



## Leg Broken by Pole

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> January a linesman working for one of our service partners suffered a broken leg when he was struck by a new pole which was in the process of being erected.

Ground conditions were poor and his foot was bogged down in soft ground when the pole struck which may have compounded the injury. An investigation has been carried out and the following conclusions reached;

The team charge hand had left the site to attend to another issue. He did this without leaving anyone formally in charge.

Whilst the lifting operation continued, the injured person entered the area of the lift unobserved by the lift operator.

The lift operator's view was obscured however he commenced lifting the pole without receiving any formal instruction. No banksman was in place.



Site where accident occurred



## Recommendations and action points

- Any instance of manoeuvring, loading or erecting poles using lifting equipment constitutes a lifting operation and LOLER 1998 must be complied with; the lift must be properly *planned by a competent person (lift supervisor); appropriately supervised; and carried out in a safe manner.*
- Roles and responsibilities must be clearly identified and any changes during the work must be communicated to all members of the working party.
- Unless required for the effective operation of the work, measures must be taken to ensure that workers are not present under suspended loads. An exclusion zone shall be identified by the competent person taking into account the route and any unexpected movement. Measures shall be taken to ensure no unauthorised persons enter this zone.
- If the operator of the lifting equipment cannot see the full path of the load a banksman shall be used and a suitable method of communication shall be agreed before the lift commences.