

Craigie RSZ
Destruction of water supply main
06 May 2011

DWQR Inspector:
William Byers

Summary of Incident

This incident was declared by DWQR due to the destruction of a water supply main causing a requirement to issue alternative water supplies to consumers as a precautionary measure against the use of a potentially contaminated public water supply. A water main was accidentally destroyed by an excavator on 06 May 2011 at a point where it crosses beneath a watercourse near Rothienorman, Aberdeenshire, permitting burn water to enter the mains. The burst water main was isolated and 40 households downstream of the burst were issued with notices to boil their water and were also provided with bottled water. Scottish Water replaced the affected section of pipe forming the burn crossing and restored the supply. A sampling programme was established to take place over a number of days until an 'All Clear' notice could be issued.

DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

The necessity to issue a restriction on use and to provide alternative water supplies was due to the accidental destruction of the water main at a point where contamination could enter into the water supply network.

DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

DWQR considers Scottish Water implemented the correct actions to deal with the possible contamination of the public water supply. A good level of disinfection was maintained in the area whilst flushing of the system was carried out and the sampling programme undertaken was able to demonstrate that there was no microbiological contamination of the supply.

DWQR accepts there are no subsequent actions required by Scottish Water.