



Welders working
on a sleeve repair

Weld done! Engineer Tony Solves pipeline problem

A high-pressure pipeline crossing under a railway line has been given a new lease of life thanks to in-house design to prevent corrosion.

An annual inspection of a steel sleeve, at Bere Ferrers near Tavistock in west Devon, revealed it was leaking nitrogen used to protect the pipe against decay.

Step forward Welding Engineer Tony Abdul, who designed a repair method to weld the end seal permanently – an approved process – that is being used on several projects around the network.

“Some of these pipes are 40 years old

and showing their age,” explains Stephen Cox, Project Manager. “We’re now moving away from sleeves to a heavier-walled pipe but we have a duty to repair the old systems.”

The challenge of the Bere Ferrers project was that the pipeline also crosses under a pressure reduction station, needing an excavation of 5.5 metres deep and six metres long.

“A concrete base supporting the station was along one edge of the excavation, restricting the available clearance to one side of the pipeline,” adds Stephen. “It was

quite a complex project, needing a number of people to solve, and all this while the pipeline was still in service.

“But the pipeline will have a longer lifetime as a result and make sure our customers continue to have a safe and reliable gas supply.”

Tony Perry, Pipelines First Line Manager, has installed an Abriox Nitrogen Sleeve Remote Monitor to monitor the pressure within the sleeve and record results on a weekly basis, to make sure it remains compliant.

“IT WAS QUITE A COMPLEX PROJECT, NEEDING A NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO SOLVE, AND ALL THIS WHILE THE PIPELINE IS STILL IN SERVICE

STEPHEN COX