

# Learning Bulletin – Member of Public – Undermining structures – Not a TW Incident

## What Happened?

Over the past few years, there have been several examples across the Water Industry of vehicle damage, injury and even fatalities where street furniture, trees, garden walls and fences have fallen/ collapsed onto passing traffic or members of the public walking by a work area or reinstated site

## Why did it really happen?

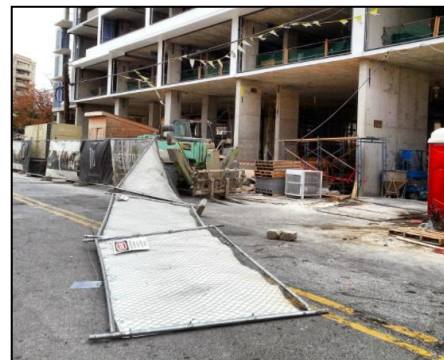
After reviewing all of the incidents reported, it is clear that their foundations and roots have been damaged or removed, or that a temporary works design had not incorporated the fence/ structure to be assessed for the weight/ load placed on them or had a regular inspection carried out.

They had then become unstable and collapsed/ fell into passing traffic or onto members of the public walking past the work area.

Before



After



## What can I do differently?

- Always ensure all that all street furniture, including trees and nearby structures are protected when excavating to ensure their foundations/ roots are not undermined or damaged
- All fences and temporary structures are assessed to have adequate supports in place to ensure they are capable to sustain the load/ weight placed on them, constructed as per the design specification and are part of the temporary works register/ inspection regime
- **Always** follow the requirements set out in Essential Standard no. 20 – Management of Temporary Works