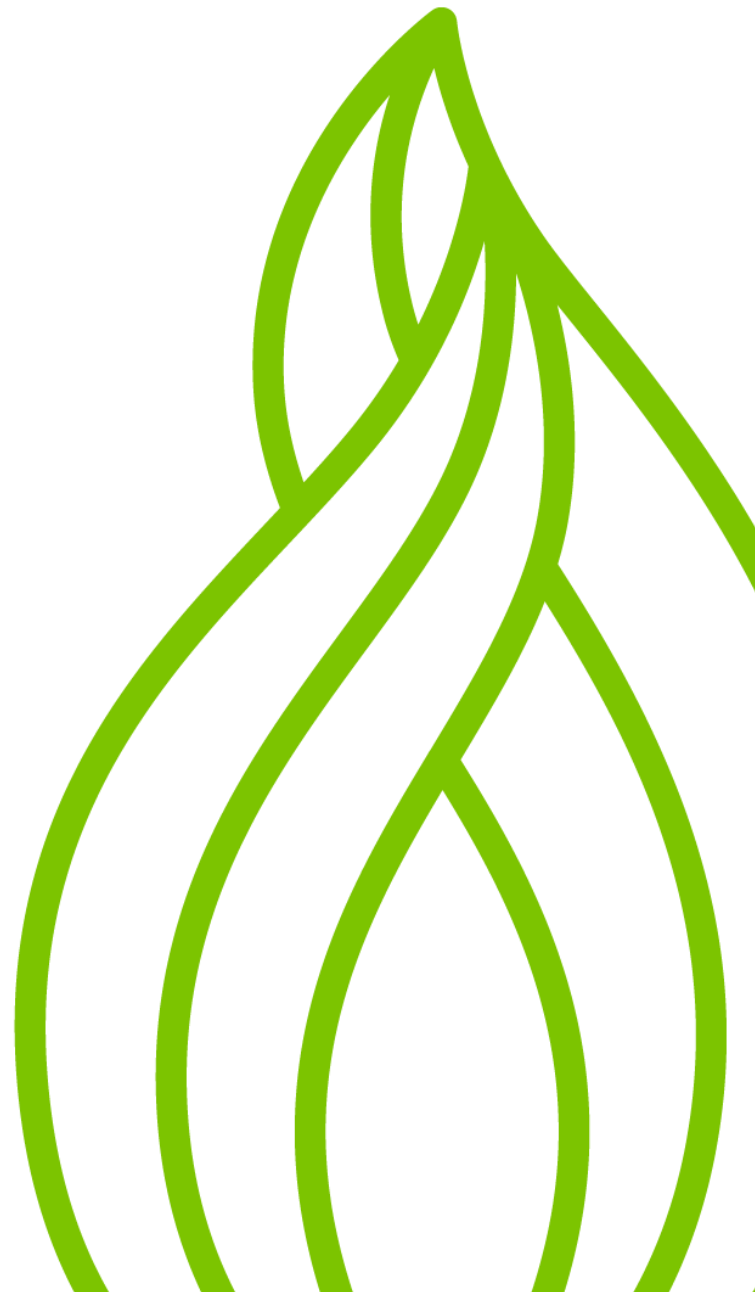




Pipeline Low Depth of Cover

Value Tracking Case Study



Pipeline Low Depth of Cover

Background

When carrying out line walking activities along the pipeline route, it includes the assessment and reaction to issues identified; such as low depth of cover, 3rd party activities, ground movement, security and condition etc. Current this is noted by rail fences and posts to highlight these areas at specific locations. The project aimed to improve this approach for low depth of cover pipelines and awareness when onsite.

What's new?

Working with Policy, Operations and Supplier (Freestyle Graphics) an alternative approach has been created using a marker sheet to clearly highlight shallow pipe. The sheet is to be installed as a low-cost alternative to current techniques and provide a clear visual for Engineers or third parties onsite. The approach has been well received by the business and has been rolled out across the network. MAINT/5045 (Management procedure for assessing the results from line walking) updated to include "Shallow pipeline warning sheeting" as a temporary method of pipeline protection.

The benefits

With the new solution there is improved safety onsite for Engineers or third parties. For example, excavating is a difficult activity and awareness of shallow depth pipe will ensure parties working/ onsite are aware of hazards and ensure the safety of our assets. The solution is lower in cost when compared to the existing approach as fencing and posts are not needed. Once installed on site the depth of cover sheet does not require monitoring or replacement compared to posts/ fences.

For the land owner there is a significant benefit in that areas previously marked by fence and posts was susceptible to weed growth and was hard to clear without moving the fences. This new pipeline warning sheet prevents weed growth.



Implementation

The solution has been fully implemented across National Gas Transmission. Further feedback and successes to be logged from upcoming activities to recognise proposed safety benefits.

