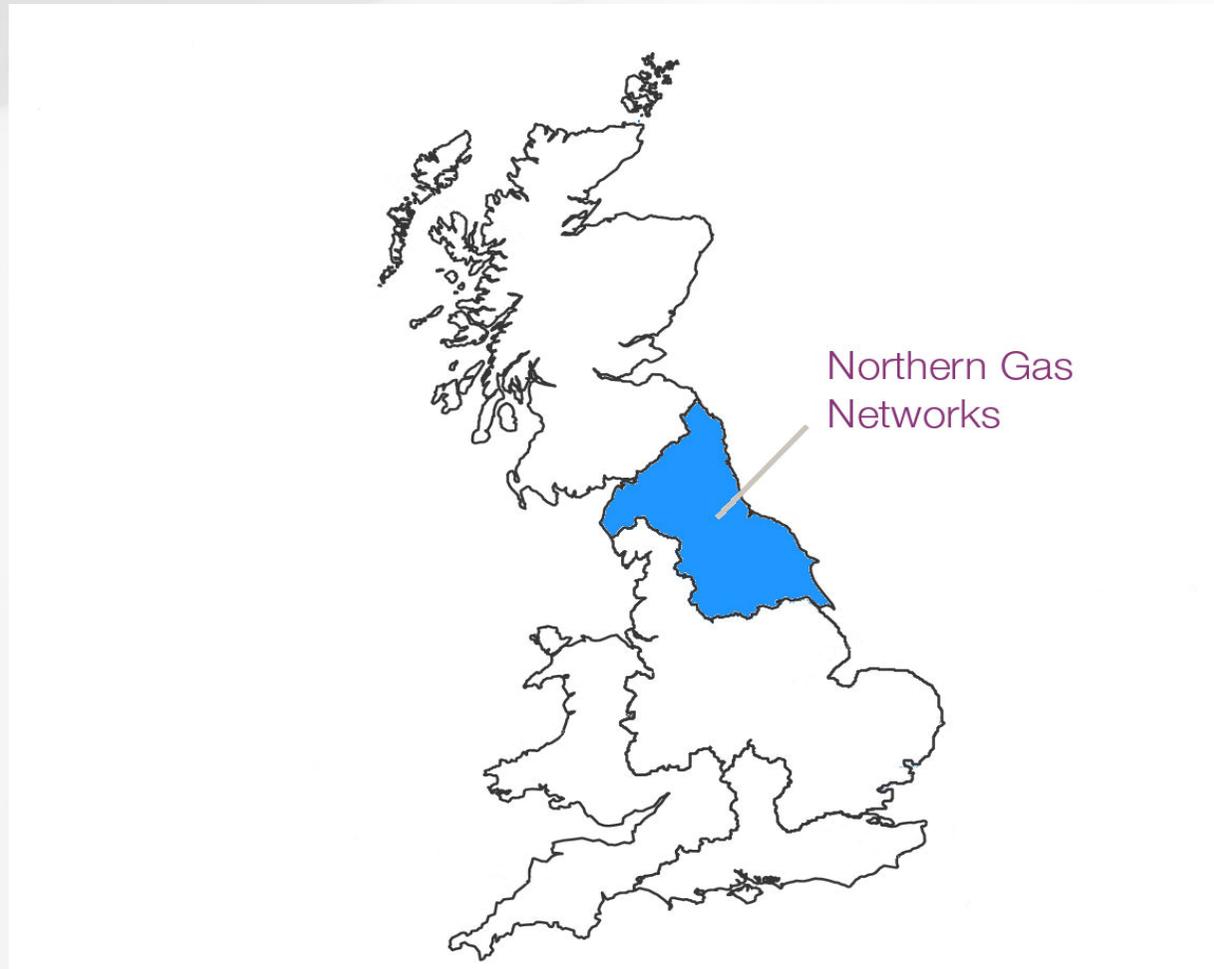


Ex Cornerstone Brief to **UKOPA 2010**

Andy Fuller
Network Integrity Officer

UKOPA/10/0061

Northern Gas Networks



The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996

Part 111 Section 24

Emergency procedures

- (2) The operator shall revise or replace the record of the organisation, arrangements and procedures referred to in paragraph (1) as often as may be appropriate.
- (3) The operator shall ensure that the organisation, arrangements and procedures referred to in paragraph (1) are tested, by practice or otherwise, as often as may be appropriate

The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996

PART III Section 25

Emergency plans in case of major accidents

- (2) In preparing the plan pursuant to paragraph (1) **a local authority** shall consult the operator of the pipeline, the Executive and any other persons as appear to the authority to be appropriate.
- (3) A **local authority** which has prepared a plan pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, as often as is appropriate and, in any case, at least every three years review the plan and make such revision as is appropriate.

Further guidance on emergency plans for major accident hazard pipelines

The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996

There is **no explicit requirement** in the regulations to test an emergency plan drawn up under regulation 25. This was recognised as an outstanding issue by the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) when the Regulations came into force.

Further guidance on emergency plans for major accident hazard pipelines

The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996

In the absence of a requirement to test emergency plans, exercises carried out against other contingencies **may** be used to validate general arrangements for any incident, including pipeline emergencies.

Pipeline operators are required under PSR to test their **own emergency procedures**. If exercises are carried out these may involve the emergency services and, therefore, could test parts of the emergency plan as a result.

Exercise Cornerstone

8 September 2010



Tyne & Wear Emergency Planning Unit
www.twepu.gov.uk

Exercise Rationale

Table top exercise of NGN pipelines plan

Apply “What do we need to do and within what timescale?”

Capture learning and planning points



Attendance and Interest levels



To simulate onsite staff levels a good mix of responders attended, including:

- **Northumbria Police**
- **Tyne & Wear FRS**
- **North East Ambulance Service**
- **Representatives from all 3 Local Authorities.**



Attendees ranged from Station Managers to Chief Constables and representatives from the Media teams. As well as operational managers from Northern Gas Networks



EMERGENCY responders are trained and practised in 'domestic' or Low Pressure gas incidents & explosions





The exercise was started by giving an introduction of the potential destructive/thermal forces that High Pressure Natural Gas Pipelines have.

Exercise Scenario (s)

Generic

- Plant/digger incident on major pipeline
- All with similar response and timeline
- Bronze- centric with virtual Silver Command

Specific

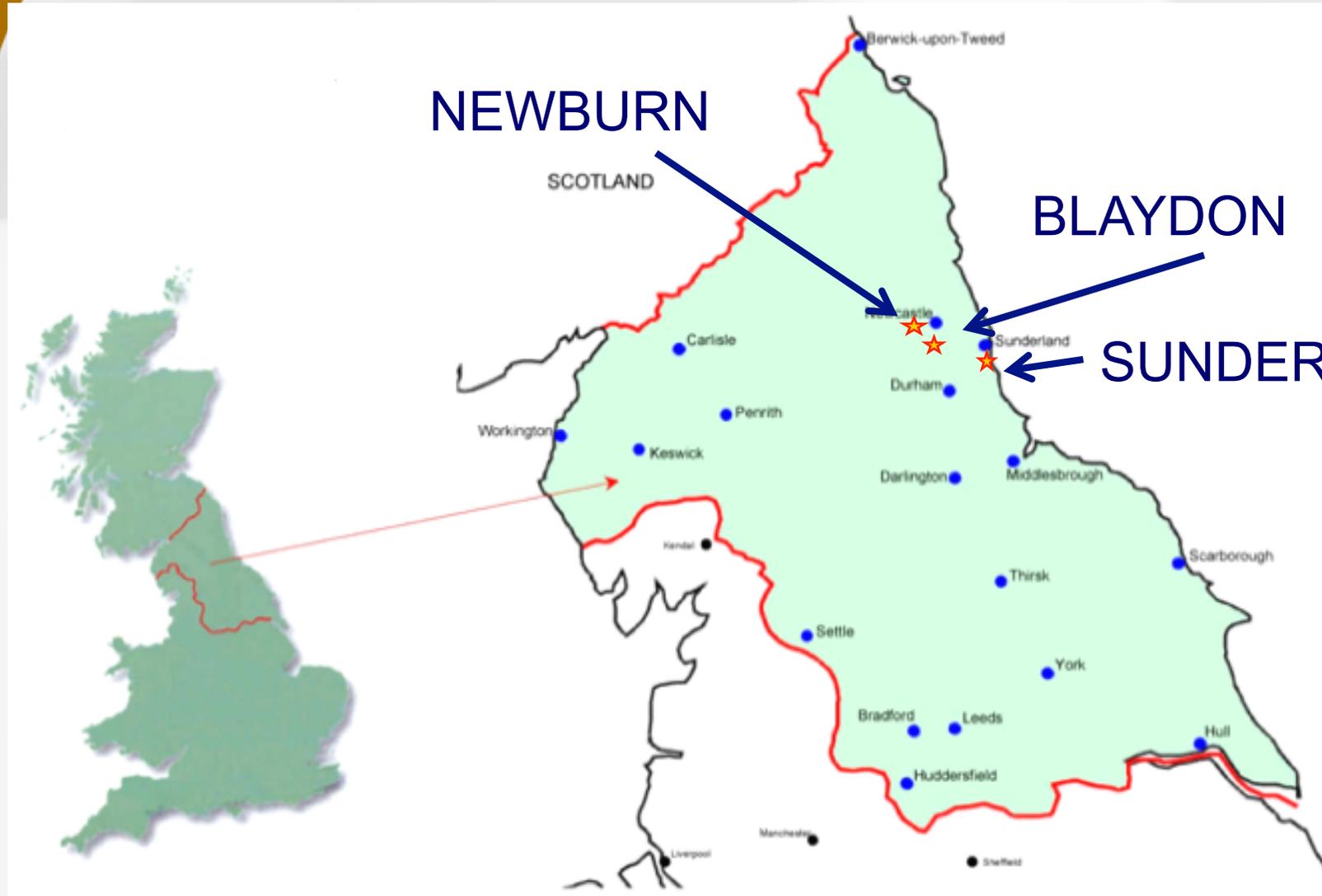
Three scenarios requiring similar responses but with different details

Geographic

- Newburn, Blaydon, Hendon with local challenges



Scenario locations



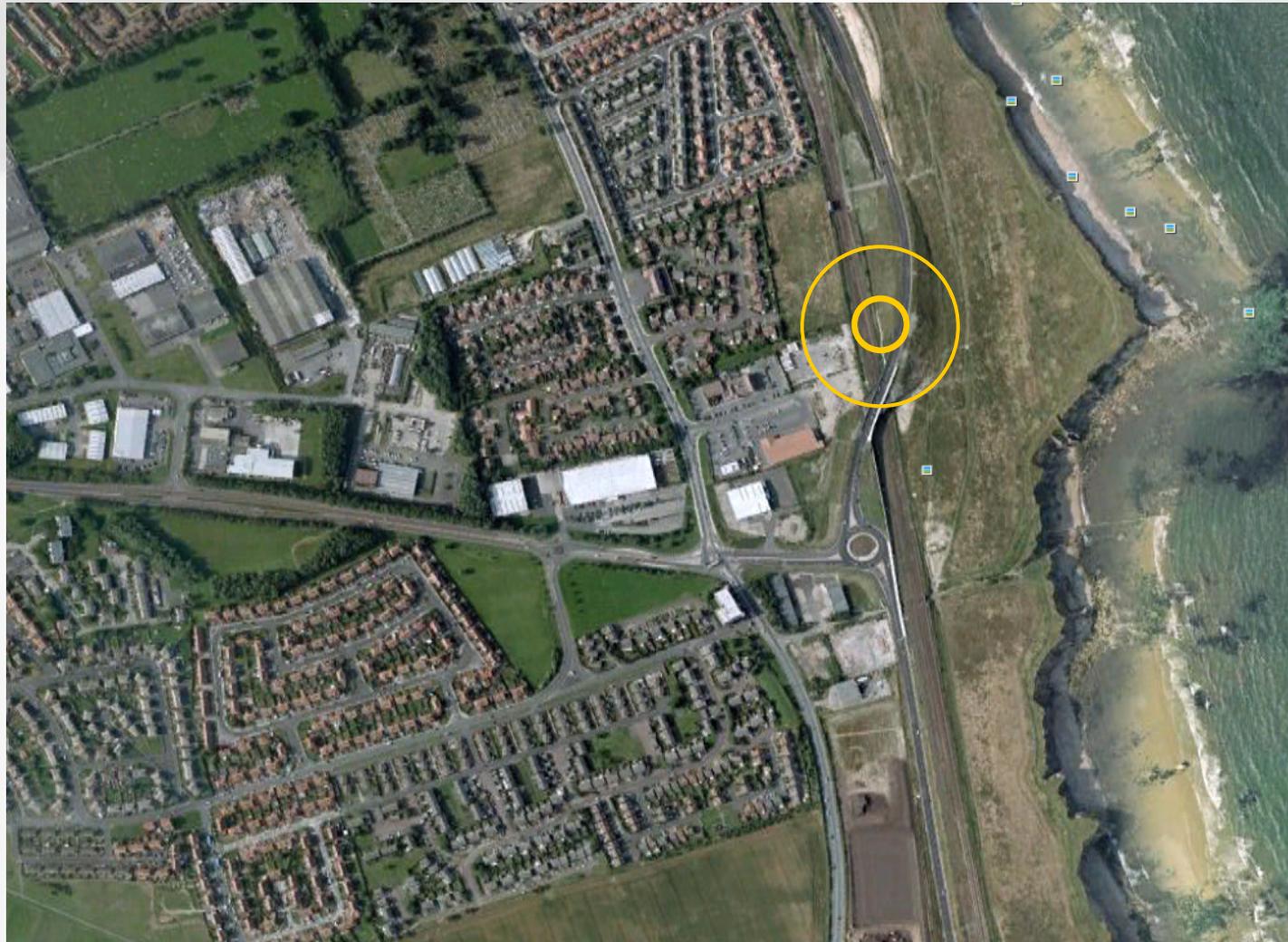
Newburn scenario



Blaydon Scenario



Hendon scenario



Progression

- Each stage given 10minutes discussion
- Guidance from syndicate leaders
- Pre set questions directed discussions

- Differences in normal operating procedure
- Interaction with technical experts

Unique features,

- Potential explosive atmospheres,
- Large exclusion areas,
- Lack of safe communications,
- Impacts on local transport

Realisations

- That pipelines and their products cannot be turned off like a tap!
- Pipeline operators have no emergency powers to attend incidents any faster than normal
- The escaping product may not be the only issue, economic and societal consequences may be significant.
- An MAHP incident must be identified early to ensure the safety of responders and public in the area.

Conclusion

At this time the final report is still in draft, however some points are already under review.

- FRS operating procedure under review (safe distances, knowledge of HP gas pipelines)
- Emergency service communication equipment is unsafe in such incidents
- Awareness of the existence of the plan to be promoted amongst emergency responders and local authorities.

The exercises proved a solid working relationship can be established between all responders

Exercise CORNERSTONE

? QUESTIONS ?