

PMC Knowsley replace 13 pipe supports at Blackrod AGI

Scott Robinson explains: “A team from PMC Knowsley undertook a CM/4 survey at Blackrod AGI for the West 1 Operations Team. The works involved rectification works on thirteen 900mm full encirclement pipe supports. The AGI was constructed in the early 1970’s and the pipe supports had never previously been removed to allow for inspection.

The Knowsley team mobilised to site and installed a number of temporary supports to allow removal of the permanent supports. Upon removal of the supports, it became apparent that there was significant corrosion to the pipes which had been caused by water ingress over the years. The AGI was already under a pressure restriction outage as part of the Samlesbury – Blackrod ILI Digs, which was being carried out by Featherstone, Glasgow and Knowsley.

Once grit blasting had taken place, a number of P11 inspections were carried out to classify the damage. Luckily, all of the corrosion was classified as superficial which allowed for full re-coating of the pipe support area and the support itself.

New neoprene and bolts were also installed to give the supports a complete refurbishment.

In the future, these type of projects will reap the benefits from some of the latest innovation projects that will hopefully be operational, such as the 3D laser scanning for pipe defect assessment, EMAT and composite pipe supports”.



The photos above show the pipe support prior to the works being commenced and an example of the type of corrosion that was found on the pipe.