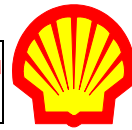


## U.K.O.P.A SAFETY ALERT



Shell North West Ethylene pipeline at Rainford Golf Course.

The incident.

Excavation for a pond associated with the construction of a new golf course had extended to within 6 m of the NW ethylene pipeline (60m was indicated on the original construction plans included with the Planning Application).

Initial Findings:

Construction of a new golf course at Rainford was a known activity and subject to regular surveillance by road patrol and by air as part of the risk management process. On 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 it was discovered that an excavation for a pond had extended to within 6.0 metres from the Shell pipeline. (The original construction plans submitted as part of the Planning application indicated the pond to be 60 m from the Shell pipeline).

The position of the Shell ethylene pipeline was clearly marked by pegs in the ground.



Excavation was stopped at the request of Shell and the bank stabilised. The contravention was raised with the site subcontractor and the site developer. Initial communication was hampered by the fact the excavator driver was Polish and had limited understanding of English.

## UKOPA/SA/09/0024

The pipeline is 4.5m deep at this location as it crosses under Rainford brook and below the depth of the pond excavation.

Material had been removed from the pipeline easement.

The excavation had also breached Rainford brook, a natural waterway. This was not indicated on any construction plans.

### Remedial Actions

1. Rainford Golf course developer agreed to protection measures (physical barrier) to be put in place to prevent further risk to the pipeline at this location.
2. Ensure that all site workers understand the exact location and dangers involved when working in proximity of a high pressure gas pipeline.
3. St Helens planning department contacted to ensure if the drawing issued to Shell was the latest revision of the Planning Application and to ensure Shell are issued with any agreed changes to plans after planning permission has been granted.
4. The Environment Agency was contacted to inspect the stability of the bank at Rainford Brook.
5. Surveillance coordination was reviewed between the aerial and road patrols to ensure that for significant developments of this nature there is a common understanding of the work that is planned to take place.
6. Inform UKOPA members of the nature of this incident.

For any further details concerning this incident please contact the Shell European Oil Products, Stanlow, Cross Country Pipeline Team.

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Approved and Issued by Tony Gillard : Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.