

VALE GROUNDWORKS & CONSTRUCTION LTD

Health & Safety Policy | Public Statement

Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales | October 2026 | Review: October 2027

1. Our commitment

Vale Groundworks & Construction Ltd is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of employees, subcontractors, customers, visitors and members of the public affected by our work. We aim to prevent injury and ill health through effective planning, competent supervision, appropriate equipment and safe working practices.

2. Planning, risk assessments and communication

We assess risks before starting work and apply appropriate control measures, including task-specific risk assessments and method statements where required. Relevant controls are communicated to those undertaking the work. Site conditions are reviewed and work is stopped and reassessed if an unexpected hazard arises.

Our documented 2026 risk assessments address general excavations (RA183), hand excavation of holes (RA182), machine excavation of holes and trenches (RA180), excavator operation (RA181), and lifting accessories (RA060). These assessments inform our site-specific arrangements.

3. Excavations and underground services

Before breaking ground, we seek available service information, visually inspect the area and use suitable cable and service locating equipment operated by competent personnel. We apply permit-to-dig arrangements where required, identify and communicate service locations and use careful hand-dug trial holes to confirm services before mechanical excavation near them.

Excavations are assessed for ground stability, depth, access, nearby loads and other hazards. Appropriate support or other protective measures are used where needed; excavation depth alone is not treated as proof that entry is safe. Open holes are secured with barriers or suitable covers, or backfilled as soon as practicable. Spoil is positioned to avoid creating risks to people, traffic, excavation edges or watercourses.

4. Machinery and site operations

Excavators and other plant are operated only by authorised, suitably trained and competent personnel. Operators undertake pre-use checks, report defects, follow manufacturer instructions and use safe access and egress. Equipment is maintained and defective plant is removed from use until safe. We plan vehicle and pedestrian movements and use a competent banksman where the assessed activity requires one.

5. Lifting equipment and accessories

Lifting operations are planned and undertaken by competent persons using equipment appropriate for the load. Lifting accessories are checked for condition and suitability, with safe working loads respected and applicable thorough examinations arranged. Damaged or defective accessories are removed from service. Exclusion zones are maintained where required to protect others from suspended loads.

6. People, training and protective equipment

We provide appropriate information, instruction, supervision and training for the tasks undertaken. Employees and subcontractors are expected to follow safe systems of work, report hazards and use the protective equipment specified by risk assessment. We consider the safety of customers, visitors and the public when establishing work areas and site boundaries.

7. Incident reporting and emergency arrangements

Accidents, near misses, unsafe conditions and damage to underground services must be reported promptly to management. Work is stopped and the area made safe where necessary. Emergency arrangements, first aid provision and access for emergency services are considered in site planning. Incidents are reviewed to identify corrective actions and prevent recurrence.

8. Management and continual improvement

Company management is responsible for providing suitable arrangements and resources for health and safety. Supervisors and operatives are responsible for implementing the controls relevant to their activities. We review risk assessments, learn from incidents and update procedures when work methods, equipment or legislation change.

9. Scope of this public policy

This document summarises our health and safety commitments for customers and the public. It does not replace detailed risk assessments, method statements, permits, lifting plans or other site-specific documentation. These are managed separately and supplied to relevant parties as appropriate.

Policy owner: Vale Groundworks & Construction Ltd | Next review: October 2027