Learning Brief

RIVERBANK EROSION EXPOSING PIPELINE

What happened?

- During a routine line-walk, a section of riverbank was found to have been eroded exposing a section of underground pipeline
- Remediation works were carried out with full consultation from local agencies

Findings and key learning points

- Following discovery, planning immediately commenced to remediate the issue
- Involved parties were the Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, local waterways representatives, specialist diving contractors and expert pipeline repair specialists
- The riverbank had to be rebuilt using environmentally approved materials
- The pipeline was inspected and re-supported from underneath before any backfill took place
- Remediation works were successfully completed
- The project took 9 months from initial planning to completion

Recommendation

- It is recommended that operators carry out routine inspections of pipeline river crossings. Publicly available LiDAR data can be used to map/monitor bank movement and spot signs of erosion
- Any remediation work will first require consultation with local government, environment and waterways agencies so that appropriate materials and methods are used