

LTI – Serious Leg Break

Issue date	22 January 2025
Issued by	Alan Taylor, Head of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality
Applicable to	All Colleagues

On Friday 10 January, whilst undertaking a site visit to recce further works, a trainee overhead lines person fell whilst climbing over a wall causing him to break his leg. We wish our colleague well and we'll support him as he recovers. This initial bulletin has been issued for awareness and should be used to raise awareness of the importance of undertaking dynamic risk assessments in order to identify the safest access route for works.

Whilst the investigation is ongoing, this bulletin is intended to highlight initial findings. The overhead line team had completed the job in the vicinity of the incident and decided to recce a site where works were planned at a future date. Parking adjacent to a field, the team climbed over a hedge above a dry stone wall on the opposite side. As the trainee lines person climbed down the wall, slipped and fell approximately 7 feet. The photos below were taken either side of the wall:



As part of the initial investigation, a site visit was undertaken in order to understand whether alternative access to the field was available. The visit confirmed that there was a gate into the field approximately 50 metres from the climbed wall:



If this gate had been used, it is likely that this serious injury would have been avoided.

Action:

Always complete a dynamic risk assessment to identify the safest method of accessing worksites. Avoid climbing over headges, walls and fences wherever practicable. Gates or styles should be used where available. The location of these may not be immediately obvious and site teams should walk a reasonable length of hedges, walls and fences to identify them.