

Condition Assessment of a 450mm DI Main at Cross Road, Deal

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Report: Condition Assessment of a 450mm DI Main at Cross Road, Deal

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the results of the condition assessment of a pipe section at a residential development site at Cross Road, Deal. The pipe was inspected in-situ through ultrasonic testing and Magnetic Flux Leakage scanning.

- The pipe was determined to be manufactured of 450mm ductile iron and was laid during the 1980's. Based on the age, construction, and measured dimensions to provide input data for structural analysis, the pipe has been compared to BS4772:1980 K9 pipe.
- Wall thickness readings ranged between 9.0mm to 10.3mm with an average of 10.0mm.
- The pipe wall was inspected using AES's magnetic flux leakage tool (SmartCAT) to identify and size patterns of pit corrosion defects. External defects up to a maximum of 2.7mm in depth (27% of average wall thickness) were identified through MFL scanning, internal defects were identified up to a maximum depth of 3.2mm (32% of average wall thickness), no through wall defects were revealed originating from either the external or internal wall face.
- The stress analysis shows that, considering a uniform wall thickness and without considering the presence of pitting corrosion, the pipe currently operates at satisfactory levels of stress at the considered pressure and burial depths.
- The critical defect dimension is through-wall at a length of at least 74.6mm, the remaining life until the attainment of a such a critical defect is expected to be upwards of 200 years at the inspected site.
- The calculated minimum remaining life to through wall corrosion is 52 years at the inspected site, based on the deepest identified corrosion defect and the minimum measured wall thickness along the inspected section of pipe.
- The calculated lifetime to structural failure is predicted to occur in a minimum of 120 years, assuming the current rate of corrosion persists.
- At the inspected location, the distribution of externally oriented defects depicts a sporadic pattern of very shallow defects (typically less than 2mm), due to the size and arrangement of these defects, the risk of propagating into compound defects is low. The corrosion profile of the internal wall face shows a similarly sporadic arrangement, with only 5 defects identified up to a maximum depth of 3.2mm, these defects are likely to be inherent of steady localised attrition of the interior wall over the pipe's lifetime in service.
- The degree of external corrosion identified through visual inspection and MFL scanning was very low, and the inspected section was in generally good condition this is likely to be due to the good condition of the Stanguard wrapping.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The inspected pipe section was in good condition, as such, there is little in the way of immediate remedial action to be taken. Instead, the following recommendations are intended to ensure that the pipeline at the Cross Road development maintains this level of integrity into the future.

- As surface loading will likely increase as the state of development progresses at Cross Road, ensure that the depth of cover is sufficient (1m to 2m) in order to mitigate the concentration of surface loading on sections of pipe.
- Ensure that the main is protected from external mechanical damage during planned groundworks in the area.
- Southern Water may want to consider implementing a long-scale plan for leakage monitoring to increase the chances that through wall corrosion can be identified as and when it occurs over the coming decades.

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

Advanced Engineering Solutions Limited (AES) has been requested by Gladman to carry out a condition assessment of a section of a Ø450mm ductile iron pipe located at Cross Road in Deal, in an area currently being developed for a new housing estate. As part of the development, a new access road will be built above this main, the purpose of this report is therefore to determine the structural integrity of the pipe under increased future loading conditions and to assess the main's current condition.

2 SCOPE OF REPORT

This report includes a description of the pipe installation and inspection results, including pipe wall thickness measurements, a visual coating assessment and a pipe wall corrosion assessment. Inspection was undertaken at selected locations along the pipeline route.

The structural analysis involves applying the appropriate external and pressure loading regimes to calculate the pipe wall stresses with the current level of pipe wall deterioration. Structural failure predictions are based on the calculated localised pitting and general corrosion rates.

Statistical analysis of the identified and measured pitting corrosion patterns and depths to estimate those in the uninspected sections of pipeline has been carried out, allowing general conclusions on the potential for fracture initiation along the pipelines.

Recommendations are made for any remedial action considered necessary to maintain the pipe's long-term integrity. The Appendices include detailed photographs, Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL) output for the pipe wall and analysis results for the pipe.

3 DETAILS OF MAIN

3.1 General

4 PIPE ASSESSMENT DATA

4.1 Installation Details

Details of the pipeline route have not been provided, however, it is presumed that the pipeline runs south-west from the Deal WSW passing under an existing housing estate and through the proposed development at Cross Road.

4.1.1 Joints

No joints were identified at the inspected section of pipe.

4.1.2 Visual Coating Assessment

The pipe was protected by Stanguard wrapping and bitumen paint, both the wrap and bitumen paint displayed good overall condition and the pipe surface beneath the coating was also in good condition.

4.2 Inspection Results

4.2.1 Wall Thickness and Diametrical Measurements

The wall thickness was measured using an ultrasound technique while the integrity of the pipe wall was determined by carrying out a series of scans with the SmartCAT.

The resolution of the ultrasonic gauges is 0.01mm for the Sonatest Sitescan D20+ used to measure the wall thickness.

The full ultrasonic wall thickness measurements results are also shown in Appendix 2, with a summary provided in Table 4.1.

Overall, wall thickness was found to range from 9.0mm up to 10.3mm with an average of 10.0mm.

4.2.2 Localised Corrosion

Surface corrosion defect patterns were investigated using the AES SmartCAT MFL tool and visually inspection.

The remaining wall thickness plots can be observed in Figure 4.1 below.

FIGURE 4.1 REMAINING WALL THICKNESS PLOT

Corrosion pitting at the inspected section was minimal with a loose cluster of shallow defects (up to around 30% of wall thickness in depth) appearing at the distal end of the scan between 20° and 150° from the pipe crown. The maximum defect was 3.2mm (32% wall thickness) in depth and originated from the internal pipe wall.

4.3 Soils Analysis

The soils are assessed according to the AFNOR scheme that takes account of several variables measured during inspection. Based on the measured soil properties detailed in table 4.2, the French 'AFNOR' standard A05-250 considers the ground surrounding the main to be only "slightly corrosive", due to the permeability and basic nature of the chalky soil surrounding the pipe, combined with the low water content of the soil. It was also noted a small amount of ground immediately surrounding the pipe wall appeared to be an imported pea-gravel backfill.

5 CONSTRUCTION

The main has been taken to be manufactured between during the 1980s, to BS4772:1980, based on the wall thickness measurements and external pipe diameter. The main is constructed of ductile iron and most closely conforms to K9 pipe.

The principal structural details specified by this Standard are given in Table 5.1.

The maximum working pressure is derived from 50% of the test pressure specified in the appropriate British Standard for the pipe. The maximum allowable stress is derived from the minimum tensile stress with a factor of safety of 2.

6 STRESS ANALYSIS

6.1 Structural Failure

Structural failure of the pipe is likely to occur in one of three ways:

- Loading of the pipe in excess of design and/or material limits.
- Uniform wall thinning to the point where the pipe wall thickness is not sufficient to support the applied loading.
- Growth of a corrosion pitting defect leading to a fracture, under the combined pressure and external loading.

Further details on the stress analysis methods used can be found in Appendix 6.

6.2 Internal Pressure and External Loading

The inspected section of pipeline was located at the side of Cross Road in Deal at a burial depth of 0.8m, in an area currently being developed into a new housing estate, the degree of loading via traffic was predicted to increase following the upcoming development and it was surmised through aerial imagery that the pipe runs under several roads in a nearby residential area. A minor road external loading regime was therefore adopted for the purpose of stress analysis calculations.

The operating pressure at the inspected location 1 was supplied to AES as 7.5 bar.

6.3 Stress Analysis Results

6.3.1 Circumferential Bending and Membrane Stress

The soil has been identified as firm chalk. A soil density of $2000kg/m³$ has been applied in the calculations, and the average measured pipe wall thickness and the measured depth of cover at each site are used. A summary of stress analysis results, for the operating pressure, are provided in Table 6.1, with the complete data provided in Appendix A3.

The stress analysis shows that, considering a uniform wall thickness and without considering the presence of pitting corrosion, the pipe currently operates at satisfactory levels of stress at the considered pressures, burial depths and loading conditions.

6.3.2 Wall Thickness Critical Stress Attained

The pipe wall thickness used in the model is progressively reduced until the maximum allowable stress and ultimate tensile stress are achieved for operating pressures under the relevant loading conditions. A summary of the results under the current operating pressure are shown in Table 6.2, with the complete data provided in Appendix A3.

7 DEFECT ANALYSIS

The presence of pitting defects in the pipe wall results in local stress concentrations and increases the likelihood of failure. AES have developed software based on BS 7910:2013, Guide to Methods for Assessing the Acceptability of Flaws in Metallic Structures. This allows a prediction of the critical defect depth that may initiate failure to be made, taking the influence of individual defects identified in the inspection on the pipeline integrity into consideration.

Assessment of the acceptability of a defect is made by means of a failure assessment diagram (FAD) based on the principles of fracture mechanics. Appendix A4 shows the FAD for each load case. The vertical axis of the FAD is a ratio of the applied conditions to the conditions required to cause brittle fracture; the horizontal axis is the ratio of the applied load to that required to cause plastic collapse. Calculations for a flaw provide the coordinates for an assessment point. Defects that fall within the assessment lines are considered acceptable.

For the critical defect to cause an unacceptable likelihood of failure initiation it is assumed to be coincident with a point of maximum pipe wall stress in each case.

7.1 Results

The results of the analysis are shown in Table 7.1. The analysis showed that a through-wall defect of hemispherical geometry would be acceptable in terms of the risk of structural failure resulting from its presence.

Further analysis was then carried out to determine the length of a through-wall corrosion defect that would be required to put the pipe at risk of structural failure. It was shown that a single defect of 74.6mm, coincident with the maximum point of stress would put the pipe at an unacceptable risk of structural failure.

8 REMAINING LIFE

Based on the results of the NDT inspection at Cross Road, AES have calculated both a general and localised corrosion rate using their own procedures to be able to provide an estimated life until structural failure due to both general wall thinning and the presence of a critical defect.

8.1 General Corrosion Rate

Taking the wall thickness at the time of installation to be equal to the maximum specified wall thickness and assuming a constant linear corrosion rate between the installation and inspection dates (no initial coating life), gives a calculated general corrosion rate. These figures are shown in Table 8.1. This approach is conservative in ascribing all wall thickness variation to corrosion and none to manufacture.

8.2 Localised Corrosion Rate

Taking the wall thickness at the time of installation to be equal to the maximum specified wall thickness and a constant corrosion rate between the installation and inspection dates (no initial coating life), gives a calculated localised corrosion rate. These figures are shown in Table 8.2. This approach is conservative in ascribing all wall thickness variation to corrosion and none to manufacture.

8.3 Life to Structural Failure

8.3.1 General Wall Thinning

The projected remaining life to structural failure of the pipe due to wall thinning uses a conservative approach based on the calculated general corrosion rate in Section 8.1, the average measured wall thickness, and the wall thicknesses at which key stresses are attained.

Table 8.4 shows the projected remaining life to the attainment of maximum allowable stress for the pipe, at which point the pipe is at an increased risk of structural failure and the projected remaining life to the attainment of the yield stress, at which point structural failure of the pipe can be expected.

8.3.2 Life to Attainment of Critical Defect

The critical defect dimensions have been calculated in Section 7.1.

The measured defect dimensions and calculated localised corrosion rate may be used to calculate the life until the attainment of a critical defect, it is assumed that the length of a through-wall defect increases at twice the rate of the depth, and that the length of the maximum idealised defect is 2x its depth. These lives are reported in Table 8.5.

8.4 Minimum Life to Leakage

The measured pipe wall thicknesses and defect depths are used to estimate the life to through wall corrosion. Based upon the localised corrosion rate and a minimum likely localised wall thickness (minimum localised wall thickness equal to minimum measured wall thickness minus deepest pit depth), the projected remaining life to through wall corrosion for the pipe has been calculated. These figures are shown in Table 8.6.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- The pipe was determined to be manufactured of 450mm ductile iron and was laid during the 1980's. Based on the age, construction, and measured dimensions to provide input data for structural analysis, the pipe has been compared to BS4772:1980 K9 pipe.
- Wall thickness readings ranged between 9.0mm to 10.3mm with an average of 10.0mm.
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- At the inspected location, the distribution of externally oriented defects depicts a sporadic pattern of very shallow defects (typically less than 2mm), due to the size and arrangement of these defects, the risk of propagating into compound defects is low. The corrosion profile of the internal wall face shows a similarly sporadic arrangement, with only 5 defects identified up to a maximum depth of 3.2mm, these defects are likely to be inherent of steady localised attrition of the interior wall over the pipe's lifetime in service.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

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Appendix 1 Photographs

FIGURE A1.1 – INSPECTION LOCATION AND PROXIMITY TO THE DEAL WSW

FIGURE A1.2 – INSPECTION SITE

FIGURE A1.3 – EXCAVATION AT INSPECTION SITE, STANGUARD WRAPPING IN GOOD CONDITION

FIGURE A1.4 – PIPE SURFACE BENEATH STANGUARD, GOOD CONDITION

FIGURE A1.5 – PEA GRAVEL BACKFILL IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING PIPE

FIGURE A1.6 – CLOSE UP OF PIPE SURFACE, SUPERFICIAL EXTERNAL DEFECTS NOTED

FIGURE A1.7 – UT PERFORMED ON MAIN

FIGURE A1.8 – MFL CARRIED OUT ON MAIN WITH SMARTCAT TOOL

Appendix 2 Wall Thickness Results and MFL Pipe Wall Scan Plots

FIGURE A2.1 – MFL PIPE WALL SCAN PLOT

Appendix 3 Stress Analysis

A3.1 Stress Analysis

A3.1.1 Internal Pressure and Overburden

The stress analysis requires an understanding of the loading regimes on the pipeline.

The operating pressure at the inspection location was provided to be 7.5 bar.

A3.2 Stress Analysis Results

The stress analysis considers a soil density figure of 2000kg/m³ together with the average measured pipe wall thickness and the measured depth of cover at each site. The results of the analysis are provided in Table A3.1.

*Membrane stress is essentially the hoop stress.

This circumferential bending stress analysis considers a uniform wall thickness and does not consider the additional localised stresses caused by corrosion pits.

The stress analysis shows that, considering a uniform wall thickness and without considering the presence of pitting corrosion, the pipe currently operates at satisfactory levels of stress at the considered pressures, and burial depths.

Appendix 4 Defect Analysis

4.1 Defect Analysis

The presence of pipe wall defects results in stress concentrations in the pipe wall around the defect and thus, increases the likelihood of failure.

The stress analysis for the pipeline has been carried out using the minimum material properties specified in the British Standards, to which the pipes in the system are considered to be manufactured to.

The assumed material properties for the defect analysis were as follows:

Material Properties:

FAD Diagrams

The FAD diagrams show the critical defect size based upon the minimum material properties from the assumed standard and the results of the stress analysis.

FIGURE A4.1 – FAD AT OPERATING PRESSURE WITH FIELD LOADING– CRITICAL LENGTH 74.6MM

FIGURE A4.2 – FAD AT SURGE PRESSURE WITH FIELD LOADING – CRITICAL LENGTH 59.0MM

Appendix 5 Coating Assessment Methodology

A5.1 Visual Coating Assessment

A visual assessment of the pipe coating was carried out in order to identify the coating type and assess its general condition.

To quantify the level of coating failure present on the pipelines, the following model has been created. The pipe's external surface area has been separated into grids and the coating failure identified within these grids reported as a percentage. Each row (1, 2, 3…n) in the grid is representative of one scanned length of the pipe up to the number of scans completed in total (n) – see Figure A5.1.

FIGURE A5.1 – PIPE GRID DIAGRAM

Appendix 6 Inspection Equipment Record Form

Inspection Equipment Record Form

