

2 Questions raised by Openreach

Question 1: Coring of Fillets [Areas of reinstatement in close proximity to Apparatus

Openreach have been presented with invoices for cores taken close to surface apparatus such that it would be impossible to take a fillet in accordance with current SROH requirements, given the flanges which surround said apparatus. We would like a definitive statement in the SROH which defined what (if any) tests are appropriate in such circumstances.

Working Party Response:

In respect of cores taken for the purposes of testing Air Voids content, Section S10.2.3(4) is clear that no 100Ømm core shall be taken within 100mm of Apparatus. Section NG10.2.3(5) supports this clearance dimension on the grounds of risk of damage to the Apparatus.

The principle above would extend to smaller diameter cores, possibly used for Depth tests, and any other intrusive test in this 100mm zone, although the SROH Working Party (the “SROH WP”) accepts this is not stated at Section S10.2.3.

As a result, intrusive testing is not possible within 100mm of Apparatus, and as such the reinstatement should be monitored on the basis of Section S2 Performance Requirements.

Question 2: Compaction Adjacent to Structures [particularly Poles]

There are circumstances where Openreach carry out small excavations (e.g. pole testing). A number of HAs have demanded that the dimensions of such excavations should be expanded such that mechanical compaction equipment can fit into the space available. Whilst recognising that all excavations need to be compacted correctly, Openreach would argue that hand compaction is acceptable. We would request a statement in the SROH covering these circumstances

Working Party Response:

The current SROH 3rd Edition provides that hand rammers are suitable for compaction in restricted areas. However, in order to assess whether Pole Testing may be reasonably considered to be a restricted areas activity, the SROH WP requests additional evidence of the exact process deemed to be Pole Testing, together with a range of sample photographs.

Notwithstanding this, the SROH WP is presently considering whether a minimum width of reinstatement should be stated in the proposed SROH 4th Edition. The SROH WP has called for evidence to demonstrate that this is a sufficiently widespread area of concern, ahead of advancing its deliberations on this matter.