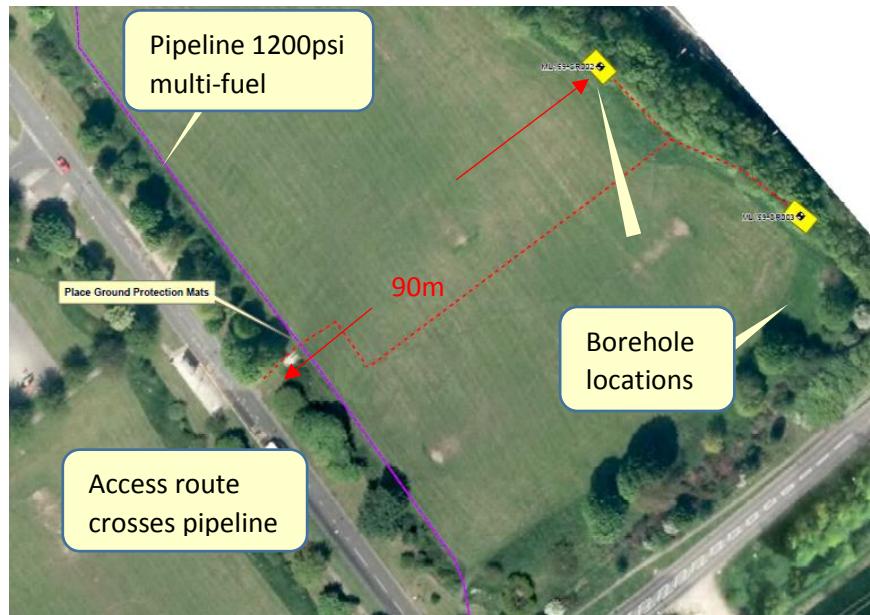


Shared Learning Near miss – ‘Utility Plant Protection’

What happened?

On 13th December 2016 ESO was carrying out a routine aerial survey of their high pressure fuel line and spotted a Ground Investigation (GI) drilling rig in close proximity to their underground pipeline.

On checking with their asset protection team, ESO confirmed that there was a 1200psi multi-fuel Pipeline adjacent to the boreholes, and they had no record of an enquiry being made with their ‘Dial before you dig’ team.



What went wrong?

- The Contractor used the existing HS2 Utility Hybrid drawings, and did not obtain their own drawings as per requirements in the Pre-Construction Information (PCIP) and Design Risk Register (DRR).
- A linesearch enquiry was not made to <https://www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk/>
- The contractor assumed that as the boreholes were over 50m from the pipeline it was alright to continue even though they were in the same field as the utility.
- No Allowance was made for the access route to allow the equipment to be brought on to site, as it had to cross the pipeline and thereby needed to be notified to the utility provider.

What can we learn?

- Ensure the required up to date (less than 90 days old) utility drawings have been obtained before carrying out PAS128 site surveys.
- Never rely solely on service drawings or databases to identify any underground utility asset.
- Never rely solely on utility markers and do not assume that pipelines run in straight lines.
- Where crossing or in close proximity to a Utility Asset, or when in doubt ensure contact has been made with the utility provider (register an enquiry with linesearch).

Please consider these 4 take-away points as part of a review of your working practises. All incidents provide us with the opportunity to reflect on what we do and improve the way we work so everyone goes home safely.

For further information please contact: John Holden, Health and Safety Manager Area North, john.holden@hs2.org.uk, and Phil Skinner, Gas & Fuel Oil Interface & Contract Lead, phil.skinner@hs2.org.uk