

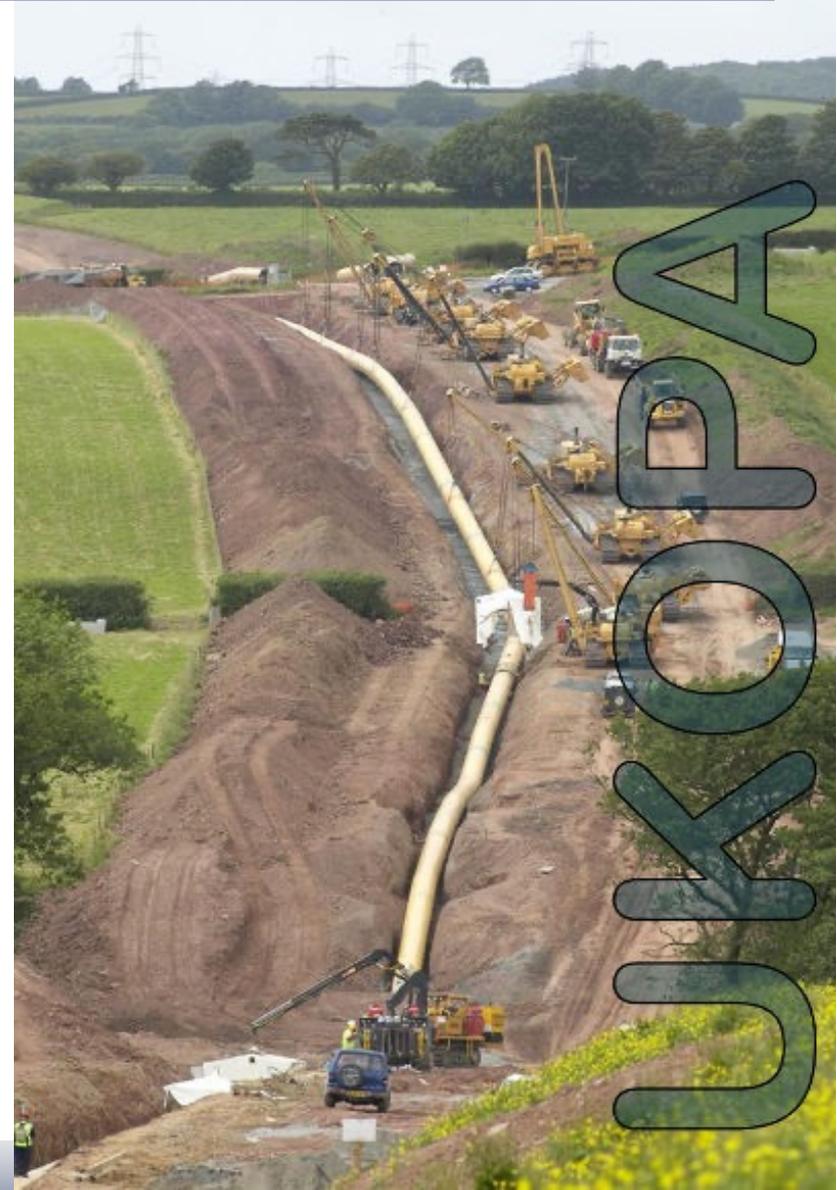
UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

IWG Update October 2023

Carl Scott
IWG Chair

www.ukopa.co.uk



Introduction

The Infringement Working Group (IWG) provides information and expert opinion and leads activities and initiatives to raise pipeline safety awareness to UKOPA members, Industry Stakeholders and those working in the vicinity of UKOPA member' pipelines on behalf of UKOPA.

- Chair – Carl Scott
- 26 people
- 21 UKOPA member organisations.

Update

2023 Work Programme – Update

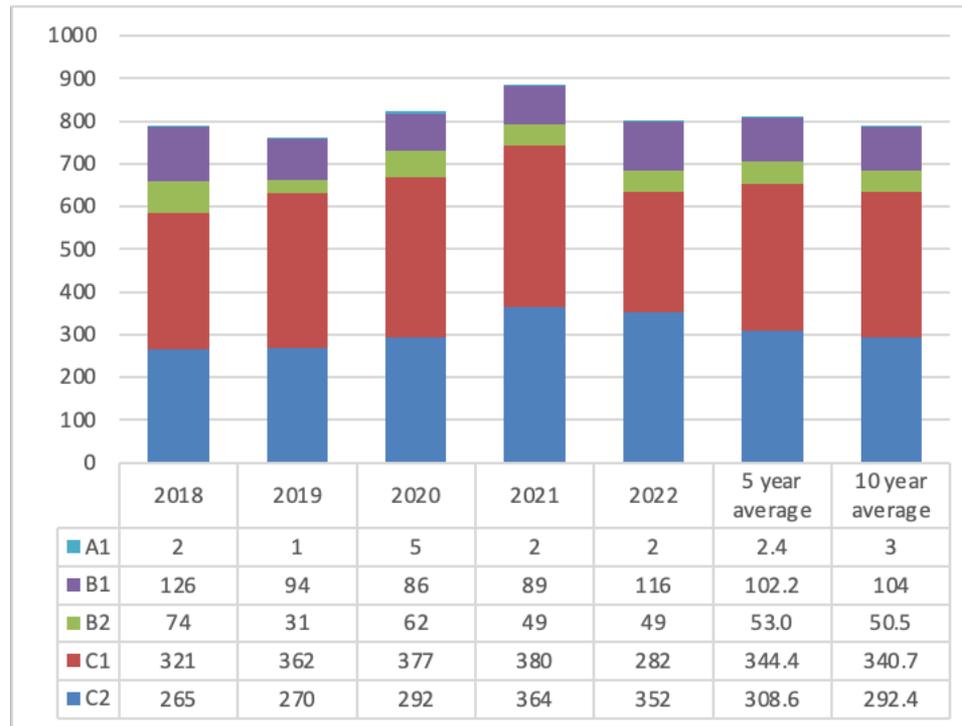
- 2022 Infringement Report.
- Further working with Agricultural Colleges
- Good Practice Guides
- Pipeline awareness video

Initial 2022 IWG data findings

2022 Infringement data



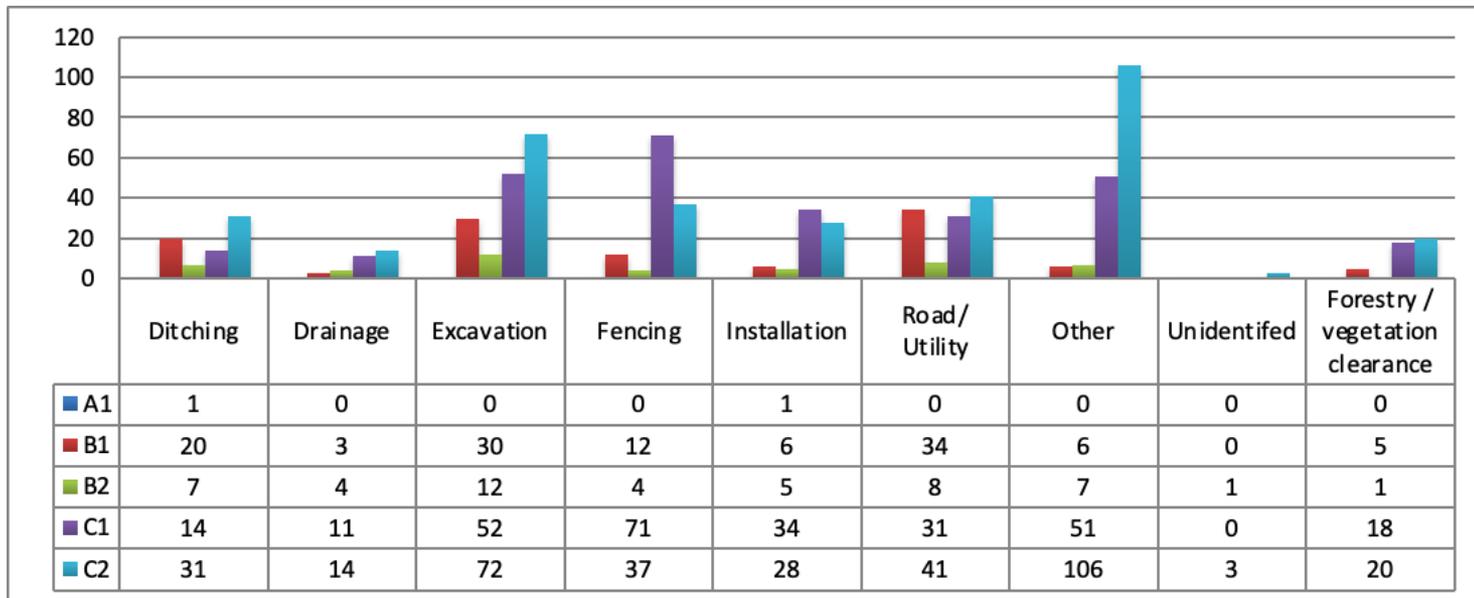
Total number of infringements recorded 801, 2 A infringements



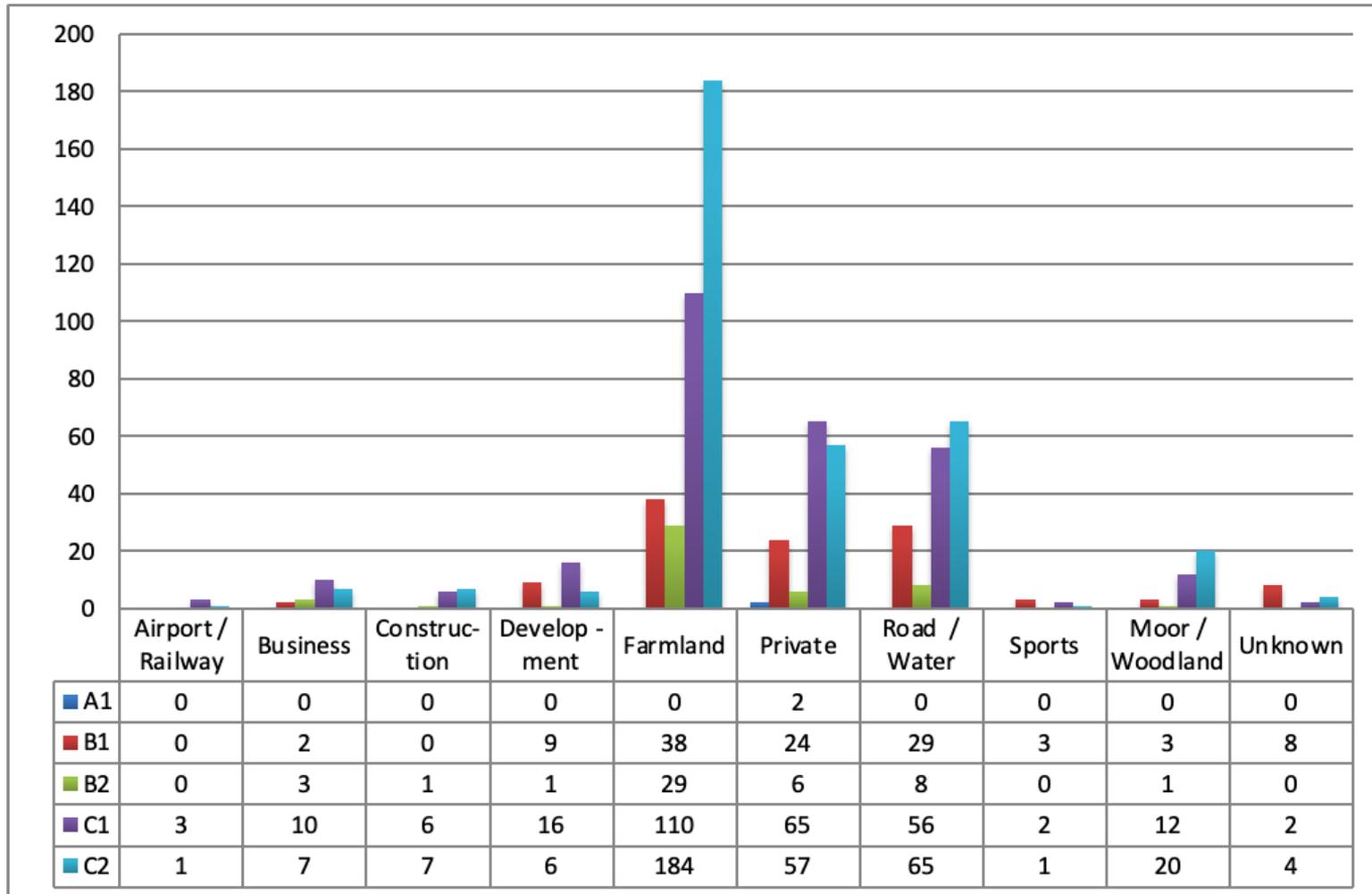
2022 A Infringements

- A landowner was carrying out ditch clearance over a pipeline without notifying the operator and thus not adhering to the required process. The pipeline was found exposed at the bottom of the ditch with coating damage and signs of pitting corrosion (potentially from previous unreported coating damage). A P11 inspection was carried out and found peak depth metal loss of 6.8%. The pipe was recoated and sandbags were laid in the ditch to cover the exposed pipe.
- A landowner had started to construct a barn. One of the foundations was right on the pipe causing some minor coating damage that had to be repaired.

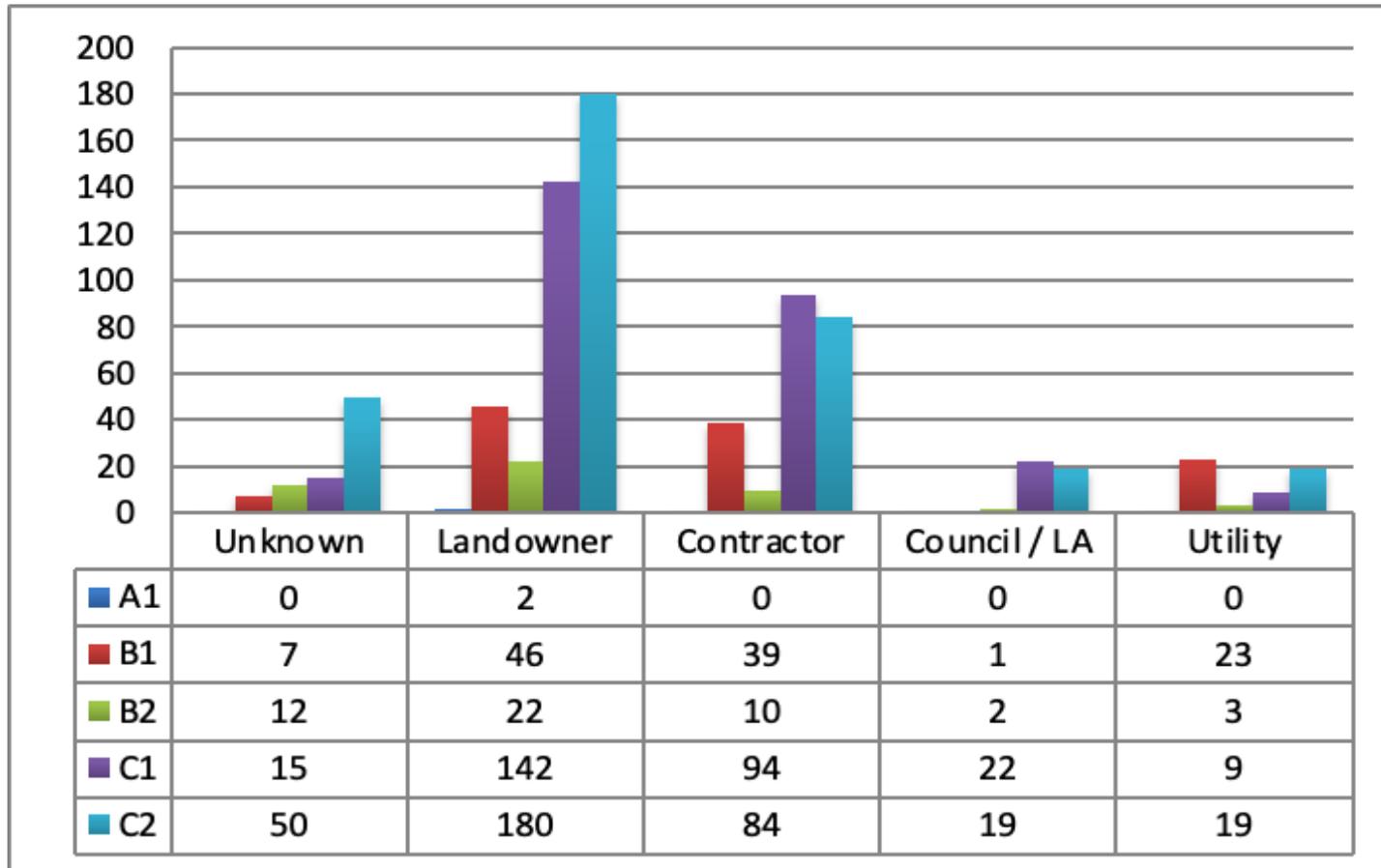
2022 Activity Type



2022 Location Type



2022 3rd Party Type



Forestry Article



- 2021 Infringement report identified an increase in the number of forestry related infringements
- Engaged with CONFOR, to explore ways of raising awareness within the membership
- Result was an article in the April 2023 members magazine regarding planting and managing trees near HP pipelines

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

April 2023 Issue 116

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE
CONFOR AWARDS WINNERS
APPG ON FORESTRY & TREE PLANTING



PLANTING OR MANAGING TREES NEAR TO HIGH PRESSURE PIPELINES

Landowners or contractors looking to plant trees and shrubs in the vicinity of high-pressure pipelines should be aware of best practice guidelines. Phil Taylor, Chair of UKOPA's Infringement Working Group, outlines some good practice guidelines.

Plant and tree roots can cause damage to the coatings used to protect pipelines and ultimately the pipeline itself. To not only protect the UK's pipeline network but also to ensure operatives and the environment are safe from incidents, awareness and consideration of how planting and maintenance work may impact these pipelines is essential.

The United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association (UKOPA) is the authoritative industry body behind some of Britain's most essential energy infrastructure. Overseeing a network of more than 27,000km of pipelines operated by UKOPA members, the organisation helps ensure the safe and efficient distribution of gas, oil and chemicals through the pipelines to strategic points across the country.

Protecting and maintaining these pipelines is vital to the UK's economy so UKOPA works with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the pipelines and the actions needed to be taken if working in their close vicinity (typically within 50m of the pipelines). Key activities where good practices must be followed include planting, trees, clearing ditches and erecting fences.

In addition, heavy machinery can also cause issues if tracking over the pipeline. The heavy equipment can compress the earth above the pipeline or create deep

rutts on softer ground, both of which can induce stresses in the pipeline. Before operating heavy machinery in the vicinity of the pipeline, contact the pipeline operator who will advise on the safest course of action.

If planting any new trees or shrubs in the pipeline's way/awareness, written permission should be obtained from the pipeline operator. Any approval granted by the pipeline operator is likely to include retaining the rights to remove, at any point in the future, all trees which might become a risk to the pipeline and its integrity.

The following should act as general guidance for tree planting, based from the centre line of the pipeline.

- Shallow rooting hedges and ground plants (e.g. blackthorn, broom, elder hazel, etc) may be planted, if necessary, directly across the pipeline.
- Fruit trees, such as dwarf apple stocks, may be planted within up to 3 metres of the pipeline.
- Christmas trees may be planted within up to 3 metres of the pipeline on the strict understanding that these are cleared at intervals not exceeding 7 years.
- The following trees (and those of a similar size, whether deciduous or evergreen) are not permitted to be planted within 6 metres of the pipeline: ash, beech, birch, most conifers, elm, maple, lime, horse chestnut, oak, apple and pear trees.

- Within 6-10 metres they may be planted as individual specimens or as a single row.
- Dense mass planting may be carried out at distances of greater than 10 metres.
- Poplar and willow trees should not be planted within 10 metres of the pipeline.
- UKOPA's members that operate the pipelines are on hand to help and support landowners, or those working on their behalf, with any questions they may have. If there is any doubt about planting trees or if you are proposing to fell trees or remove shrubs within 50m of the high-pressure pipelines, landowners should contact a member of the pipeline operator's team who will be able to provide further help.
- In addition to tree planting, the UKOPA website has published guidelines and videos showing how to help keep people and the environment safe if working in the vicinity of pipelines, whether erecting fencing, clearing ditches or undertaking excavation work near to the pipelines.
- The buried pipelines operate at high pressure up to 100 Bar (which is equivalent to 50 times that of a car tyre) and may often be found at least than the nominal depth of one metre, in particular where there are natural depressions in the ground, or at drainage ditches and water courses. Due to the flammable and potentially hazardous nature of the products contained, anyone undertaking works near to a pipeline needs to be aware of the potential dangers, what to do, and who to contact before commencing works.



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NEWS & UPDATES

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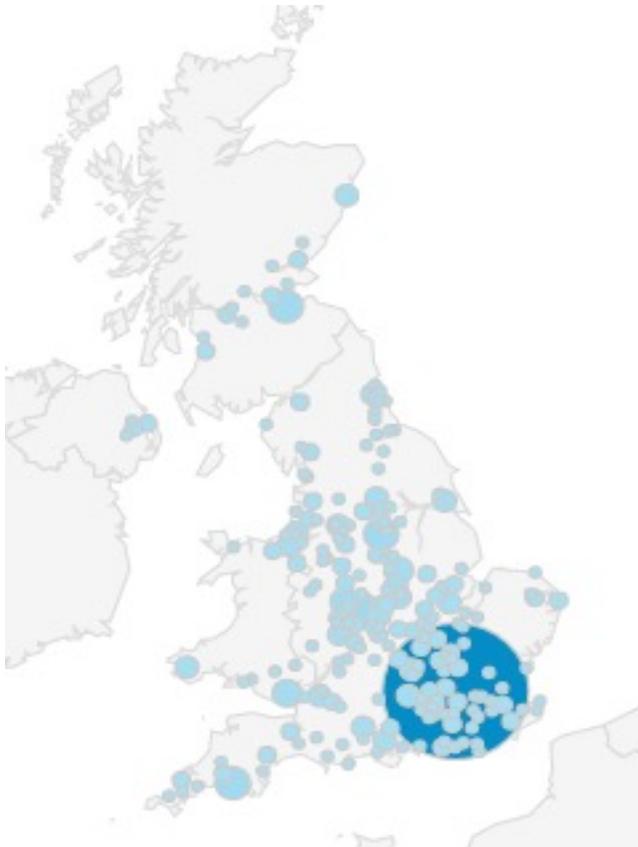
Working & Further Working with Agricultural Colleges (Landex)



- Objective to integrate a learning module with the next generation of people working in agricultural field or likely to encounter pipelines to promote pipeline awareness.
- Learning module has been completed and rolled out.
- First years results
- Statistics received to date (up until Autumn 2022)
 - All 33 Colleges have accessed the materials
 - 3942 students plus 621 completions from the main landing page
 - 92% of students completed the course and received C-grade or higher (70%)
 - Amount of users in total across all sources – 5228
 - Average session duration - 28mins

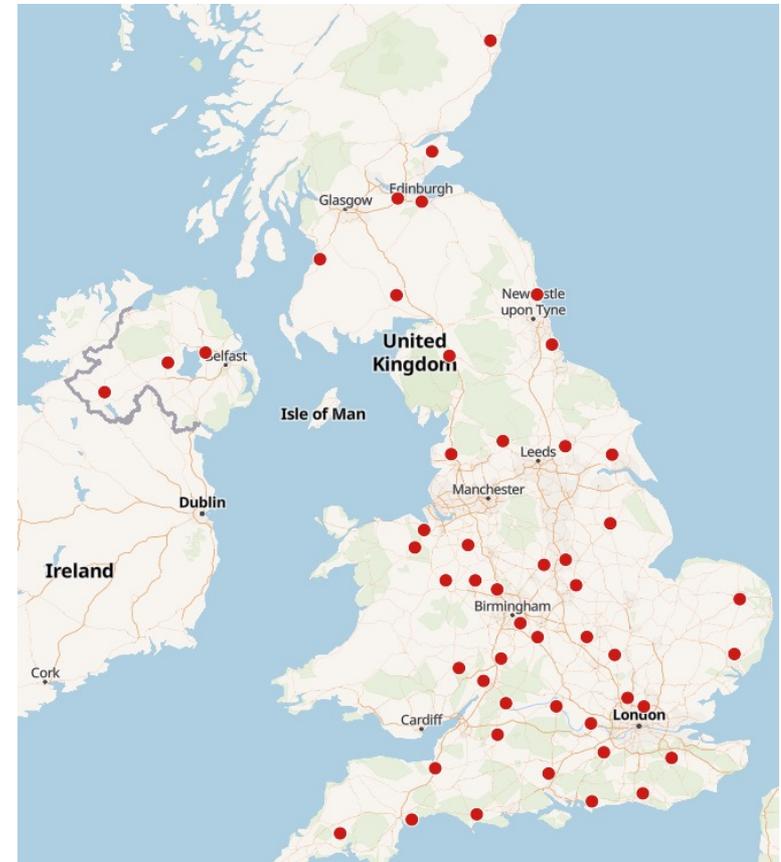
Landex Results

Geographic Spread based on usage of UKOPA Materials



2020

All LBL Member College who Accessed the UKOPA Materials 2022/23



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www.ukopa.co.uk

IWG – Good Practice Guides



High Pressure Pipelines

This Good Practice Guide (041) is aimed at anyone who may want to plant trees and shrubs in the vicinity of high pressure (HP) pipelines. Plant and tree roots have the potential to cause damage to the coatings used to protect HP pipelines, that in turn could lead to damage of the pipeline itself.

Before planting any new trees or shrubs in the pipeline wayleave / easement, written permission should be obtained from the pipeline operator. Any approval granted by the pipeline operator shall be subject to retaining the rights to remove, at any point in the future, all trees, which in the opinion of a pipeline engineer, might become a risk to the pipeline and its integrity.

The consent to plant trees will state what area may be planted and also the type of tree.

The following should act as general guidance for tree planting, based on the centre line of the pipeline:

Shallow rooting hedges and ground plants (e.g. blackthorn, broom, elder, hazel, etc) may be planted, if necessary (for screening purposes or to mark boundaries) directly across the pipeline

Fruit trees such as dwarf apple stocks may be planted up to 3 mtrs of the pipeline

Christmas trees may be planted up to 3 mtrs of the pipeline on the strict understanding that these are clear-felled at intervals not exceeding 7 years

The following trees (and those of a similar size) are permitted to be planted within 6 mtrs of the pipeline: Elm, maple, lime, horse chestnut, oak, ash, sycamore, sweet chestnut, larch, poplar, alder, at distances of greater than 10 mtrs

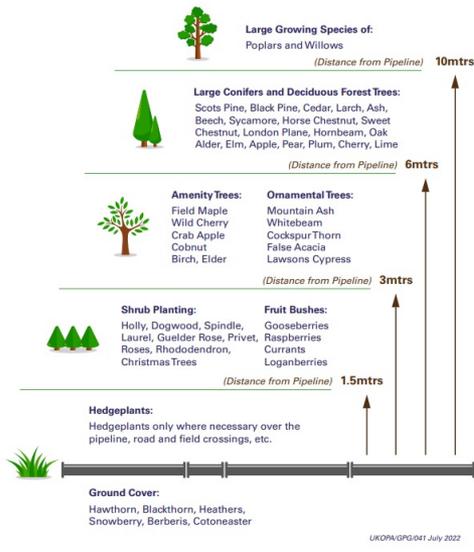
Poplar and willow trees should not be planted

If you are in any doubt about anything listed in this guide, please contact the pipeline operator who will be able to provide further help.

For more information on working safely near high pressure pipelines, please see the presentation which can be found at www.ukopa.co.uk

www.ukopa.co.uk

Tree Planting Guidelines



4. What to do in an emergency

If you uncover ground near or have any contact with a HP pipeline, be that with mechanical equipment or otherwise, is potentially a serious incident and should be treated as an emergency situation. Please:

1. Shut down all working machinery
2. Remove all sources of ignition
3. Remove everyone from the immediate area of the pipeline and move to a safer area upwind of the location
4. If the pipeline is leaking dial 999 inform police and emergency services
5. Do not attempt to seal a leaking pipeline
6. If the leak is burning, do not attempt to extinguish the fire
7. Contact the pipeline operator's emergency telephone number. This can be obtained either from a nearby pipeline marker post, on all communications you will have had from the pipeline operator or on the documentation provided by the pipeline operator prior to you commencing work
8. Follow the advice provided by the pipeline operator and then let them make the situation safe
9. Where possible keep all people and traffic well away from the location

Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines

This guide is aimed at everyone working in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines. A further guide with information specifically aimed at those working in the agricultural sector is also available and can be found on the UKOPA website.

Further Assistance and Pipeline Operators

The UKOPA website contains the company information details for all UKOPA members, visit www.ukopa.co.uk/emergency/

The UKOPA presentation about working safely near high pressure pipelines can be found at www.ukopa.co.uk/relevant-documents-and-information please do take a look at this and share with any staff and contractors working for you. The HSE guidance document HSG47 - Avoiding danger from underground services - is also a helpful document.

2023:
UKOPA/CPG/043 Installation of Fencing Near High Pressure Pipelines

Due 2024:
UKOPA/CPG/15 Managing pipeline infringements - Review

Hazard awareness video

- IWG has a strong desire to produce a hazard awareness video. Something different to what has already been done.
- LSBUD produced a video of a fencing strike in 2023.
- <https://youtu.be/Cwm7J1GkW1E>

What's in store for 2024?.

Future Focus:

- Next generation – Landex Course – Association of Colleges – share with a wider audience.
- Hazard awareness video.
- More learning briefs
- More infringement reports.
- Interaction with LSBUD / Linewatch to attend and share stands at shows – Get the message across.
- NUAR – feedback from members, how is it going in areas where it is live.

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United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association



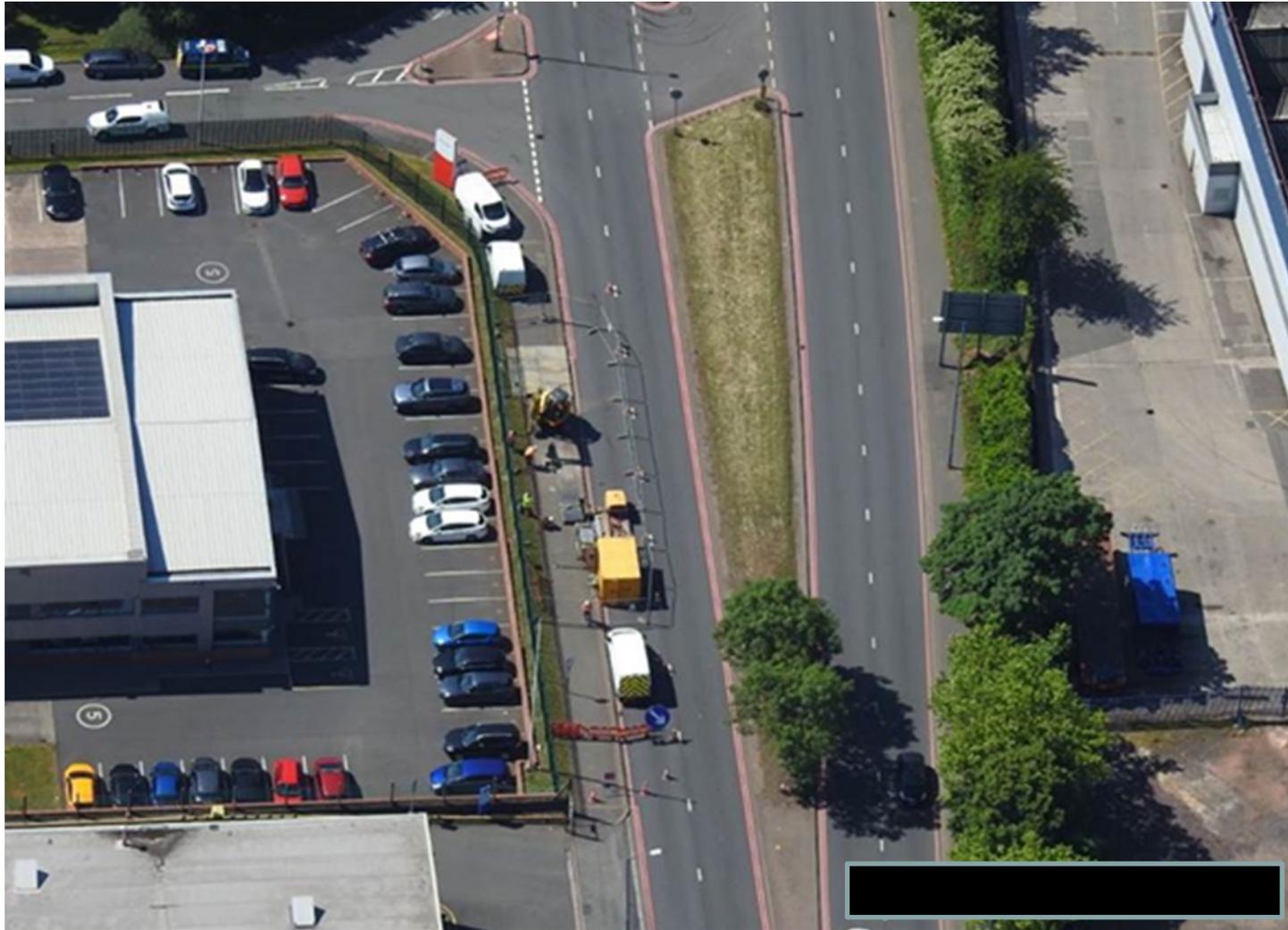
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Streetlamp Infringement



UKOPA

*United Kingdom
Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association*



Streetlamp Infringement

Following a road traffic collision (RTC), a streetlamp in the West Midlands had been severely damaged. The local Borough Council made a decision to remove the lamp post using a Hiab lifting truck but without prior consultation with the pipeline operator or their land agents.

Following the removal of the streetlighting column using the Hiab lifting equipment, the council representative on-site realised their omission and engaged directly with the Pipeline agent.

They were instructed to stop further works immediately and a local pipeline technician attend the site. Due to concerns over the integrity of the pipeline and because of the very close proximity of the streetlamp siting (200mm horizontal distance from pipeline), the pipeline operator required excavation of the area to allow inspection. These works were completed under strict supervision from the pipeline operator and at the cost of the local Borough Council

Streetlamp Infringement

- Pipeline information – 12” live multi fuel pipeline, operating in pressures in excess of 80 Bar.

What went wrong?

- Council rep did not consult with operator or agent before removing streetlamp.
- Council Supervisor did not perform a linesearch before authorising work.
- Council rep believed it was not normal Council practice for emergency works such as streetlamp removals.
 - Distance of lamppost to pipeline – 200mm
 - The excavation and NDT inspection lasted 3 days.
 - Repair Costs were borne by local authority due to their failure to contact the pipeline operator to properly supervise the streetlamp removal works

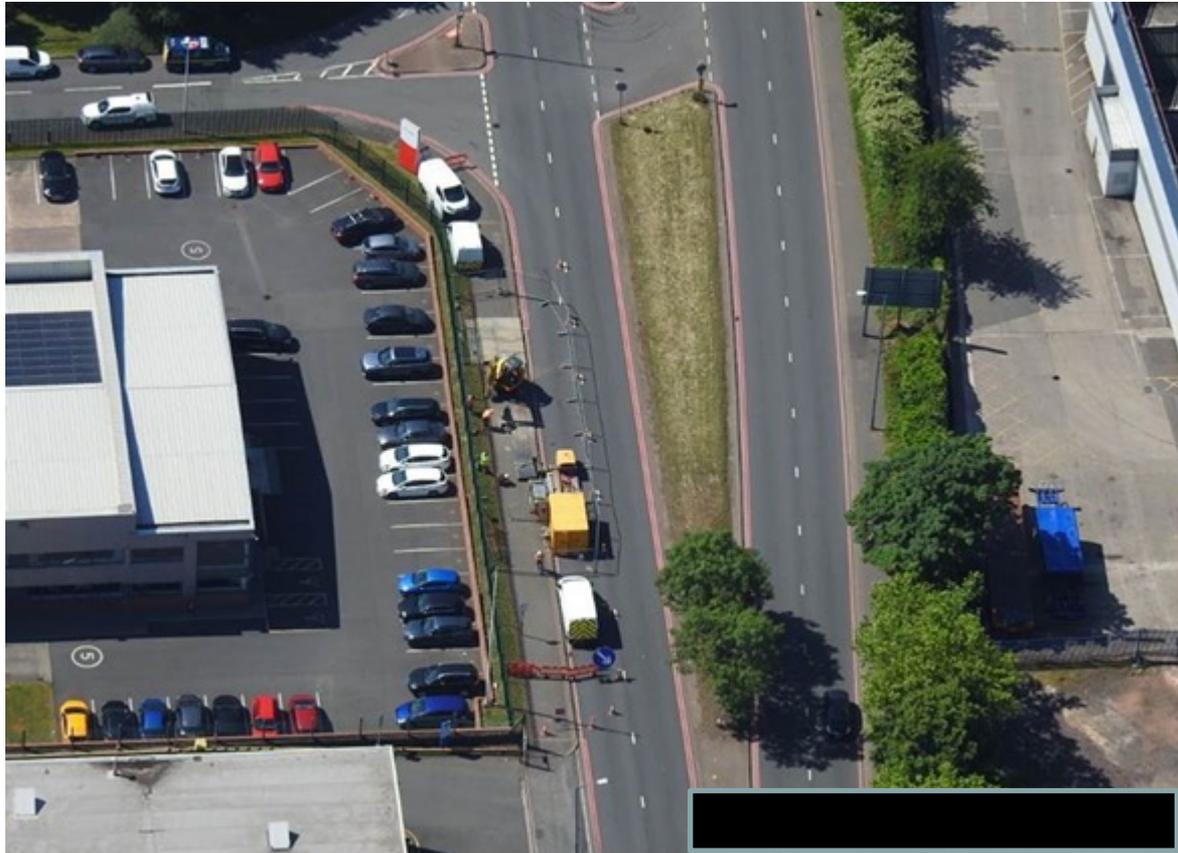
Streetlamp Infringement

The pipeline investigation cost the Local council approx. £50,000.

- Traffic management
- Excavation using vac ex
- Pipeline inspection
- Security costs
- Land agent and pipeline specialist costs

This scenario could easily have been avoided if the council would have performed an LSBUD search.

Streetlamp Infringement



Streetlamp Infringement

