

## IWG Update February 2025

Carl Scott  
IWG Chair



# Introduction

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- The aim of the UKOPA Infringement Working Group (IWG) is to provide information and expert opinion, direction and guidance on pipeline safety to UKOPA members and industry stakeholders.
- Chair – Carl Scott
- Vice Chair – Clark Findlay
- 26 people
- 21 UKOPA member organisations.
- updated Terms of Reference in January 2024.



Microsoft Word  
17 - 2003 Document

# IWG Objectives

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- To share knowledge and good practice on pipeline safety between UKOPA members.
- To produce and maintain pipeline safety good practice guides and technical briefing notes.
- To develop, maintain, review and update systems and processes for monitoring pipeline infringement data.
- To review, interpret, consult and influence Regulators' proposals for pipeline safety.
- To represent UKOPA, where appropriate, on external safety groups.

# January 2025 IWG meeting

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- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year took place at the Ineos offices in Grangemouth.
  - Highly Attended both in person and on Teams
  - An excellent meeting where we discussed the 2024 infringement database, our work plan for 2025, Shared a call with a production company To plan our safety videos for 2025 and NG very kindly shared information on their Wayleave clearance project.
  - Both the workplan and budget where prepared for this weeks board members meeting.

# Update

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## 2025 Work Programme

- Compile 2024 Infringement Report. The aim is to get all the data in by the end of Q1.
- To increase the volume of users on our Landex safe digging E-learning.
- Review guidance documents for 'Working safely around high pressure pipelines'.
- To have another successful advertising campaign aimed at a certain industry.
- Create UKOPA's own Pipeline awareness video's, 3 storyboards have been created and discussions started with a production company.

# Infringement Database

- The 2023 infringement report was not published until November 2024..
- This means the Data in the report can be up to almost 2 years out of date.
- The IWG are working hard to resolve any data input issues that are delaying this with our aim being to collect all data by the end of Q1 each year with the Infringement database report being published during Q2.
- There were a total of 662 infringements recorded in the database this is 139 less than in 2022, equivalent to a 17.4% decrease, With NO A1 infringements recorded at all.

## UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

### UKOPA Report

2023 Infringement database report

UKOPA/RP/23/02 v1

November 2024

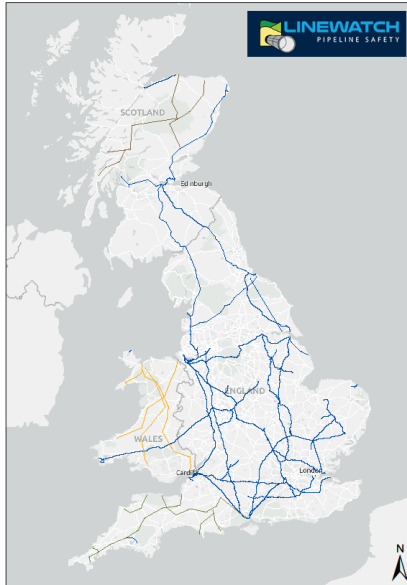
# Working with Agricultural Colleges (Landex)



- Original objective was 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 rolled out to Landex colleges for 3 years and in 2025 we are bringing it to UKOPA's website for use of ALL members and their organisations, with a certificate published for every individual who passes the course.
- Course statistics.
  - All 33 Landex Colleges have accessed the materials
  - Over 5000 users have completed the course.
  - Over 90% of users who completed the course received C- grade or higher (70%)
  - Average session duration - 28mins
  - Please see below figures for 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.
    - Pipeline course visits by registered college students = 567
    - Pipeline course visits by guests = 2,327
    - Total visits = 2,893



# Example slides from the course.



**UKOPA Overview**

UKOPA (UK On Shore Pipeline Operators Association) is comprised of **30** UK onshore H

The length of pipelines operated by our members is nearly 5 times the distance between London and Edinburgh

A recognised and authoritative source of

Good Practice Guides & Technical Information



**UKOPA**

## CERTIFICATE OF COURSE COMPLETION

[Redacted Name]

FROM

[Redacted Name]

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE  
**HP PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION  
AWARENESS  
COURSE**  
ON

February 20, 2025

## High pressure pipelines

- HP pipelines are the most efficient and safest way to transport large quantities of hydrocarbon products over large distances.
- They transport hydrocarbon products including gas, crude oil and petrochemicals
- HP pipelines are predominately made of steel
- HP pipelines are wrapped in a protective coating (which can easily be damaged)
- They are nominally laid at 1.1 mtrs deep (although this might vary)
- They can be anything from approximately 6" to 42" in diameter
- They operate at up to 120 bar - approximately 50 times the pressure of a car tyre
- They run cross country (through farmland, under roads and rivers)
- Most of us are unaware that they are there





# IWG –Good Practice Guides

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Reviewed in 2024:

UKOPA/GPG/15 Managing pipeline infringements

UKOPA/GPG/29 Local Authority Planners information regarding On Shore Pipelines and Associated Installations

In 2025:

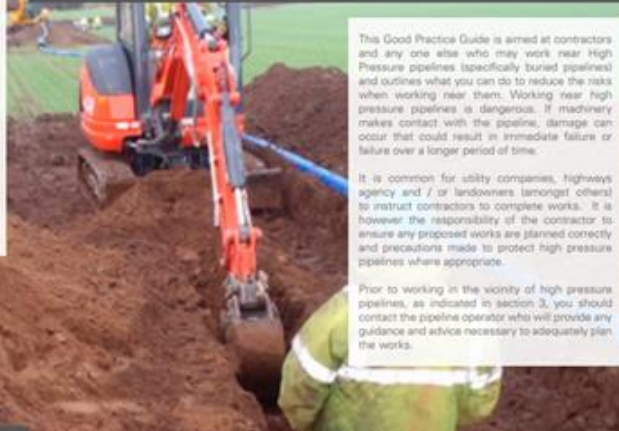
Review guidance documents for ‘Working safely around high pressure pipelines’.

#### 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

## Contractor's Guide to Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines



This Good Practice Guide is aimed at contractors and any one else who may work near High Pressure pipelines (specifically buried pipelines) and outlines what you can do to reduce the risks when working near them. Working near high pressure pipelines is dangerous. If machinery makes contact with the pipeline, damage can occur that could result in immediate failure or failure over a longer period of time.

It is common for utility companies, highways agency and / or landowners (amongst others) to instruct contractors to complete works. It is however the responsibility of the contractor to ensure any proposed works are planned correctly and precautions made to protect high pressure pipelines where appropriate.

Prior to working in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines, as indicated in section 3, you should contact the pipeline operator who will provide any guidance and advice necessary to adequately plan the works.



#### Further Assistance and Pipeline Operators

The UKOPA website contains the company information details for all UKOPA members, visit [www.ukopa.co.uk/emergency/](http://www.ukopa.co.uk/emergency/)

The UKOPA presentation about working safely near high pressure pipelines can be found at

#### 4. What to do in an emergency

If, as a result of the activities you uncover ground or come into contact with a pipeline, then:

- A. Shut down all working machinery
- B. Remove all sources of ignition
- C. Remove everyone from the immediate area of the pipeline and move to a safer area
- D. If the pipeline is leaking dial 999 inform police and emergency services
- E. Do not attempt to seal a leaking pipeline
- F. If the leak is burning, do not attempt to extinguish the fire
- G. 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
- H. Follow the advice provided by the pipeline operator and then let them make the situation safe

## Working Safely Near High Pressure Pipelines

This Good Practice Guide is aimed at everyone in agriculture who may work near High Pressure pipelines (specifically buried pipelines) and outlines what you can do to reduce the risks when working near them. If machinery makes contact with the pipeline, damage can occur that could result in immediate failure or failure over a longer period of time.

### 1 Hazards

Buried pipelines in the UK transport a variety of products at pressure up to 100 bar. This includes flammable and explosive products such as oil, natural gas, ethylene and petroleum as well as less obviously hazardous material such as water. The hazardous nature of the product is magnified by the high pressures, and should, for example a natural gas pipeline operating at 70 bar fail, an explosion could occur that may result in the deaths of people nearby; damage to an oil pipeline operating at 100 bar could result in extensive environmental issues.

Any damage to a pipeline or its coating can affect its integrity that could result in its failure immediately if enough damage is done, or in the future if the damage deteriorates with time perhaps via corrosion. It is therefore essential that safe procedures are complied with when working near to a pipeline.

The hazardous nature of these pipelines is recognised in UK legislation through The Pipeline Safety Regulations. Regulation 15 of this states that "No person shall cause such damage to a pipeline as may give rise to a danger to persons". This applies to persons working near such pipelines, and failing to comply could result in prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

### 2.1 Ditching & Drainage

- Ditch clearing
- Dredging, widening or creation of waterways/ ponds, etc.
- Drainage investigatory work/repairs
- Use of powered machinery to clear materials

### 2.5 Planting of Trees & Shrubs

Planting within the easement should not take place without prior discussion with the pipeline operator

### 2.8 Excavations (incl pits for Carcass burial)

All excavations are notifiable activities

### 2.6 Fires

Should not be built or ignited within the pipeline easement

### 2.9 Wind turbines and solar farms

Contact pipeline operator at earliest possibility (UKOPA have produced good practice guides for both)

### 2.2 Fencing

Installation of new or replacement fences / fence posts or gateposts.

### 2.3 Construction Work including

- Temporary or permanent tracks/roads
- Installation of water pipes, drains or sewers
- Property extensions (including permitted development)
- Change of use of existing building

### 2.7 Sub-soil & Mole ploughing

Should not take place without prior discussion with the pipeline operator

### 2.10 All other works (incl piling & boring)

Please contact the pipeline operator for any other agricultural work not covered in this document; they will be more than happy to discuss any potential issues

### 2.4 Ground Cover & Storage of Materials

- Depth of cover must not be reduced or increased
- Materials not stacked or stored in the vicinity of the pipeline or within pipeline easement

### 3 Information, Instruction & Training

Contractors and temporary staff may be at an increased level of risk when they work on your land, so make sure they know where the pipelines are and discuss and agree with them the precautions they need to take before they start work. More detailed instructions may be needed for those workers whose first language is not English.

The location of pipelines is normally indicated by marker posts at the edges of fields. Remember though that marker posts can be accidentally moved or damaged. Also, pipelines may not necessarily run in a straight line between points. By contacting the pipeline operator in advance, an operator representative can visit your land to locate and mark out the pipeline and advise what works can and cannot be done safely.

The location of a pipeline is normally a **FREE** service.

### 2 Notifiable Activities

Prior to working in the vicinity of High Pressure Pipelines, other than routine agricultural activities such as ploughing, you should contact the pipeline operator who will provide any guidance and advice required.

#### Further Assistance and Pipeline Operators

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

Pipeline operators are here to help, so please do contact them prior to any work taking place or if you have any queries.

**UKOPA**  
United Kingdom Onshore  
Pipeline Operators' Association

[www.ukopa.co.uk](http://www.ukopa.co.uk)

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# UKOPA

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### Natural gas pipeline rupture

EPSC Learning Sheet February 2025



#### What Happened:

During the dig out of an 80 bar natural gas pipeline for repair, a corrugated steel plate was driven into the pipeline, which then ruptured (Oppau Germany 1987). The released gas exploded and a huge jet fire in a populated area resulted in two fatalities and damages to surroundings.



#### Aspects:

- Heat radiation damaged buildings and cars in a 200 m radius
- Perform a hazard and risk assessment before starting ground work. Use specific permit to work forms, for approval.
- Know the exact position of underground pipelines before starting ground work. Do not trust maps. Validate the precise location in the field.
- Use of non-aggressive techniques for excavation, like working with hand tools or vacuum cleaners.
- Minimize personnel at the digging location.

Avoid damages to pipelines when doing groundwork

EPSC Learning Sheets are meant to stimulate awareness and discussion on Process Safety  
EPSC can not be held liable for the use of this sheet Questions or Contact via [www.EPSC.be](http://www.EPSC.be)



## Learning Brief

### UNAUTHORISED FENCING INSTALLED ABOVE PIPELINE

#### What happened?

- A fencing contractor erected a fence in a pipeline easement without permission
- One post was inserted directly above the pipeline to a depth of 500 mm
- The pipeline wasn't damaged

#### Findings and key learning points

- A pipeline operator was contacted by a landowner regarding drainage works
- On arrival at site, the operator's representative noted that a fence had been installed above the pipeline. This had not been authorised.
- The landowner had forgotten to inform the fencing contractor about the pipeline
- One post was directly above the pipeline and although the fencing contractor claimed that the posts were only driven-in to a shallow depth, it was found to be inserted to 500 mm
- The fence-post was adjacent to a pipeline marker post
- The operator explained to the contractor and the land-owner the serious nature of the incident, the potential hazard of striking a pipeline and the correct procedure to follow in future, including the need to contact LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD)
- The post was removed

#### Recommendation

- Operators to reinforce the message to landowners that it is:
  - a) their responsibility to inform contractors and
  - b) that they need to contact the operator prior to any works near pipelines



