

What Happened?

During unrelated excavations of the Waipori 2 switchyard it was discovered that joints in earth bonding were severely corroded.

Impact

None immediately. Would drastically reduce the current carrying capacity during a ground fault. Possibly resulting in a failure to trip.

Potential Causes

Historic salting of test points and type of flux used for “Henley” crimp joints.



Example of a corroded joint

Lessons Learnt

- The importance of visual inspections of buried joints.
- Electrical testing of earthing systems not necessarily reliable.

Comments

- Electrical tests completed in 2016 and 2010 showed no obvious issues.
- Scope for repairs to be carried out in the new year underway.

*If it's not safe then find a better way...
someone expects you home today!*