

Safety Alert

MINOR INJURY INVOLVING ELDERLEY MEMBER OF PUBLIC

An elderly person was walking along a public footpath with her husband when she slipped on a footway board. This was witnessed by the team leader on site who immediately went to her attention. The elderly person suffered minor grazes to her leg and as a precaution the team leader phoned the paramedics. A motorcycle paramedic arrived on site and after treatment for grazes and a check up the elderly person was given the all clear.

Investigations found that the footway board was the new Oxford plastic type that was sitting flush with the footpath. Having spoke to the team leader it would appear that the elderly person was “shuffling” as opposed to walking along the footpath. When she reached the footway board her “shuffling” motion continued which resulted in the fall.

In hindsight the team leader realised that he should have assisted the elderly person and her husband through our works even though the footway was level and the board flat to the footpath as well.

Inform the public



What action MUST to take?

Always ensure that where footway boards are used that they are flat to the footpath and free from trip hazards.

Encourage first time reinstatement of footpaths, in particular where areas are congested with pedestrians,

Where possible be vigilant in relation to elderly persons, young persons and people with disabilities.

Assist persons through our works regardless of age and disability.

Remember

Nothing we do is so important that it cannot be done safely