

UKOPA INSIGHTS

AUTUMN 2025

UKOPA Members Meeting

8-9 October 2025
Radisson Blu, Birmingham

Welcome and Introductions

John Madden, chair of the EPRWG, welcomed members from more than 30 companies from across the UK to take an active part in this month's Member conference looking at 'Pipeline Hazards and Resilience'. The focus of the conference was how members can maintain a consistent supply of energy through pipeline resilience and mitigating risks. Clive Zanker, UKOPA Chair, also updated delegates on the outcomes from the recent board meeting and plans for 2026. Copies of all presentations are available on the members section of the UKOPA website.

The Right Response

Mitch Allman, a senior ambulance responder and Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Resilience Specialist at National Gas shared details of the plans and preparedness for incidents and emergency plans as well as key roles and responsibilities of Category 1 and 2 responders. Cooperation and information sharing proved critical to achieving shared goals.

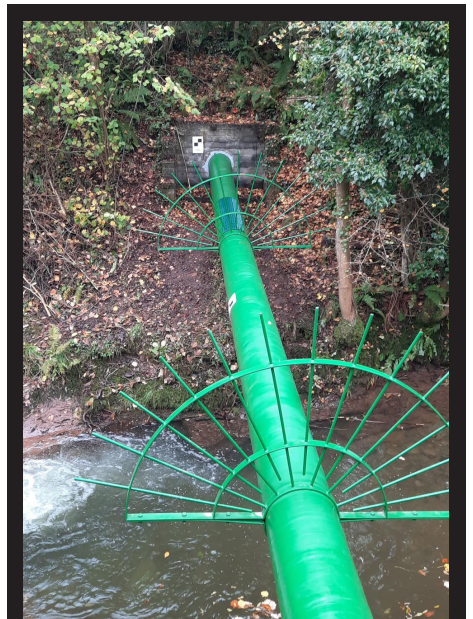


Next steps with NUAR

This year's meeting included a focus on National Underground Asset Register (NUAR) and a call on members to respond to government consultations to help shape the programme now and in the future. Members raise concerns regarding the implementation, data sharing and concerns that it potentially overly 'simplistic'.

The team from NUAR also attended to share their work engaging with members to gather data and allay concerns. The team also gave a live demonstration on the platform and an update on the legislation surrounding the channel enhancements as well as guidance around using the platform.

The NUAR team expressed their desire to listen to operators to help shape and determine policies including elements surrounding sensitive sites, pricing and potential unexpected consequences. Members are encouraged to engage in the consultation and the NUAR team shared details should members want to contact them directly.



Protecting Pipelines

Carl Scott, Valero and Robert Balson, Presserv shared a fascinating case study of work undertaken to protect above ground pipelines. Following routine inspection works one specific stretch identified five areas of concern. The team, with advice from Presserv the global pipeline protection specialists, determined what could be done to improve the pipeline casings and protect the pipeline in the event of extreme weather or environmental conditions including both mechanical impact and environmental stress. Details of new pipeline wrap techniques were shared along with data supporting their resilience.

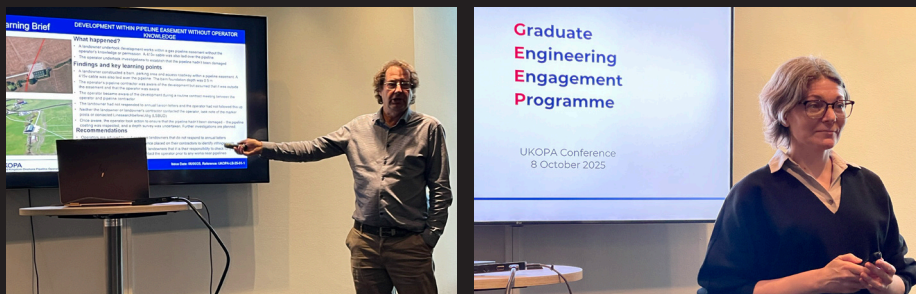
Working Group Updates

UKOPA's seven working groups each shared updates with delegates on the work that is being undertaken to identify and develop good practice across members. Details of the working groups and their latest updates are available on the website and we encourage members to join working groups, most relevant to their working areas.



Learning Briefs

John Ferarri shared with members more than nine new learning briefs prepared over the last year. As well as collective safety learnings from across the membership, John also shared positive work being undertaken that illustrates good practice. There are now nearly 300 Learning Briefs available on the Member's section of the website and John is keen to maintain this momentum requesting ongoing examples to be submitted.



Supporting GEEP

Simona Fornarino from the Royal Academy of Engineering gave an overview of the fantastic work being undertaken to bring connection, collaboration and community to underrepresented communities and less advantaged students. To date GEEP has received support from 50 companies, and included 2,000 students, 70+ universities, 211 volunteers, 242 mentoring pairs and 1000+ hours invested in the next generation of engineers. Simona called for members to get involved and support this year's students and we very much hope members take this opportunity to help the next generation of engineers. All Members who are keen to support this initiative should contact secretary@ukopa.co.uk by 27th October.

Network resilience

Lauren Goodwille, whole energy system resilience manager, National Gas, shared details of a programme they are running with the DESNZ and NESO, focussing on strengthening the safety and resilience of the UK's gas network. Exercise GLACIER, taking place this month will test the network's response to a gas supply emergency to protect both the gas infrastructure, human lives and ensure that critical systems remain safe and operational during emergencies. Findings from the exercise will be shared with the Energy Resilience Group, regulators and industry representatives, to drive improvements across the energy sector.



Process Safety Principals

Patrick Smalley, Compliance & Competence at Tutis Energy Ltd, Tutis Energy shared details of the work undertaken with National Gas on strengthening operational and process safety risk management. He shared work done developing and implementing the Operational Risk Assessment and Management (ORAM) policy, which integrates process safety principles into day-to-day operations. This ensures that safety considerations are proactively embedded in planning, maintenance, and operational decision-making, promoting a consistent, risk-based approach across all assets and activities.



HSE Update

Dev Kiran Jadaeesan, Gas and Pipelines Specialist HSE Inspector, attended day 2 to share details of the team available to support operators. He shared work they were currently examining including the effects of a broad range of electrical interference on buried steel pipelines and how this will feed into proposed network upgrades and a closer relationship between pipeline operators and the Energy Network Association. He also reminded members importance of effective integration between internal company assurances; 3rd party competent person audits / testing and inspection by regulatory bodies to "Prevent failures before they occur".

Industry Recognition

During the networking dinner Tim Rudd, Senior Manager, Mainline Pipelines at Valero received the Chair's Commendation in recognition to his service to UKOPA and the UK's wider pipeline network.



30th Birthday Celebrations

We're delighted to announce that we will be celebrating UKOPA's 30th Anniversary with a Black Tie Event in October 2026.

Please watch out for updates and forward details of possible sponsors to: kirsty.mcdermott@nationalgas.com.

Swansea Sponsorship

Nicolas Opadeyi, a postgraduate from Swansea University who is currently being sponsored by UKOPA through his PhD was on hand to share with delegates details of his thesis on Fatigue Performance of Dented Pipelines. There was also a special request for any used pipelines to be put forward for analysis as part of his PhD studies.



Thank You

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who helped pull together such a successful and engaging Member's meeting. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Siam Samsun from National Gas who led a fun and interactive session before dinner, reminding members of the importance of effective communications and planning should project issues or hazards occur.

UKOPA

United Kingdom Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association

Dates for the diary - 30th Birthday celebrations

UKOPA's 30th Anniversary with a Black Tie Event at Silverstone in October 2026. Please watch out for updates and forward details of possible sponsors to kirsty.mcdermott@nationalgas.com.