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For Openreach people

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Manual recovery of Ex DNO J/U Poles

Working practice

About this document ...

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Content approval

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Version History

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Issue 1	13-Dec-2016	ISIS Co-ordinator Documentation Team	New Document.

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1 *Introduction*

ISIS Document EPT/OHP/B076 details the Risk Assessment based procedure for the safe removal of Ex DNO Joint User Poles which have fallen under the ownership of Openreach. It also details the physical working practice for removing these Poles using a Pole Erection Unit (PEU).

This Document details the working practice for removing these Poles by manual means, where there is no acess for a PEU.

Regardless of the method of recovery, the specific front end Risk assessment in EPT/OHP/B076 MUST be carried out in advance of any work, as this will determine whether the Pole in question is suitable for recovery by Openreach.

Note: No attempt should be made to recover this type of Pole without first completing the Risk Assessment and confirming it's suitability for recovery by Openreach!

The procedures shown in this document and ISIS EPT/OHP/B076 should be used in conjunction with the existing general pole work practices described in ISIS Documents EPT/OHP/B034 and EPT/OHP/B038 and the Safe Power working shown in SFY/HSH/D043.

1.1 Safety

In general, the existing Safety considerations for overhead poling work apply and should be followed, in conjuction with existing personal safety and risk assessment requirements.

This specific process and procedure has been subject to an Independent Risk assessment which was conducted by Ark Workplace Risk. ISIS SFY/GRA/A230 Refers.

The actual method of recovery will vary from site to site, but the preferred hierarchy of methods is shown below:

1. PEU (where access available)
2. Cut and fell with a guide rope (where space and site circumstances allow this)
3. Cut and lower using Blocks and Rope (where space is more restricted)

4. Take down in sections from a Scaffold or Tower (where none of the other options are feasible)

Check the old Pole at both Survey and Execution strages for any E/L Feeds that may still exist. Where a Feed cable is still in-situ, both ends must be identified to confirm the Cable as dead. If this cannot be done, recovery work should not proceed.

1.2 Training

These practices build upon existing and long standing principles and practices for Poling work, so other than an initial briefing, no additional formal training is required.

However, in all cases, any person carrying out or assisting in the operations described within this document, must be suitably trained in existing Pole erection and recovery practices.

2 *Recovery of the Top Section*

Before commencing any work - Carry out the mandatory front end risk assessment detailed in ISIS EPT/OHP/B076. If this indicates that the top section can be recovered, then determine the appropriate method of recovery for the site circumstances (see Hierarchy of methods in section 1.1 above).

Where cutting and lower using Blocks and Rope is identified as the appropriate method, use the following steps to carry out the work.

2.1 Rigging for recovery

The recovery practice shown below requires the following equipment:

Qty	Item	Source
2	Webbing Type Lifting Slings (1 Tonne Rated).	Sling Lifting 4A (1M) – BT Item Code 126742, or Sling Lifting 5A (2M) – Item Code 126743 are suitable.
2	Snatch Blocks (Min 450kg Rated)	Available from TW Engineering, Eagle Road, Quarry Hill Industrial Park, Ilkeston DE7 4RB. Tel 0115 932 3223.
1	Low Stretch Rope. Minimum Length 40 Metres. Minimum	Rope Cable Recovery 4 – BT Item Code 127039

	Breaking Strength 10 kN.	

Rig a Snatch Block on the new E/L Pole. The sling should be attached at just above the tip of the old Pole (see figure 1). NB: Where an E/L Cable is found to be running down the new pole, provide it with some protection (i.e. a piece of capping) when installing the Sling.

Note: In this case, another Openreach Pole is being used to simulate the new DNO Pole! But the principle is exactly the same.

Figure 1 – Top end rig

Place the Rope into the Snatch Block and attach one end to the Pole using a Clove and Timber Hitches.

At the base of the new Pole, attach another Snatch Block and place the rope in the Snatch Block. The running end of the rope will soon be used to lower the top section down, so wrapping this 2 or 3 times around a fixed object nearby (i.e. A Tree, or Temporary Stay) will govern the amount of rope being paid out and enable the pole section to be lowered with ease and in a controlled fashion.

Figure 2 – Bottom end rig

2.2 Cutting the Pole and lowering the top section

With both Snatch Blocks in place and the rope securely held, the old pole can now be cut at a height of 1.2m above ground and the Top section lowered slowly to the ground, by gradually letting out the rope.

2.3 Recovery of the Butt

Where the front end Risk Assessment (ISIS EPT/OHP/B076) has indicated that it is appropriate to do so, the Butt Section can now be removed from the ground.

A careful eye should be kept on the new pole for any sign of movement during this operation. If movement is observed, work should not proceed further. The remaining Butt should be left in the ground and the DNO contacted for assistance to complete the recovery.

Note: No attempt should be made to recover the Butt without completing the Risk Assessment!

2.4 Backfill and Reinstatement

Once the Butt has been removed, the Pole hole must be backfilled and reinstated immediately.

2.5 Situations where Butt recovery is not possible

As detailed in the flowcharts above, there will occasionally be circumstances where the recovery of the old pole cannot be completed.

In such cases the job should be returned to your respective control with explanatory notes. Steps will then be taken for the work to be carried out either by the DNOs, or their nominated specialist contractor, who will have the skills & equipment to give additional temporary support to the new pole during the recovery.

3 *References*

ISIS Documents:

EPT/OHP/B076

SFY/GRA/A229

SFY/GRA/A230

SFY/HSH/D043

EPT/OHP/B034

EPT/OHP/B038

END OF DOCUMENT