



New wood pole found to be broken at the top

During a recent HV overhead line refurbishment project an intermediate pole had been identified as requiring replacement. The old pole was unbound, the conductors removed, and the pole replaced by a new one.

As the linesman started to climb the new pole he became concerned about its integrity and immediately came down. The line team removed the new pole and inspected it more closely when it was on the ground. During this inspection the top section of the new pole split and came away from the remainder of the pole. The pole was removed from site and an investigation is currently being carried out.



Along with the well documented generic recommendations below it would be good practice, where a new pole is to be installed, to carry out a thorough visual inspection and a hammer test prior to a new pole being dressed and erected.

1. Prior to climbing or working on wood poles, carry out a visual inspection and hammer test to verify the condition of the pole and confirm it is safe to access
2. No pole impaired by decay or damage should be climbed
3. Before working at height ensure that the hierarchy of controls are fully considered on all occasions