

**Utility Strike Avoidance Group (USAG) and LinesearchbeforeUdig**

**Utility Strike Avoidance Group (USAG)**

USAG, brings together over 100 asset owners, industry groups and contractors. The aim of the group is to ensure the highest standards of safety are in place when working close to underground services. USAG was established in response to service strike incidents, the consequences of which can be devastating.

As a result of our work with USAG many companies have made changes to their health and safety procedures and also signed up to the USAG charter which requires that:

* Work carried out is properly planned and those responsible are aware of their responsibility and how to carry them out
* People are assessed to ensure they are competent and capable of carrying out the task given to them and at least one person in each work team is competent in the use of cable detection equipment to its full potential
* Excavations are carried out in accordance with safe systems of work
* Equipment provided for the detection and avoidance of services in inspected, calibrated and tested in accordance with the manufacturers requirements and that records are kept, including a daily check to ensure that the equipment continues to operate as expected
* People use the correct protective equipment and are trained in its use
* The latest utility asset drawings are available to people excavating, work is inspected and audited and that failure to achieve the expected standards is recorded
* Where damage to utility assets occur, a suitable and sufficient investigation takes place, learning is shared and action is taken to reduce the risks to those carrying out the work

How well does your project meet the USAG charter requirements?

If you think your project fully satisfies these requirements, is there anything that you do really well that should be shared with others?

If you think your project falls short of these requirements, what actions should be implemented to address these areas for improvement?

For more information and guidance from USAG visit: **utilitystrikeavoidancegroup.org**

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### LinesearchbeforeUdig

LinesearchbeforeUdig provides a single point of contact for all enquiries relating to underground and overhead electricity, gas, oil pipeline and fibre optic networks. Follow the simple step-by-step enquiry process below to enable you to supply relevant information about your proposed works.

### Step 1

Register your contact details with **linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk**

### Step 2

Enter information about your proposed works, including the date, type of work and location.

### Step 3

Confirm the location on the map.

### Step 4

When you submit your enquiry a full list of asset owners, who are members of linesearchbeforeUdig, is displayed indicating who is inside and outside the working zone.

Those asset owners inside the zone will be marked as ‘notified’ or ‘further info’

* notified’ – a response will be sent to the asset owners which includes drawings of the area where the proposed works will take place
* ‘further info’ – you will need to contact the asset owners and provide further information about the proposed works

A ‘not notified’ list is also shown to include asset owners who are not members of linesearchbeforeUdig but have apparatus within the area.