

Event details

Date of incident: 17/05/26

Time of incident: 04:34

Location of incident: Hither Green

Route: Kent

Discipline: Track

Event description:

It was discovered that a worksite/isolation operative had placed the worksite protection straps at 6M18CH on the Up and Down Kent Fast instead of the Up and Down Ladywell Loop.

The ES had briefed the location, and the strapping operative had signed to say that they understood the instruction.

The worksite/isolation operative accessed at the correct location and placed straps on the two lines closest to them. However, the strapping location was incorrect as per the diagram.

All lines were within the possession and de-energised at the time of the incident.

Initial causes identified:

- Miscommunication

Key issues for the investigation to consider:

- Language barriers
- NR/L2/OHS/019 Process
- Could Geofencing help prevent these issues?

Don't Wait – Act Now!

Whilst the investigation is ongoing, we do not need to wait to act.

Some simple reminders:

If in doubt, **STOP** and **ASK**. No task should proceed unless the individual fully understands the briefing or instruction given.

Seek clarification until confident.

Check understanding – don't assume it. Those giving instructions must actively confirm understanding by asking questions and engaging the workforce, rather than simply delivering the briefing.



Red = Where straps & boards were placed

Blue = Where they should have been placed

Immediate actions taken:

- D&A testing was undertaken
- Witness Statements gathered
- Staff stood down from safety critical duties whilst investigation is undertaken.

Could this happen in another location: Yes

DCP: Sarah Chase

Level of investigation: Level 1