Ground conditions
  - Sand - Slow (creation of slurry)
  - Clay - Better (creation of slurry)
  - Granular backfill - ideal scenario (standard service hole complete in 30 minutes 10 set-up 20 excavation time)

# Additional Benefits





# Correct Disposal

- SEPA compliant disposal of waste stream
- Just like road sweepings waste excavations cannot be fly-tipped
- Waste streams are traced back to their origin and it's important to use a registered waste carrier as you do with road sweepings
- Treatment of waste need to be carried out by a licensed facility

# Making this work for everyone...

- Our new road sweepers (Hydro-sweep) come by 400mm longer to incorporate the hydro excavation equipment
- It's a multi-use service
  - Hydro- excavation
  - Road sweeping
  - Improved Gully Cleaning (better suction capacity due to hydro-vac incorporation)
  - Improved washing down facilities (with high pressure wet system)
- Making it much more cost effective for all.

# Contaminated Watercourses





# Questions?

# Thank you

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