

Engineering Bulletin EB/364

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Linewalking – siting and repair of marker posts for HP and IP pipelines



Background

Third party interference represents one of the main threats for HP and IP pipelines. Having well maintained and correctly positioned marker posts is vital to help prevent third party incidents by highlighting the presence of the pipeline to farmers, landowners, occupiers and contractors.

Marker posts may be missing through a number of different reasons: damage (by land owners or vehicles), vegetation overgrowth or vandalism.

Linewalking (T/PR/MAINT/5041) is now being carried out on HP and IP pipelines.

Requirements

The linewalking process should report whether marker posts are appropriately positioned and or in need of repair. The marker post specification (T/SP/TR/29) and management procedure (T/PM/TR/28), which are under review, give the requirements on the selection of marker posts and their positioning. A general principle for visibility is that, anywhere along the pipeline route, at least one marker post should be visible in both directions.

Although these engineering policy documents were originally issued for HP pipelines, their principles should also be used for IP pipelines, until these documents are updated later in the year.

Remediation

When faults have been identified through linewalking, or through other means, these should be progressed through further work and remediated within 28 calendar days of reporting.

Where pipelines pass through National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other sensitive areas, the decision on positioning, size and number of marker posts should be done sensitively, in conjunction National Grid's Land & Development team (contact is michael.dutton@nationalgrid.com 07584 204376) and local stakeholders. In these and other locations, there may also be permitted development rights questions which Land & Development can help resolve. Note this type of work can affect our ability to discharge legal duties, and planning authorities have the right to take enforcement action if appropriate.

However, it is important to maintain the essential role of highlighting the location of the pipeline to farmers, landowners, occupiers and contractors.

For further information regarding this Bulletin please contact your Line Manager or Robert Owen on 07721 748008

Circulation list: GD Ops; UKD Network Strategy; UKD Gas Operate & Maintain; GTAM; Capital Delivery; SSR; TNS; UK RIIO Delivery; Business Services – HR (including Eakring)

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