



What happened?

- A landowner instructed their employees to clean a ditch without notifying the pipeline operator
- The cleaning was carried out by mechanical excavator and crossed a high-pressure pipeline
- The pipeline was not damaged

Findings and key learning points

- A landowner instructed their employees to carry out cleaning works via WhatsApp message
- The landowner did not advise them of the presence of the pipeline or provide any controls
- The operatives noted the pipeline marker posts but assumed the landowner had notified the pipeline operator
- The pipeline was not damaged as minimal material was removed from the base of the ditch and the concrete protection slabs were unaffected
- The operator held discussions with the landowner, highlighting the safety consequences of pipeline damage/release of content. The operator also went through the required procedures for works within 50m of their pipeline
- The operator provided additional pipeline route maps with 50m corridor highlighted. These were laminated to allow outdoor use and storage in machine cabs

Recommendation

- Operators should be aware that infringements can occur from operatives who have assumed that the landowner has carried out the necessary pipeline checks