

What happened?

A civils operative was using an angle grinder to cut a section of clay pipe within an excavation to repair the sewer.

When doing so the grinder kicked back and travelled across his right forearm narrowly missing major veins and tendons.

The preliminary investigation has identified that the operative was forcing the grinder to cut rather than allowing the tool to do the work.

The injury has resulted in surgery to repair a smaller vein, stitches and lost time from work.



Section of pipe being cut with grinder

Next Steps

- Ensure that you are using the right tool for the job
- Ensure that you have the right training to use the tools, and that you are competent to use them
- Check blades and discs prior to use and ensure they are not blunt or excessively worn
- Do not force the tool. Allow the tool to do the work for you, if you have to force it then it is not the right tool for the job. Stop and seek advice from supervisor/manager
- Wear the correct level of PPE for the tool you are using if unsure check your documents in Modular Plus or call your supervisor



Injury site requiring surgery