RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)

Business name

Document: RAMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Drain unblocking and jetting	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Plumbing

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Set up cones around open pits and keep the public and pets away	Public entering the work area Falling through a floor opening or void Rules: CDM Regulations 2015; Work at Height Regulations 2005	Public, Children, Workers, Visitors. How: Members of the public, including children, walk into the site and are hit by plant or falling objects, or fall into holes. A worker steps into an open hole, stairwell, lift shaft or penetration and falls to the level below.	**Very high (15) Possible / Fatal**	1.1 Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. [Isolate] 1.2 Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. [Isolate] 1.3 Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas. [Control (engineering)] 1.4 Put signs at each entry: site name, contact number and "No unauthorised entry". [Control (procedures)] 1.5 Make the site safe at the end of each day: cover holes, lower plant, remove ladders and lock tools away. [Control (procedures)] 1.6 Use a spotter when moving plant or materials across public paths. [Control (procedures)] 1.7 Cover every hole and penetration with a fixed, secured cover marked "HOLE" or "DANGER". [Isolate] 1.8 Put guardrails with toe boards around stairwells, lift shafts, voids and open edges. [Isolate] 1.9 Install stairs early and fit temporary handrails as soon as they go in. [Control (engineering)] 1.10 Never remove a cover or guardrail without approval. Put it back straight away. [Control (procedures)] 1.11 Inspect covers and barriers daily and after other trades have been through. [Control (procedures)] 1.12 Keep lighting good enough to see openings, especially on lower floors and in the evening. [Control (procedures)] 1.13 Use a harness clipped to a rated anchor when working right next to an open void. [PPE]	**Medium (5) Very unlikely / Fatal**	Site supervisor
2	Open the inspection point, never enter pits or manholes without a confined space permit	Confined space entry Lifting and carrying heavy loads Rules: Confined Spaces	Workers, Rescuers. How: Bad air, toxic gas or engulfment in a tank, pit, sewer or manhole overcomes workers and	**High (12) Likely / Lost time injury**	2.1 Do the work from outside the space where you can, using cameras or long-reach tools. [Eliminate] 2.2 Isolate and lock out all pipes, power and moving parts going into the space. [Isolate] 2.3 Test the air for oxygen, flammable and toxic gases before entry,	**Medium (6) Unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
		Regulations 1997; Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992	the people who try to rescue them. Lifting, carrying, pushing or twisting with heavy or awkward loads strains the back, shoulders or knees.		and keep testing during the work. [Control (engineering)] 2.4 Use forced ventilation to keep the air clean. [Control (engineering)] 2.5 Issue a confined space entry permit before anyone goes in. Only trained workers enter. [Control (procedures)] 2.6 Keep a trained standby person outside at all times, in contact with those inside. [Control (procedures)] 2.7 Set up a rescue plan and rescue gear before entry. Never go in to rescue without the right gear. [Control (procedures)] 2.8 Wear a harness for retrieval and the respirator the air test calls for. [PPE] 2.9 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 2.10 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Reduce / substitute] 2.11 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Control (engineering)] 2.12 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Control (procedures)] 2.13 Keep the load close, back straight and no twisting. Turn with your feet. [Control (procedures)] 2.14 Rotate tasks and take breaks on long lifting jobs. [Control (procedures)] 2.15 Wear gloves for grip and safety boots to protect your feet. [PPE]		
3	Check the jetter hose and fittings, then jet with the nozzle well inside the pipe before starting	High pressure water jetting Stored energy Loud noise Rules: Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	Workers, People nearby. How: High pressure water cuts through skin and injects water and dirt into the body, or the hose whips. Energy left in springs, hydraulics, compressed gas, raised loads or capacitors releases suddenly and crushes or injures workers.	**High (12) Likely / Lost time injury**	3.1 Set an exclusion zone around the jetting area. [Isolate] 3.2 Use a dead man's trigger that stops the jet when released, and check hoses and fittings before use. [Control (engineering)] 3.3 Only trained operators use high pressure jetting gear. [Control (procedures)] 3.4 Never point the lance at anyone or put a hand in front of it. [Control (procedures)] 3.5 Treat any jetting injury as serious and go to hospital, even if it looks small. [Control (procedures)] 3.6 Release or block all stored energy before work: release the pressure in pipes, tanks and hoses, bleed hydraulics, release springs, lower loads. [Eliminate] 3.7 Lock out and tag all energy sources with personal locks. [Isolate] 3.8 Put mechanical blocks or props under raised parts like buckets, tipper bodies and doors. [Control (engineering)] 3.9 Test that the system is dead and nothing can move before you start. [Control (procedures)] 3.10 Follow the maker's procedure, for example for garage door and roller door springs. [Control (procedures)] 3.11 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials,	**Medium (6) Unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
					low-noise machines and battery tools. [Reduce / substitute] 3.12 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate] 3.13 Keep tools maintained and use mufflers on compressors and generators. [Control (engineering)] 3.14 Limit time on noisy tools and rotate workers. [Control (procedures)] 3.15 If you have to shout to be heard by someone 2 metres away, the noise is probably 85 dB(A) or more: wear hearing protection. [Control (procedures)] 3.16 Assess noise. At 85 dB(A) or more, hearing protection is required and the zone must be marked. [Control (procedures)]		
4	Clear the blockage, keeping face and hands away from splashback	Sewage and wastewater Eye injuries Slips and trips	Workers, People nearby, Visitors, Public. How: Contact with sewage spreads germs that cause stomach illness, hepatitis and skin infections. Flying chips, dust, chemicals or sparks get into the eye and cause damage or blindness.	**Medium (9) Possible / Lost time injury**	4.1 Flush and drain the line before opening it, and plan the job to avoid contact. [Eliminate] 4.2 Use drain cameras, jetters and long-handled tools to keep hands out. [Control (engineering)] 4.3 Sewage and wastewater: see step 6 for the full controls [Control (procedures)] 4.4 Use tool guards and screens to stop flying particles. [Control (engineering)] 4.5 Use dust extraction and water to keep dust out of the air. [Control (engineering)] 4.6 Keep others out of the area when cutting, grinding or chipping. [Control (procedures)] 4.7 Keep an eye wash station or eye wash bottles on site. [Control (procedures)] 4.8 Wear safety glasses at all times, goggles for dust and chemicals, and a face shield for grinding. [PPE] 4.9 Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. [Eliminate] 4.10 Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. [Control (engineering)] 4.11 Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths. [Control (engineering)] 4.12 Clean up offcuts, packaging and spills as you go, not at the end of the day. [Control (procedures)] 4.13 Keep work areas, stairs and access paths well lit. [Control (procedures)]	**Low (4) Unlikely / Minor injury**	Site supervisor
5	Run a CCTV camera to confirm the line is clear	Sewage and wastewater	Workers. How: Contact with sewage spreads germs that cause stomach illness, hepatitis and skin infections.	**Medium (9) Possible / Lost time injury**	5.1 Cover cuts with waterproof dressings. Never eat, drink or smoke before washing. [Control (procedures)] 5.2 Wash hands well and clean tools and boots after the job. [Control (procedures)] 5.3 Sewage and wastewater: see step 6 for the full controls [Control (procedures)]	**Low (3) Very unlikely / Lost time injury**	Site supervisor

#	Activity / step	Hazards	Who might be harmed and how	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
6	Close pits, wash down, and wash hands before eating	Sewage and wastewater Poor housekeeping and waste	Workers, Visitors. How: Contact with sewage spreads germs that cause stomach illness, hepatitis and skin infections. Rubbish, offcuts and materials left lying around cause trips, cuts and fires, and block exits.	**Medium (9) Possible / Lost time injury**	6.1 Flush and drain the line before opening it, and plan the job to avoid contact. [Eliminate] 6.2 Use drain cameras, jetters and long-handled tools to keep hands out. [Control (engineering)] 6.3 Cover cuts with waterproof dressings. Never eat, drink or smoke before washing. [Control (procedures)] 6.4 Wash hands well and clean tools and boots after the job. [Control (procedures)] 6.5 Keep vaccinations such as tetanus and hepatitis A up to date, on medical advice. [Control (procedures)] 6.6 Wear waterproof gloves, goggles or a face shield, and coveralls. [PPE] 6.7 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 6.8 Put skips and waste chutes close to the work. [Control (engineering)] 6.9 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Control (procedures)] 6.10 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Control (procedures)] 6.11 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Control (procedures)] 6.12 Use a registered waste carrier and keep waste transfer notes for at least 2 years. Keep hazardous waste such as asbestos separate, with consignment notes (special waste in Scotland). [Control (procedures)] 6.13 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE]	**Low (4) Unlikely / Minor injury**	Site supervisor

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Very high. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control (eric-pd): Eliminate, Reduce / substitute, Isolate, Control (engineering), Control (procedures), PPE.

3. METHOD STATEMENT: SEQUENCE OF WORK

Step	What we will do	How it is done safely
1	Set up cones around open pits and keep the public and pets away	Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas.
2	Open the inspection point, never enter pits or manholes without a confined space permit	Do the work from outside the space where you can, using cameras or long-reach tools. Isolate and lock out all pipes, power and moving parts going into the space. Test the air for oxygen, flammable and toxic gases before entry, and keep testing during the work.
3	Check the jetter hose and fittings, then jet with the nozzle well inside the pipe before starting	Set an exclusion zone around the jetting area. Use a dead man's trigger that stops the jet when released, and check hoses and fittings before use. Only trained operators use high pressure jetting gear.
4	Clear the blockage, keeping face and hands away from splashback	Flush and drain the line before opening it, and plan the job to avoid contact. Use drain cameras, jetters and long-handled tools to keep hands out. Sewage and wastewater: see step 6 for the full controls

Step	What we will do	How it is done safely
5	Run a CCTV camera to confirm the line is clear	Cover cuts with waterproof dressings. Never eat, drink or smoke before washing. Wash hands well and clean tools and boots after the job. Sewage and wastewater: see step 6 for the full controls
6	Close pits, wash down, and wash hands before eating	Flush and drain the line before opening it, and plan the job to avoid contact. Use drain cameras, jetters and long-handled tools to keep hands out. Cover cuts with waterproof dressings. Never eat, drink or smoke before washing.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Safety boots Chemical-resistant gloves Safety goggles Face shield Coveralls Hi-vis vest Rigger gloves Ear defenders Safety glasses	Permit to work (electrical isolation)

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Drain jetting unit					
Hand tools					

6. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

7. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	999	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout "Fire" or "Stop" and use the site alarm. Stop work, make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Do not go back in until the supervisor says it is safe.
Reporting incidents	Report reportable incidents to HSE under RIDDOR 2013 (hse.gov.uk/riddor).		

8. SITE ARRANGEMENTS

Welfare	Toilets, drinking water, hand washing and a break area on site	**Security and access**	Work area fenced or kept locked when unattended. Tools and materials secured. Public kept out.
Environmental and waste	Waste goes in a skip or the van and is taken away by a registered waste carrier, with waste transfer notes kept (duty of care). Hazardous waste such as asbestos is kept separate and consigned correctly. Dust and noise kept to a minimum. No run-off into drains.		

9. MONITORING, REVIEW AND LEGAL BASIS

The supervisor checks the controls at the start of each shift and during the work. Stop work and review this RAMS if the work, the crew or the site conditions change, after any incident or near miss, or if the principal contractor asks.

Legal basis: Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Employers must assess the risks of their work and record the significant findings (required where you employ 5 or more people). On CDM projects, contractors give their RAMS to the principal contractor before starting, and brief the workers on it.

Keep this RAMS, every revision and the signed briefing register with the site file for the length of the job, and keep a copy in your records afterwards.

10. REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

11. APPROVAL AND BRIEFING REGISTER

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Approved by				
Supervisor				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each person confirms this RAMS was explained to them in a site briefing, they understand it and will follow it, and they will stop work and tell the supervisor if anything changes.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date