



## Flexible Pipe burst during clearance pumping

### Task Activity:

The site team were carrying out test pumping to test the new Borehole that had been recently drilled.

The system comprised of lamella and settlement tanks to provide filtration prior to discharging in a nearby watercourse to comply with the duty of care. Test pumping was due to continue for several days



Experienced personnel were onsite, and they commenced test pumping on day two. Whilst test pumping the flow rate began to decrease from 30 l/s. The pump operatives sought to correct the drop in flow by increasing the frequency of the pump. Due to a build-up of pressure, one of the flexible pipes burst and water was released.



The pump was immediately disconnected, and all works on site ceased whilst the investigation was undertaken.

A pressure release valve was not fitted to the headplate.

### Key messaging going forward:

- The investigation is ongoing, and so, key messages are still being determined. However, whilst it is recognised that pressure release valves are not always required it is good practice to install them in case of unexpected failure.
- Members of the site team were in close proximity to the burst pipe. Safe working zones must always be implemented and only where expressly required should personnel be in close proximity to pipework on site.

### Key actions to be taken following the incident:

- Make sure you risk assess the task and always consider additional precautions such as pressure release valves, or electronic pressure transducers linked to the pump controller for immediate isolation at the preset pressure limit.
- Always check the condition of pipework and connections before use.
- Make sure the pipework onsite is of suitable size and with the appropriate pressure rating tolerance prior to carrying out test pumping.