



# Skylark CO<sub>2</sub> Dispersion Project - update

Simon Gant, Fluid Dynamics Team, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Science and Research Centre  
Daniel Allason, Energy Systems, DNV Spadeadam

CCSA Health and Safety Task Subgroup meeting on CO<sub>2</sub> venting  
27 November 2023

# Outline

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- Quick summary of Skylark project plans
  - Work packages
  - Expressions of interest
  
- CO<sub>2</sub> venting discussion
  - Motivation
  - Questions for operators and consultants

# **Timeline of recent meetings where Skylark was discussed**

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- **20 – 22 June:** George Mason University (GMU) Conference on Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Modeling
- **6 July:** UKCCSRC webinar on “Regulating UK CCS deployment: experience to date and research needs”
- **31 August:** CCSA Health and Safety Task Sub-Group meeting
- **6 October:** Skylark project meeting at DNV Spadeadam and online
- **31 Oct – 1 Nov:** PHMSA Pipeline Safety Research and Development Forum, Arlington, Virginia, USA
- **16 – 17 Nov:** Pipeline Safety Trust annual conference, New Orleans, USA

# Plans for Joint Industry Project

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- Work Package 0: Project Management – **DNV**
- Work Package 1: CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline craters and source terms – **DNV**
- Work Package 2: Wind-tunnel experiments – **University of Arkansas**
- Work Package 3: Simple terrain dispersion experiments – **DNV**
- Work Package 4: Complex terrain dispersion experiments – **DNV**
- Work Package 5: Model validation – **HSE**
- Work Package 6: Emergency response – **NCEC**
- Work Package 7: Venting – **DNV**

with support from the **Met Office**  
for the DNV field trials



# Work Package 1: CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline craters and source terms

- **Aim:** to improve our understanding of source characteristics for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline releases from craters, using field-scale experiments
- Review existing data for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline craters, both punctures and ruptures (some data is not yet publicly available)
- Conduct pipeline rupture tests
  - Both gas-phase and dense-phase CO<sub>2</sub>
  - 6-inch or 8-inch diameter buried pipelines
  - At least two soil types (e.g., clay/sandy)
  - Assess size/shape of craters produced in soil
  - Construct realistic-shaped metal crater
  - Perform further tests using metal crater with near-field instrumentation
  - Repeat tests: puncture tests, light and moderate wind speeds



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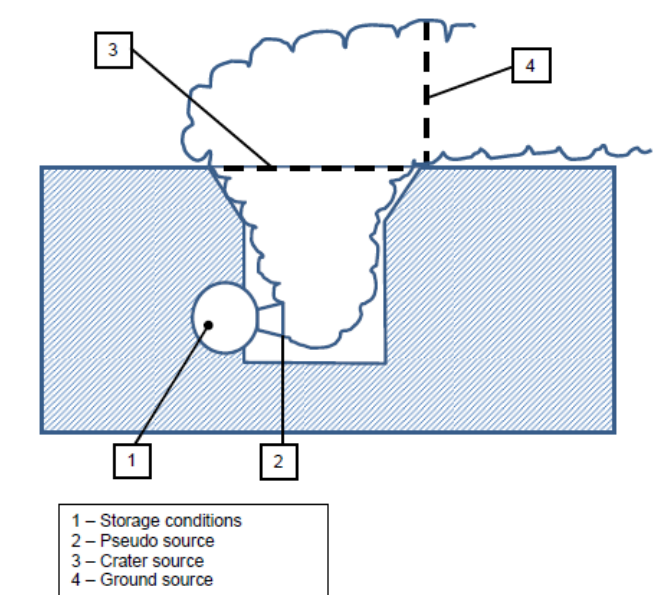
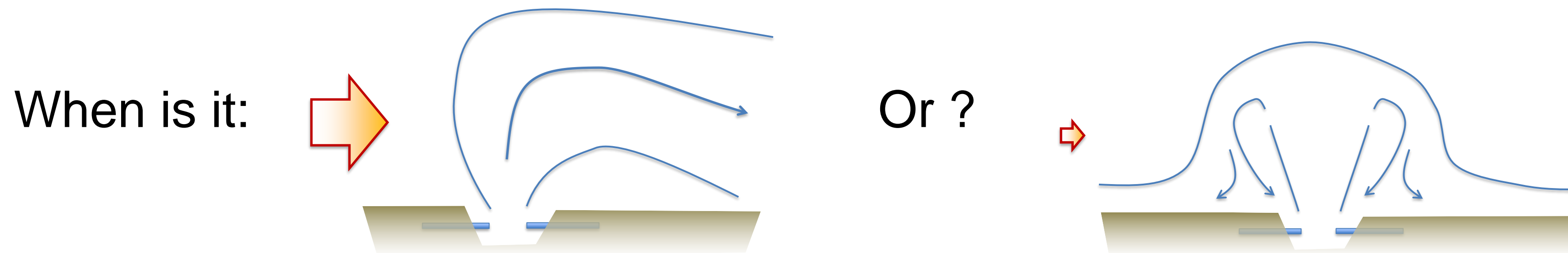


Figure 1 Puncture and crater sources

## Work Package 2: Wind tunnel studies

- **Aim 1:** to conduct wind-tunnel experiments on crater source behaviour across a wide range of carefully-controlled conditions, with detailed measurements
- Variables: source area, initial jet velocity and density, wind speed
- Answer question: what are the criteria that control when the plume falls back onto the crater, producing re-entrainment and a source blanket?

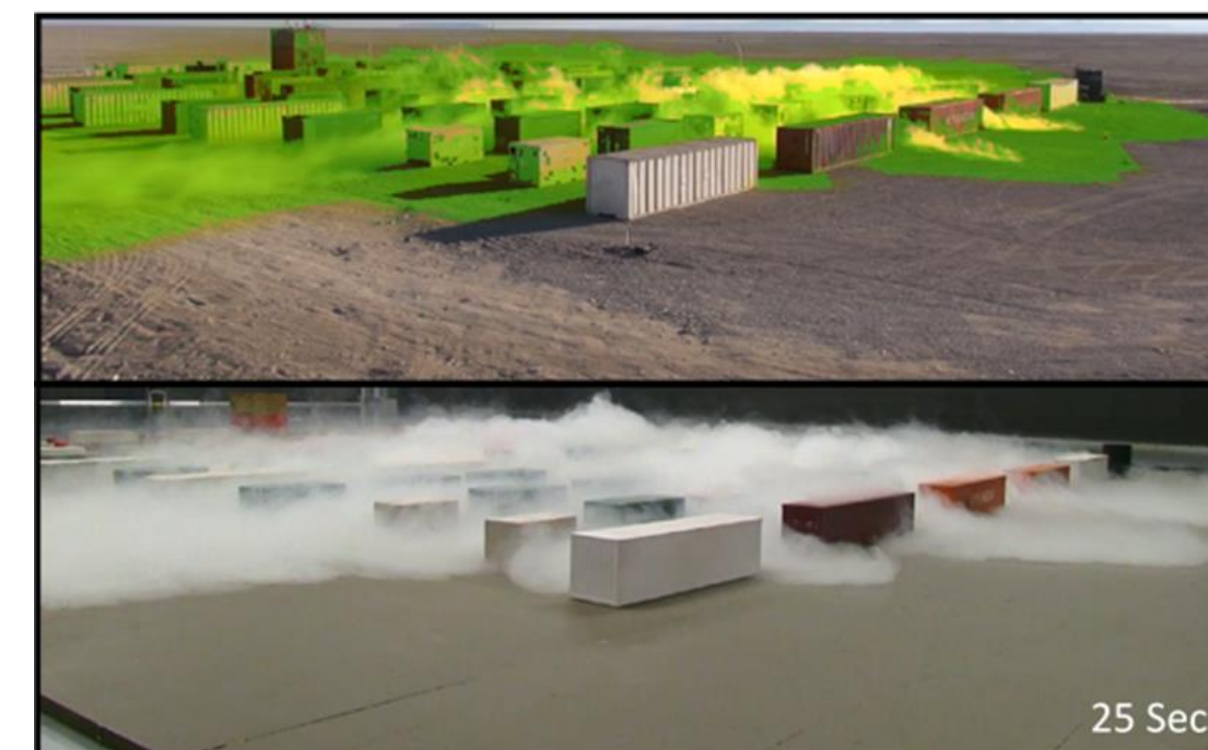
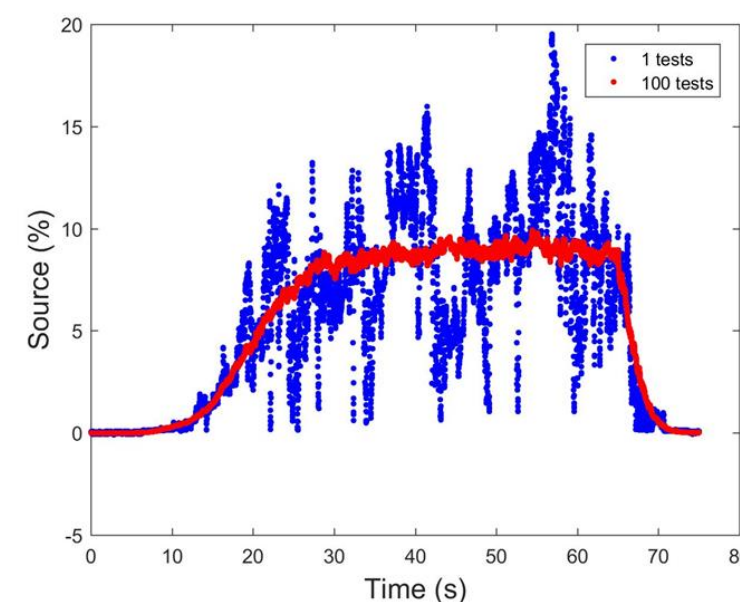


- **Aim 2:** to conduct wind-tunnel experiments on dense-gas dispersion in sloping terrain, comparing flat terrain to cases with uniform slopes in different directions with range of wind speeds
- **Aim 3:** to conduct wind-tunnel experiments to support complex terrain field trials



## Work Package 2: Wind tunnel studies

- Chemical Hazards Research Center (CHRC), University of Arkansas
  - Largest ultra-low speed wind tunnel
  - 24 m long working section with a 6 m × 2.1 m cross section
  - Capable of wind speeds as low as 0.3 m/s and still air experiments
  - State of the art instruments for velocity and turbulence (LDV and PIV) and gas concentration (FID, PLIF, PID)
  - Data from CHRC wind tunnel has previously used for:
    - PHMSA/NFPA model evaluation protocol for LNG siting applications
    - DNV Phast model development
    - Jack Rabbit II chlorine trials assessment





# Work Package 3: Simple sloping terrain dispersion exps

- **Aim:** to conduct dense-gas dispersion experiments on “simple” uniform sloping terrain to provide data to validate dispersion models
- Idealised gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> source configuration to produce radially-spreading cloud, using a circular outlet similar to the Thorney Island dispersion trials
  - Avoid modelling uncertainties associated with two-phase CO<sub>2</sub> release from crater
- Main focus of experiments is to understand effect of slope on dense gas behaviour

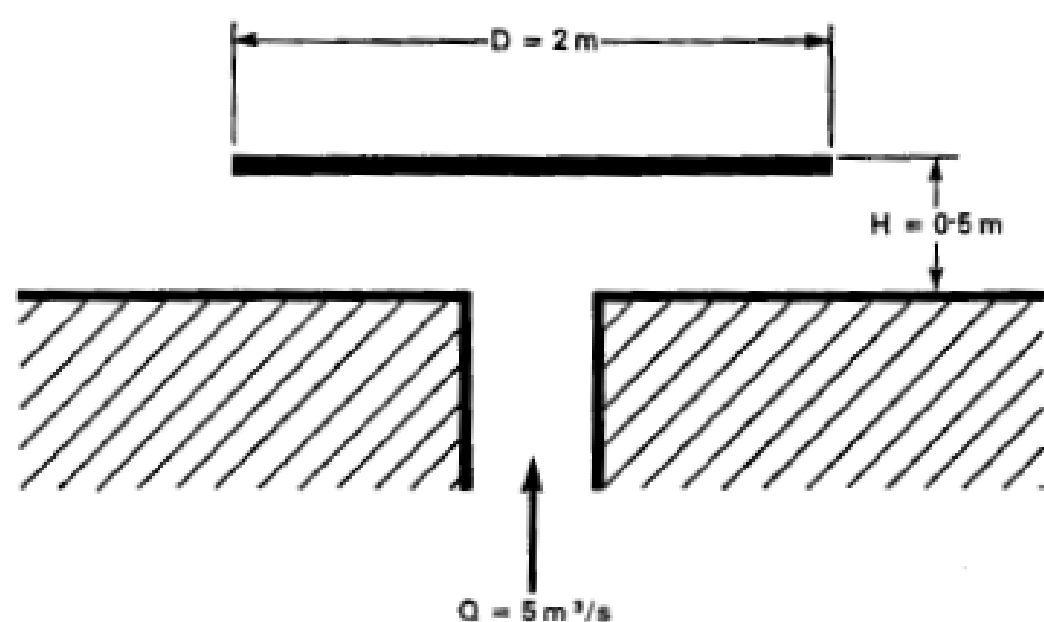


Fig.22.4 Geometry of ground-level source for continuous release experiments

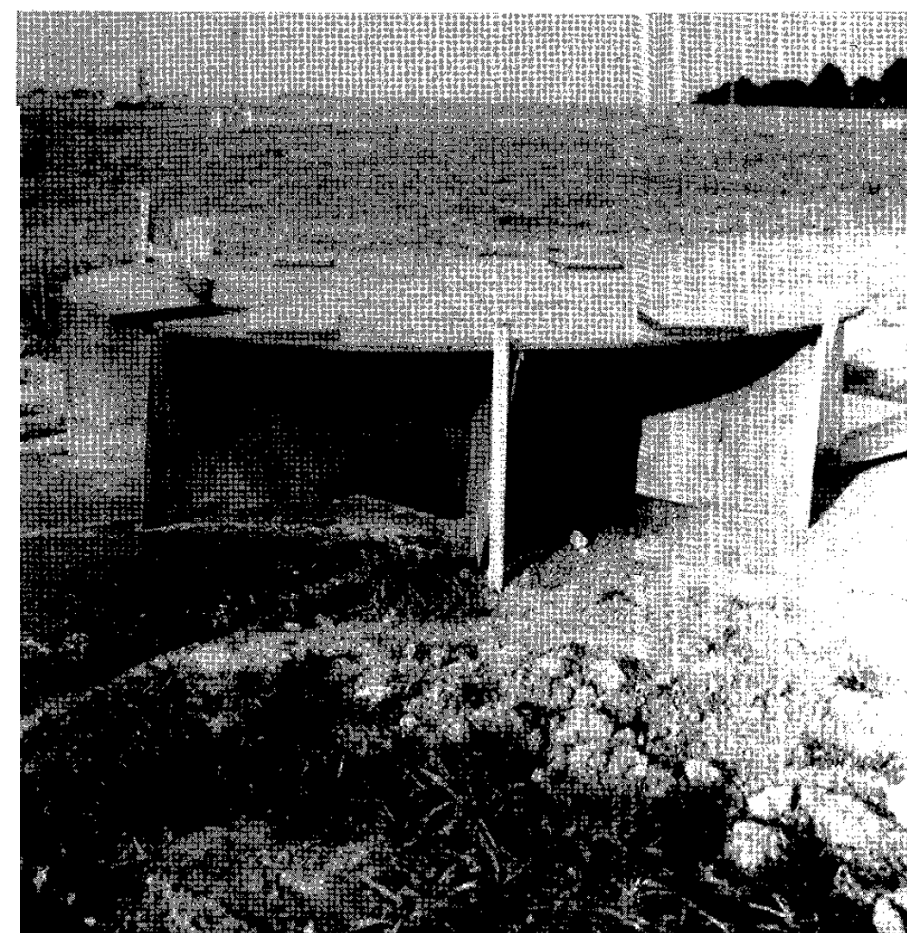
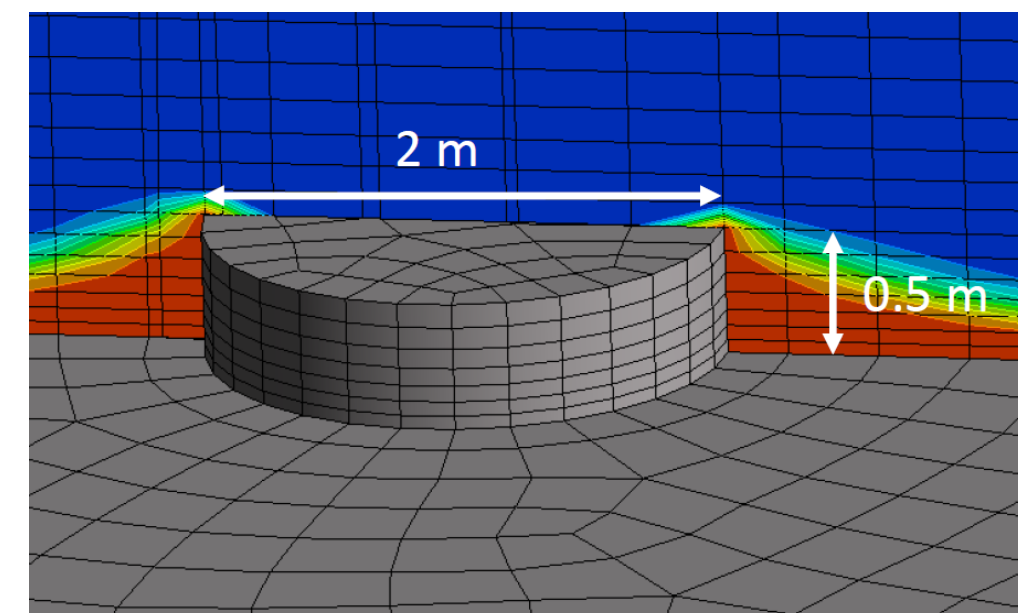
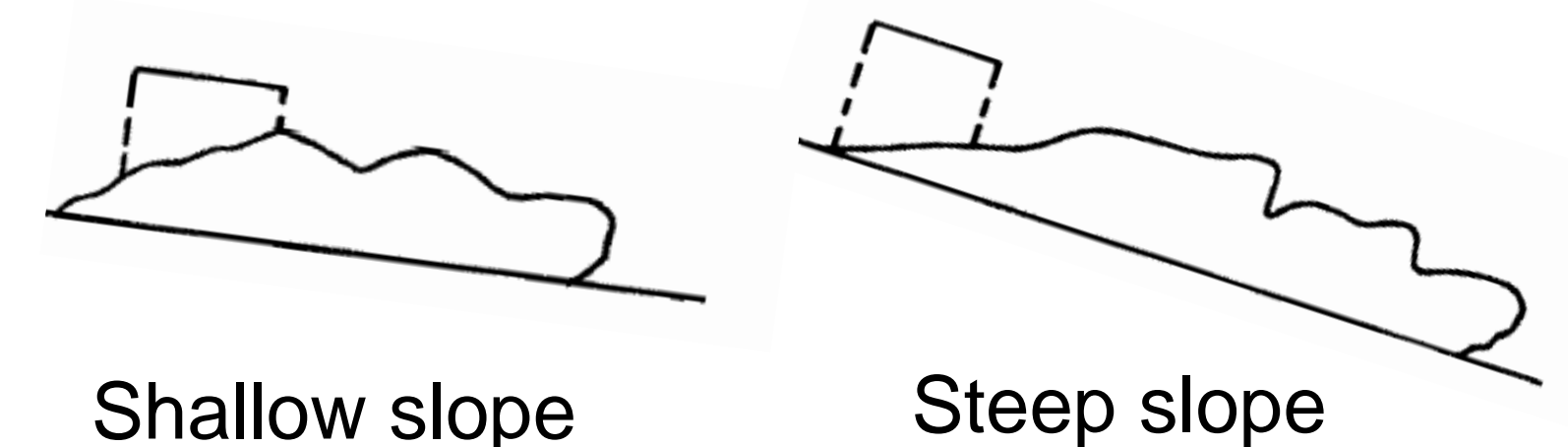


Fig. 22. 2 Outlet from the gas supply duct at the release point



McQuaid & Roebuck (1985) Thorney Island  
<https://admlc.com/thorney-island/>  
 CFD modelling  
<https://doi.org/10.1504/IJEP.2018.093026>



How does dispersion behaviour compare to flat terrain?

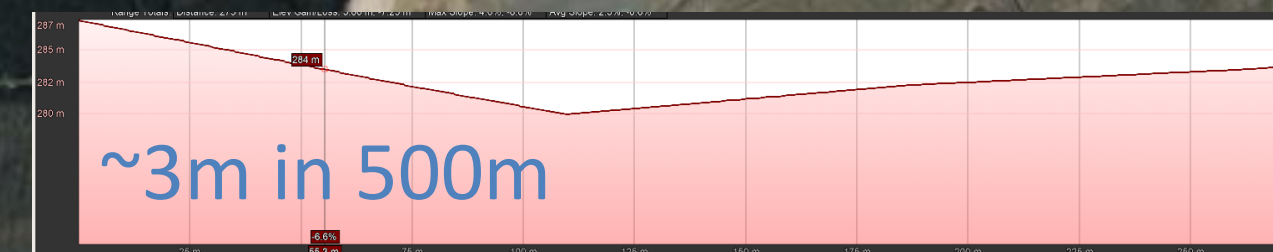
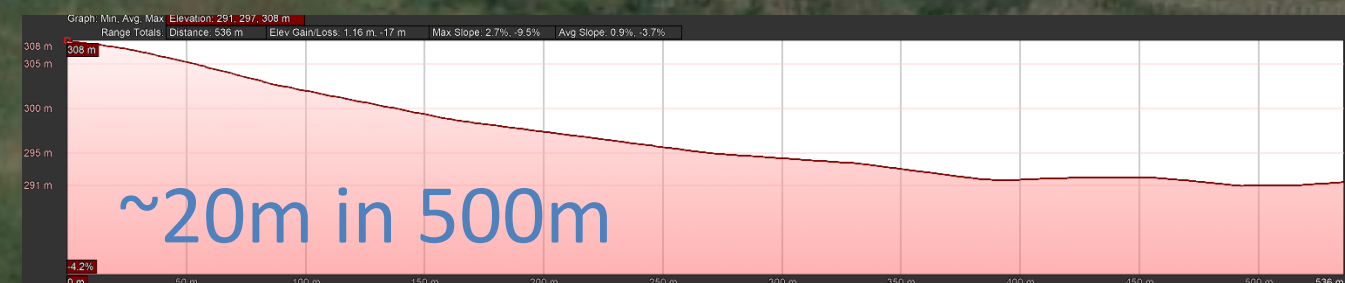


## Work Package 4: Complex Terrain Dispersion Exps

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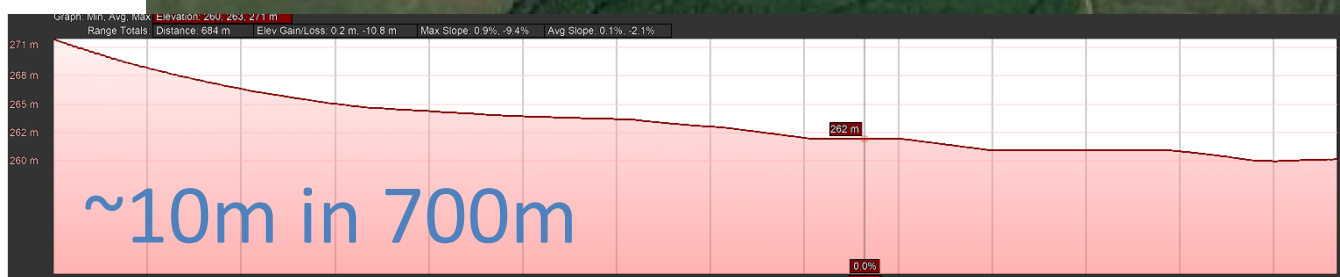
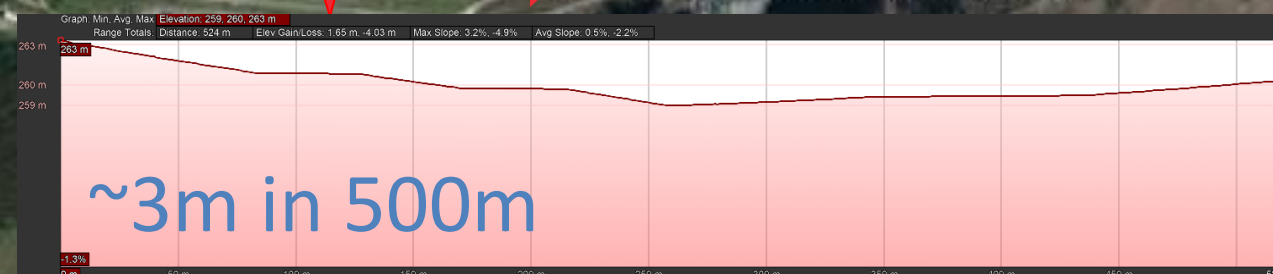
- **Aim:** to conduct series of CO<sub>2</sub> release experiments with complex terrain including valleys, hills, obstacles, changing roughness, buildings etc.
- DNV Spadeadam ideally suited to these tests, with multiple possible release locations and large exclusion distances
- Proposed to use mobile rig with 20 – 40 tonne CO<sub>2</sub> capacity with option to use preformed craters
- More challenging configurations for dispersion modelling
- Aim to answer practical questions:
  - How long does CO<sub>2</sub> persist in depressions?
  - What is the effect of obstacles (trees, hedgerows, buildings)?





DNV Spadeadam

DNV Spadeadam



Google Earth

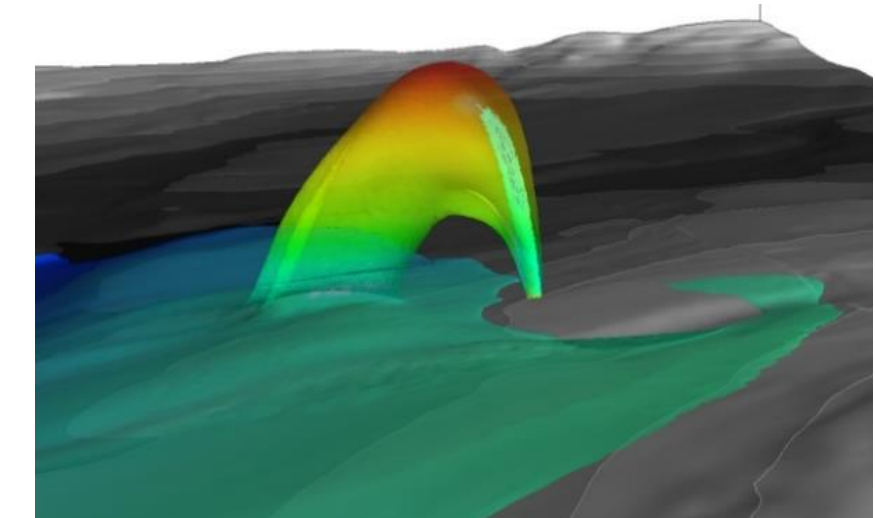
Image © 2023 Getmapping plc  
Image © 2023 Maxar Technologies

1186 m



## Work Package 5: Model validation

- **Aim:** to test and validate dispersion models that can be used for CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline risk assessment and emergency planning/response
- Many international modelling teams and software developers are keen to test and validate their models against this data (DNV, Gexcon, Kent, CERC, MES etc.)
- Opportunity to involve research groups who are developing rapid dispersion models (e.g., Texas A&M, Leeds University) to inform future commercial software development
- Aim to have an open and collaborative approach, like in Jack Rabbit projects
- Welcome input from government labs, industry, academia and consultants
- Aim to test spectrum of models, e.g., correlations, Gaussian puff, shallow layer, machine learning, CFD
- Modellers given access to data in return for sharing results and collaborating
- Requests to join project approved by project steering committee
- Modelling exercises coordinated by HSE





## Work Package 6: Emergency response

- **Aim:** to engage with emergency responders and make best use of the CO<sub>2</sub> dispersion trials: help to prepare responders to deal with possible CO<sub>2</sub> release incidents
- Identify knowledge gaps in emergency response, working with Hazmat teams, Fire and Rescue Services and other emergency responders
- Test gas sensors, breathing apparatus, PPE etc. used by responders in the trials?
- Test vehicles can be used to evacuate casualties? (learning from Satartia incident)
- Opportunity for emergency responders to witness trials and review video footage as learning and training exercise
- Work package led by UK National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC)





## Work Package 7: Venting

- **Aim:** to assess if CO<sub>2</sub> vents could give rise to harmful concentrations downwind, near ground level
- Input from sponsors sought on defining range of conditions to be tested experimentally: vent diameter, temperature, pressure
- Planned to test:
  - Two vent diameters (up to 2" NB diameter pipes)
  - Dense, supercritical and gaseous CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Repeated tests on three days (low, moderate and high winds)
- Measure outflow rate, vent conditions (pressure / temperature), CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations near ground level, plume temperature, videos (normal, thermal and high-speed)
- Conducted alongside other work packages whilst rigs are available
- Is interest in testing certain valve designs, following reports of some blowdown valves blocking in the open position due to solid CO<sub>2</sub>?



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# Work Package 0: Project Management

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- Project delivery team
  - DNV (experiments): Dan Allason, Rob Crewe, Keith Armstrong
  - DNV (modelling): Ann Halford, Karen Warhurst, Mike Harper, Jan Stene and Gabriele Ferrara
  - HSE: Simon Gant, Zoe Chaplin and Rory Hetherington
  - University of Arkansas: Tom Spicer
  - NCEC: Ed Sullivan
  - Met Office: Matt Hort and Frances Beckett
  - External advisers: Steven Hanna (USA), Joe Chang (Rand Corporation), Gemma Tickle (UK)
- Technical steering group
  - Representative from each of the project sponsors (or their appointed technical consultant)
- Modellers working group
  - Representative from each of the modelling teams contributing and analysing results
- Safety/environmental regulators participating in peer-review capacity
  - E.g., Environment Agency, PHMSA



# Timeline (approximate)

Project start: summer 2024

|     |                    | 2024-2025           | 2025-2026           | 2026-2027           |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| WP1 | Crater releases    | High intensity work | Medium              |                     |
| WP2 | Wind tunnel        | Medium              | Medium              |                     |
| WP3 | Simple terrain     | Medium              |                     |                     |
| WP4 | Complex terrain    | Medium              | High intensity work |                     |
| WP5 | Modelling          |                     | Medium              | High intensity work |
| WP6 | Emergency response | Medium              | Medium              | Medium              |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|  | Low                 |
|  | Medium              |
|  | High intensity work |

# Costs

- Summary of costs (approx. estimate, non-binding)

- DNV
- HSE
- University of Arkansas
- NCEC
- Met Office
- External advisors

Total cost, approximately  
£10M

| No. Sponsors | Ticket Price (after DESNZ) | Per Year for 3 Years |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 4            | £1.25M                     | £416k                |
| 5            | £1.0M                      | £333k                |
| 6            | £1.0M                      | £333k                |
| 7            | £0.71M                     | £238k                |
| 8            | £0.63M                     | £208k                |
| 9            | £0.56M                     | £185k                |
| 10           | £0.5M                      | £167k                |

- Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (UK Government) contribution: circa £5M
- Ideal ten sponsors: £0.5M per sponsor, spread over 3 years
- Discussions ongoing with US Department of Energy, potential contribution \$1.5M
- Discussions with consortium partners (e.g., PRCI) welcomed

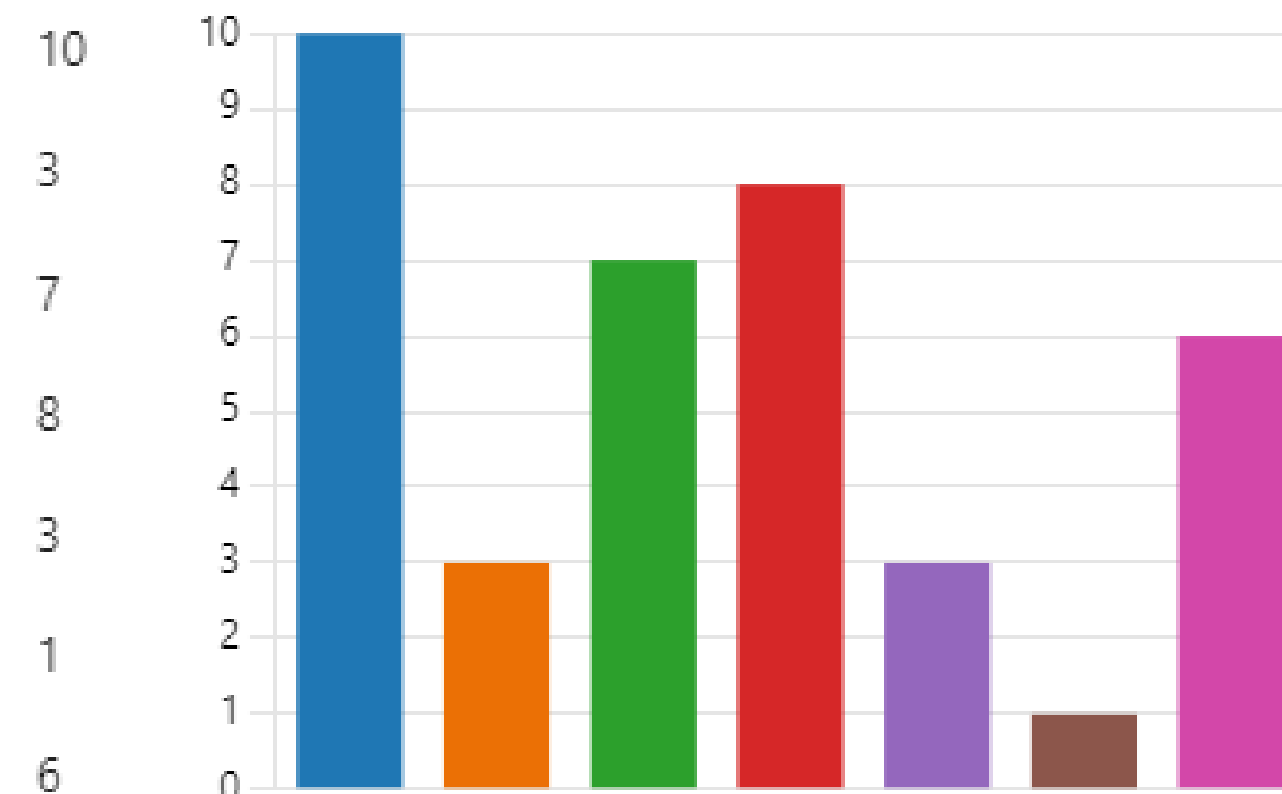
# Interest in Skylark project

- Feedback from DNV form circulated in email from Dan Allason on 10 Oct  
<https://forms.office.com/e/DyLkS24C5z>

## 6. What is your Organisation's interest in the project?

[More Details](#)

- Pipeline Operator
- Consultant
- Academic
- Modeller
- Process Operator
- Regulator
- Other



## 8. Would your organisation be interested in participating in this project?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

- Yes, as funding sponsor 11
- Yes, as modelling contributor 14
- Yes, as a funding sponsor and a ... 5
- No, no funding available 8
- No, scope does not meet our ne... 0





# **CO<sub>2</sub> Venting**

# Motivation

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- Skylark project team is keen to maximise value of work package on CO<sub>2</sub> venting
- Useful to understand from operators and industry consultants:
  - What are the main knowledge gaps that we need to address?
    - Uncertainties in CO<sub>2</sub> dispersion behaviour?
    - Vent pipe temperatures?
    - Dry-ice formation? (e.g., blocking valves in open position)
    - Producing experimental data to validate dispersion model predictions?
  - What operating conditions should be studied?
    - Vent diameter and vent pipe configuration
    - Flow conditions: pressure and temperature (supercritical, dense-phase or gaseous?)
    - Gas composition: presence of impurities from process upset in capture plant?
    - Vent location: stack height, wake effects from nearby obstacles?
  - Modelling of CO<sub>2</sub> dispersion from vent releases: what models and methods are being used?
    - What validation exists for these modelling approaches? Confidence in model predictions?

# Thank you

- Contact: [simon.gant@hse.gov.uk](mailto:simon.gant@hse.gov.uk), [daniel.allason@dnv.com](mailto:daniel.allason@dnv.com)
- The contents of this presentation, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy



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# Extra material

# Why the name Skylark?

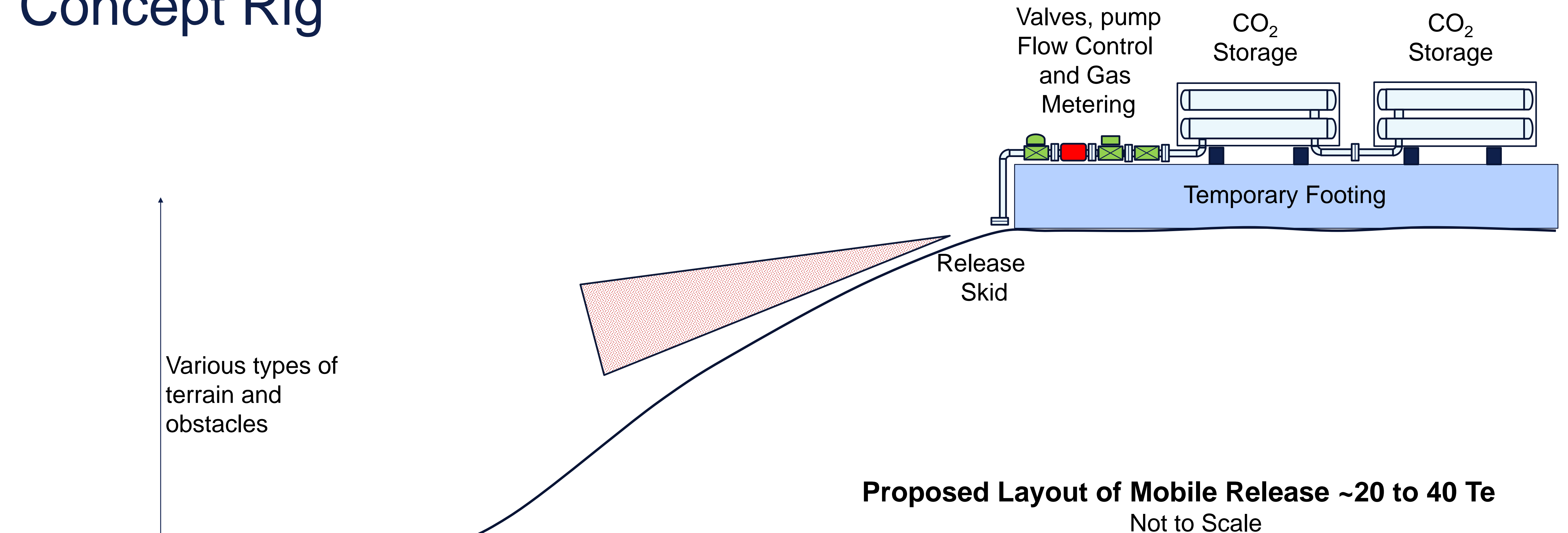
- Historical dispersion trials
  - Avocet: LNG
  - Burro: LNG
  - Coyote: LNG
  - Desert Tortoise: ammonia
  - Eagle: nitrogen tetroxide
  - Falcon: LNG
  - Goldfish: hydrogen fluoride
  - Kit fox: carbon dioxide
  - Jack Rabbit: chlorine and ammonia
  - Red Squirrel: ammonia
  - **Skylark: carbon dioxide**



<https://www.birdguides.com/gallery/birds/alauda-arvensis/1003602/>

# Work Package 4: Complex Terrain Dispersion Exps

## Concept Rig





# COOLTRANS Research Programme

Proceedings of the 2014 10th International Pipeline Conference  
IPC2014  
September 29 - October 3, 2014, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

IPC2014-33370

## THE COOLTRANS RESEARCH PROGRAMME – LEARNING FOR THE DESIGN OF CO<sub>2</sub> PIPELINES

**Julian Barnett**  
National Grid Carbon  
Solihull, UK

**Russell Cooper**  
National Grid Carbon  
Solihull, UK

Proceedings of the 2016 11th International Pipeline Conference  
IPC2016  
September 26-30, 2016, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

IPC2016-64456

## ANALYSIS OF A DENSE PHASE CARBON DIOXIDE FULL-SCALE FRACTURE PROPAGATION TEST IN 24 INCH DIAMETER PIPE

**Andrew Cosham**  
Ninth Planet Engineering  
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**David G Jones**  
Pipeline Integrity Engineers  
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

**Keith Armstrong**  
DNV GL  
Spadeadam Test & Research Centre, UK

**Daniel Allason**  
DNV GL  
Spadeadam Test & Research Centre, UK

**Julian Barnett**  
National Grid  
Solihull, UK

## Crater size and its influence on releases of CO<sub>2</sub> from buried pipelines

by Philip Cleaver<sup>1</sup>, Ann Halford<sup>1</sup>, Karen Warhurst<sup>1</sup>, and Julian Barnett<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> GL Noble Denton, Loughborough, UK  
<sup>2</sup> National Grid Carbon, Warwick, UK

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on the Transportation of CO<sub>2</sub> by Pipeline

Hilton Gateshead-Newcastle Hotel, Gateshead, UK  
19-20 June, 2013



Crater is covered by vapour blanket – mixture released previously is drawn into flow



Fresh air entrainment possible around plume base

© Images copyright National Grid / DNV



# COSHER Joint Industry Project

International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control 37 (2015) 340–353

COSHER joint industry project: Large scale pipeline rupture tests to study CO<sub>2</sub> release and dispersion

Mohammad Ahmad<sup>a,\*</sup>, Barbara Lowesmith<sup>a</sup>, Gelein De Koeijer<sup>b</sup>, Sandra Nilsen<sup>b</sup>, Henri Tonda<sup>c</sup>, Carlo Spinelli<sup>d</sup>, Russell Cooper<sup>e</sup>, Sigmund Clausen<sup>f</sup>, Renato Mendes<sup>g</sup>, Onno Florisson<sup>a</sup>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijggc.2015.04.001>

<sup>a</sup> DNV GL, The Netherlands

<sup>b</sup> STATOIL, Norway

<sup>c</sup> TOTAL, France

<sup>d</sup> ENI, Italy

<sup>e</sup> National Grid, UK

<sup>f</sup> GASSCO, Norway

<sup>g</sup> PETROBRAS, Brazil

219 mm (8.6 inch) diameter pipeline ruptured

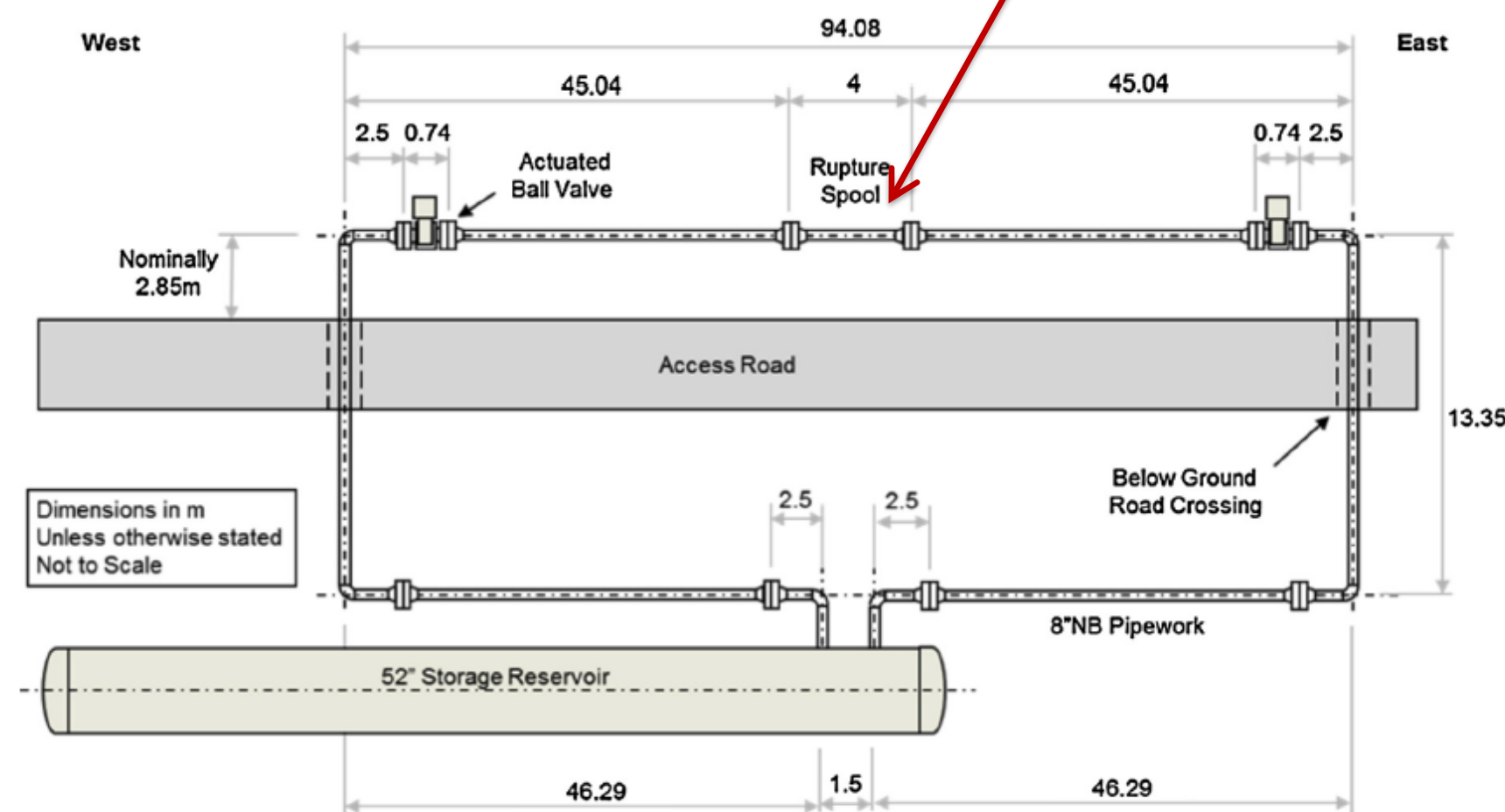


Fig. 1. The pipeline loop (plan view).

Table 2

Summary of the test conditions prior to rupture.

| Rig conditions                              | Test  |
|---|-------|
| Overall average gage pressure (MPa)         | 15.08 |
| Average fluid temperature in reservoir (°C) | 13.1  |
| Average wall temperature of reservoir (°C)  | 14.2  |
| Estimated inventory (tons)                  | 146.8 |
| Atmospheric conditions                      |       |
| Wind direction (degrees relative to grid N) | 261   |
| Wind speed (m s <sup>-1</sup> )             | 1.9   |
| Ambient temperature (°C)                    | 17.4  |
| Atmospheric pressure (Pa)                   | 99700 |
| Relative humidity (%)                       | 71.5  |

Max cloud height  
approx. 60 m



Fig. 4. The visible cloud at 10 s (top), 30 s and 120 s (bottom) after the rupture.

Max visible cloud spread  
distance approx. 400 m