

## MAINS CABLE TRENCHING GUIDE

Please read this leaflet carefully. The main reason that work does not go ahead on the date agreed with Northern Ireland Electricity is that the site requirements for cable trenching have not been met. This leaflet provides information to ensure any trenching you carry out meets NIE's requirements and will help ensure there are no undue delays in providing your connection.

You must provide an adequate quantity of fine grain quarry dust or similar soft bedding material at regular intervals along the cable trench. This material is required to protect the cable and must be free of sharp stones and rocks. The quantity that you provide should be enough to allow a total of 200mm of soft bedding material to surround the cable along the entire length of the cable route. As a guide you should supply one tonne of fine quarry dust for every five metres of cable track.

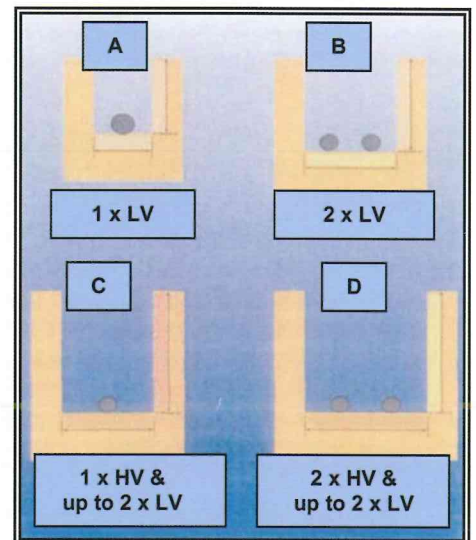
You will be responsible for the backfilling and reinstatement of the trenches. Please contact the NIE Team Manager responsible for your development to confirm the construction date before any excavation work is carried out. This is to ensure that the trench is only left open for a short period of time. Once the cable is laid, you must arrange to backfill and reinstate the cable trench as soon as possible.

The four options for the trench are detailed as (A) (B) (C) & (D). You will clearly need to establish the kerb lines and establish final levels where roads or footpaths are not yet constructed before any cables can be laid.

The depth and width of cable trenches must be:

- (A) **1 x LV:** 850mm deep x 400mm wide across roads and 550mm deep x 400mm wide where they cross other areas
- (B) **2 x LV:** 850mm deep x 600mm wide across roads and 550mm deep x 600mm wide where they cross other areas
- (C) **1 x HV and up to 2 x LV :** 750mm deep x 600mm wide
- (D) **2 x HV and up to 2 x LV:** 750mm deep x 800 mm wide

**Please refer to your letter of quotation from NIE to determine whether you need to excavate a trench for Low Voltage (LV) or High Voltage (HV).**



### SAFETY FIRST – ELECTRICITY CAN KILL

Working in the vicinity of the electricity network, whether underground or overhead, can be dangerous. Everyone working on site should ensure materials, machinery, equipment, appliances or tools are kept a safe working distance away from any electrical equipment. Remember to always hand dig near underground services and to use spades and shovels rather than picks, pins or forks.

Site Safety should be in Accordance with: HSE Guidance Note GS6 (Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines) and HSE Booklet HS(G)47 (Avoiding Danger from Underground Services).

For further information go to [www.niesafety.co.uk](http://www.niesafety.co.uk)

**IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT NIE ON 08457 643643**