

# Southampton to London Pipeline Project

## Volume 6

Environmental Statement (Volume B)  
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## 5 Consultation and Scoping

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This chapter sets out the approach to consultation and engagement with the statutory environmental consultees and wider environmental stakeholders. It outlines the work that has been undertaken to date and summarises key responses that have informed the scope and direction of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- 5.1.2 Consultation and engagement are important in EIA and can provide sources of information to support the baseline study. Stakeholders can help identify local features, potential impacts and mitigation measures. Stakeholders are individuals and organisations who could affect or be affected by the project, or who otherwise have an interest in the project.
- 5.1.3 Consultation is a formal process, where information is presented about the project for prescribed consultees to formally comment on. It has been undertaken at specific times during the project's development, including the EIA scoping process.
- 5.1.4 Engagement is a continual process of ongoing dialogue with a wide range of national and local environmental organisations, local authorities, other local groups and individual landowners about the project. It has been used as a way of exchanging information about the project and its environmental effects between the project team and stakeholders, and has helped identify issues and concerns relevant to stakeholders regarding the project, its design and the EIA process.
- 5.1.5 Many of the stakeholders are also prescribed consultees on the project as defined in the Planning Act 2008. Prescribed consultees have helped shape the scope of the EIA through the scoping process. There is a formal record of project responses to themes raised during consultations in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).
- 5.1.6 Both consultation and engagement have allowed the project to gain information that has fed into the ongoing design. This has helped to reduce potential effects on the community and the environment.

### 5.2 Pre-Scoping Engagement

#### Project Launch Environmental Workshop (Non-statutory)

- 5.2.1 An Environmental Workshop was held on 7 February 2018 to launch the project's engagement with environmental bodies. This engagement event introduced the project, likely environmental considerations, timescales and future engagement plan. This event was attended by the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. As a result of this meeting the project shared a programme for future engagement with the bodies that attended.



## **Environmental Stakeholder Meetings and Discussions**

- 5.2.2 Between December 2017 and July 2018, a number of meetings and discussions took place to introduce the project and outline the project's emerging approach to surveys, consultation and likely areas of environmental focus with specific environmental stakeholders, including:
- Environment Agency;
  - Natural England;
  - Forestry Commission;
  - Historic England;
  - Portsmouth Water;
  - South Downs National Park Authority;
  - Surrey Wildlife Trust;
  - Archaeologists from Surrey County Council, Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council; and
  - Ecologists from East Hampshire District Council, Hart District Council and Winchester City Council.
- 5.2.3 These meetings were prioritised initially to focus on those organisations and authorities likely to have the greatest interest in the project's development, particularly organisations with statutory roles in environmental matters.
- 5.2.4 These meetings and discussions gave the project an understanding of relevant areas of concern for the stakeholders and led to agreements regarding the sharing of data, assessment methodologies and future engagement activities.
- 5.2.5 Alongside the programme of engagement with environmental stakeholders the project also engaged with a range of other stakeholders, including Hampshire and Surrey County Councils and all relevant local authorities, details of which can be found in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).

## **5.3 Replacement Pipeline Corridor Consultation (Non-statutory Consultation)**

- 5.3.1 The first public consultation (non-statutory) was undertaken between 19 March and 30 April 2018 to help select a preferred corridor for the replacement pipeline. The consultation corridor options are described in Chapter 4 Design Evolution.
- 5.3.2 Materials were produced to help consultees understand the project and proposed corridors. These comprised a brochure, summary leaflet and map book. These were available in hard copy and online.
- 5.3.3 The project website ([www.slpproject.co.uk](http://www.slpproject.co.uk)) was updated to include a specific web page on the corridor consultation. Consultation materials were made available at the consultation events and at over 100 information points along the proposed corridors, such as public libraries. These materials were also sent directly to consultees both digitally and in hard copy.



- 5.3.4 Consultation events were held in or near to all the proposed corridors. This was to enable local communities and interested parties to meet the project team and discuss the proposed corridor options. The consultation events were publicised through advertisements in relevant local publications. A press release was shared with local media. Posters and materials were sent to local information points, and engagement was undertaken with local authorities. Local media, including BBC South news, also covered the consultation.
- 5.3.5 Events were held Monday to Saturday. Weekday events were open from 2pm to 8pm. Saturday events were open from 11am to 5pm. Events were held at the following locations:
- Byfleet – Tuesday 27 March – 259 attendees;
  - Alton – Thursday 29 March – 140 attendees;
  - Chobham – Friday 6 April – 166 attendees;
  - Wrecclesham – Saturday 7 April – 136 attendees;
  - Chertsey – Monday 9 April – 144 attendees;
  - Frimley – Tuesday 10 April – 512 attendees;
  - Ropley – Wednesday 11 April – 75 attendees;
  - Worplesdon – Thursday 12 April – 169 attendees;
  - Church Crookham – Wednesday 18 April – 82 attendees; and
  - Bishop’s Waltham – Friday 20 April – 55 attendees.
- 5.3.6 The project received 1,067 responses from the corridor consultation. After the consultation closed on 30 April 2018 an independent consultation expert collated and analysed all consultation responses. Details are included in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).
- 5.3.7 Following the consultation, a detailed and thorough review was undertaken by the project’s senior management team to select the preferred corridor. The team included support from the environmental, engineering and planning teams. The team was presented with the independent report on the consultation findings which included comments relating to the selection of a corridor.
- 5.3.8 After the selection of the preferred corridor, the project continued to develop a route that followed the preferred corridor, as detailed in Chapter 4 Design Evolution. An Initial Working Route, which refined the 200m wide corridor to approximately 30m in width, was then released via the project’s website in June 2018. As part of the release of the Initial Working Route environmental stakeholders were offered a briefing on the outcomes of consultation, the preferred corridor, the Initial Working Route and progress to statutory consultation. Meetings were held with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and South Downs National Park Authority.
- 5.3.9 Although the aim of the corridor consultation was to receive views on which corridor to progress, the project also received information relevant to sub-options within the corridors. The sub-option that passed Frimley Park Hospital was removed from



consideration due to concerns raised around traffic management in this busy area and obstruction to emergency services. Further detail can be found in Chapter 4 Design Evolution.

## **5.4 Scoping Consultation (Statutory)**

- 5.4.1 Scoping provides information on the proposals, identifies where the project is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and focuses EIA work on assessing these. It is an important non-mandatory step in the EIA process as it provides a point in the process when prescribed consultees can engage with the project and provide responses on the scope including potential significant effects and mitigation.
- 5.4.2 A Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2018 (Esso, 2018). The Scoping Report provided information on the project, an explanation of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment, and set out the intended scope of the Environmental Statement (ES). The Scoping Report also took into consideration design features and measures to 'scope out' certain aspects from the EIA. Where an issue was scoped out, the report outlined the reasons why it would not be included in the assessment.
- 5.4.3 As part of the scoping process the Planning Inspectorate must consult a list of prescribed consultees. On 27 July 2018 the Planning Inspectorate sent out its request for scoping responses, the consultees had until the 24 August 2018 to respond. In order to assist this process, the project held a series of workshops for environmental organisations and local authorities. This provided an opportunity for them to raise any queries regarding the Scoping Report to inform their responses to the Planning Inspectorate. Workshops were held on 6, 21 and 30 August 2018. Those attending the session on 30 August 2018 were made aware that this would take place after the Planning Inspectorate's deadline. A fourth workshop was due to take place on 14 August but was cancelled due to low attendance.
- 5.4.4 The workshops were attended by a variety of specialists from different organisations:
- 6 August 2018:
    - Surrey Heath Borough Council – Planning Officer;
    - Runnymede Borough Council – Contaminated Land Officer, Engineering Officer and Principal Engineer;
    - Spelthorne Borough Council – Contaminated Land Officer; and
    - Historic England – Inspector of Ancient Monuments.
  - 21 August 2018:
    - Runnymede Borough Council – Strategic Projects Manager;
    - Spelthorne Borough Council – Sustainability Officer;
    - Surrey County Council – Senior Countryside Access Officer;
    - Surrey Heath Borough Council – Scientific Officer; and
    - Forestry Commission – Local Partnership Advisor.



- 30 August 2018:
  - Natural England – Senior Planning Advisor (Thames Team);
  - Hampshire County Council – Environmental Officer (Flood Risk Team);
  - Rushmoor Borough Council – Biodiversity Officer; and
  - Surrey County Council – Flood Risk Manager and two Property Control Officers.

5.4.5 The relevant issues discussed during the workshops were the specific topics to be scoped in or out of the ES, proposed construction techniques and assessment methodologies.

5.4.6 Once the Planning Inspectorate had consulted the relevant consultation bodies, it issued the Scoping Opinion on the scope for the ES on 5 September 2018. The Scoping Opinion and a summary of how the project has responded to each individual issue is available in Appendix 5.1 Scoping Opinion Responses. A summary of the relevant comments made by consultees and the project's response is available in Appendix 5.2 Additional Consultee Responses to Scoping Report.

### **Summary of Scoping Topics**

5.4.7 As a result of the scoping process the project undertook additional work to address the comments, examples include:

- Ancient woodland – scoping responses indicated that Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory does not include all ancient woodland under 2ha. To address this comment a further desk-based assessment was undertaken to identify all potential ancient woodland sites under 2ha which was then fed into the design development process, further detail can be found in Chapter 4 Design Development
- Foraging and commuting bats – scoping responses indicated that surveys may need to be completed before impacts to foraging and commuting bats can be scoped out of the environmental assessment. In response to this, the project team undertook a desk study to identify the bat species likely to be present within the local landscape and the habitats likely to be of greatest value for commuting or foraging bats, including rare species. The project's design was then assessed to determine if any of the species potentially present would likely be vulnerable to the loss or fragmentation of habitat used for commuting or foraging. This assessment was considered sufficient and so field surveys were not undertaken for commuting or foraging bats. This approach was discussed with Natural England. An assessment of impacts to commuting and foraging bats is provided in Chapter 7 Biodiversity.
- Trial trenching (historic environment) – scoping responses indicated that it would be extremely likely that trial trenching would be required to produce a robust assessment. In response to this, a pre-construction trial trenching programme has been set out in Appendix 9.5 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.





## **5.5 Preferred Route Consultation (Initial Statutory Consultation)**

- 5.5.1 The first statutory consultation was undertaken between 6 September and 19 October 2018 to gather views on the preferred route for the replacement pipeline and the wider Order Limits, which included the other land areas temporarily required for construction management. How the preferred route was selected is described in Chapter 4 (Design Evolution).
- 5.5.2 Materials were produced to help consultees understand the project, the preferred route and the sub-options. These comprised a brochure, summary leaflet and map book, which were available in hard copy and online. The project website ([www.slpproject.co.uk](http://www.slpproject.co.uk)) was updated to include a specific web page on the consultation. Consultation materials were made available at the consultation events and at over 50 information points along the preferred route, such as public libraries. These materials were sent directly to consultees both digitally and in hard copy, including through a series of letters issued to Persons with an Interest in Land and prescribed consultees.
- 5.5.3 In addition, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report was published to support the Preferred Route Consultation. This information was presented in two formats: a non-technical summary, which could be found in Chapter 9 of the brochure and a more detailed report hosted on the project website. Both a digital and hard copy of the PEI Report was sent directly to prescribed consultees on 5 September 2018 as part of the statutory consultation launch. Information about the availability of the PEI Report was included in the s48 notice issued to meet the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended. This was issued in the letters and emails sent to prescribed consultees.
- 5.5.4 The purpose of the PEI Report was to allow consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development to support their consultation responses. Feedback from the consultation was used to help inform the assessments reported in the ES.
- 5.5.5 Consultation events were held along the preferred route. This was to enable local communities and interested parties to meet the project team and discuss the preferred route. The consultation events were publicised through adverts in relevant local publications, a press release shared with local editors to encourage news coverage, posters and materials sent to local deposit points and engagement with local authorities. Local media also covered the consultation.
- 5.5.6 Events were held Monday to Saturday. All weekday events were open from 2pm to 8pm and Saturday events from 11am to 5pm. Events were held at the following locations:
- Alton – Thursday 27 September – 22 attendees;
  - Deepcut and Lightwater – Friday 28 September – 76 attendees;
  - Chobham – Saturday 29 September – 102 attendees;
  - Church Crookham – Monday 1 October – 28 attendees;



- Bramdean – Tuesday 2 October – 27 attendees;
- Frimley – Wednesday 3 October – 52 attendees;
- Chertsey – Thursday 4 October – 60 attendees;
- Ropley – Friday 5 October – 16 attendees;
- Bishop’s Waltham – Saturday 6 October – 13 attendees;
- Farnborough – Wednesday 10 October – 100 attendees; and
- Ashford – Saturday 13 October – 182 attendees.

5.5.7 A total of 334 responses to the Preferred Route Consultation were received. After the consultation closed on 19 October 2018 an independent consultation expert collated and analysed all consultation responses. Details are included in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).

5.5.8 Feedback from the statutory consultation and ongoing meetings with stakeholders confirmed the proposal along the majority of the route. However, in some areas the feedback and additional technical work identified a number of further amendments that would be taken forward into a phase of design refinement (see Chapter 4 Design Evolution).

5.5.9 Some of the relevant environmental issues to come out of the Preferred Route Consultation are summarised in Table 5.1. These were extracted from the raw consultation data which had been coded by issue (environmental, community, safety) by the independent consultation expert. The table contains the most common environmental issues raised during the Preferred Route Consultation (in no specific order).

**Table 5.1: Key Actions as a Result of the Statutory Consultation Comments**

Issues	Comments
Tree loss	Respondents raised issues regarding potential tree loss (issues included noise, loss of privacy, landscape impacts and habitat damage). Further amendments were made to the design of the route to reduce impacts on trees and woodland in several locations (see Appendix 4.1 Route Corridor Options). An assessment of tree loss and the potential associated impacts is found in Chapter 7 Biodiversity and Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual.
Ecology and biodiversity	Respondents raised issues regarding impacts to habitats and species and how any loss or damage would be mitigated or managed. An issue was raised about air quality impacts on local ecology and biodiversity as a result of installation. Further amendments were made to the design of the route to reduce impacts on ecological habitats in several locations (see Chapter 4 Design Evolution). An assessment of potential impacts to ecological receptors and the approach to managing them can be found in Chapter 7 Biodiversity.
Flooding	Respondents raised issues regarding works taking place within the floodplain(s). An assessment of potential impacts to flood risk and the approach to managing them can be found in Chapter 8 Water. Further detail can be found in the separate Flood Risk Assessment Report ( <b>application document 7.3</b> ).
Mitigation	Respondents wished to further understand plans to mitigate negative environmental impacts. Details of mitigation measures can be found in Chapter 16 Environmental Management and Mitigation.



Issues	Comments
“Environmental enhancements”	Respondents also made comments regarding opportunities for “environmental enhancements” across the length of the proposed pipeline route. Esso intend to deliver an Environmental Investment Program that may include some of these suggestions (in full or in part), following further engagement with statutory bodies, local planning authorities and landowners.
Traffic	Respondents raised issues regarding traffic flow, road closures and associated impacts on air quality. An assessment of potential impacts to traffic and transport and the approach to managing them can be found in Appendix 13.1 Traffic and Transport Technical Note and the Transport Assessment ( <b>application document 7.4</b> ). An assessment of potential air quality issues associated with the project can be found in Appendix 13.2 Air Quality Technical Note.
Construction techniques	Respondents raised issues regarding construction techniques being used, especially the use of trenchless technology and the associated noise impacts. Details of construction techniques can be found in Chapter 3 Project Description and an assessment of potential noise impacts and the approach to managing them can be found in Appendix 13.3 Noise and Vibration Technical Note.

## 5.6 Post-scoping EIA Related Engagement

5.6.1 Stakeholders have been updated regularly on the progress of the project and discussions have been held on specific environmental issues. Several meetings, technical sessions, forums and site visits have taken place between July 2018 and the submission of the ES. The EIA team and representatives of the following stakeholders have been involved:

- Affinity Water;
- Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership;
- Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust;
- Chobham Common Preservation Committee;
- Chobham Parish Council;
- Cove Brook Greenway Group;
- Environment Agency;
- Forestry Commission;
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust;
- Hampshire County Council;
- Hart District Council;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- Historic England;
- Lead Local Flood Authorities - Surrey and Hampshire County Councils;
- Ministry of Defence;
- National Trust;
- Natural England;
- Runnymede Borough Council;



- Rushmoor Borough Council;
- South Downs National Park Authority;
- Spelthorne Borough Council;
- Surrey County Council;
- Surrey Heath Borough Council;
- Surrey Wildlife Trust; and
- Winchester City Council.

5.6.2 Meetings have also been held with a range of other stakeholders, including all relevant local authorities and parish councils. These have been to explain the project, understand issues and obtain feedback useful to the preferred corridor selection and route development and feed into the design, planning context and EIA. Details of these meetings can be found in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**). Meetings were also arranged and held with landowners who may be affected by the preferred route, including individual meetings together with a series of invitation-only events along the preferred route in July and December 2018.

## **5.7 Route Refinement Targeted Consultation (Second Statutory Consultation)**

5.7.1 A second statutory consultation was undertaken between 21 January to 19 February 2019 to gather views on a number of design refinements and six proposed temporary logistics hubs. This targeted consultation focused on areas where consultation and engagement feedback and further technical work had resulted in design refinements that had different potential impacts to the previous proposals for landowners, the environment and communities.

5.7.2 Materials were produced to help consultees understand the project, the design refinements and the logistics hubs. These comprised a brochure and a series of targeted leaflets and postcards. These were available in hard copy and online. The project website ([www.slpproject.co.uk](http://www.slpproject.co.uk)) was updated to include a specific web page on the consultation. Consultation materials were made available at the consultation events. These materials were also sent directly to consultees both digitally and in hard copy.

5.7.3 Two events were held at locations close to the sections of the route affected by the design refinements to give local communities and interested parties the opportunity to discuss the refinements. One was held between 2pm and 8pm on Tuesday 5 February in Farnborough and another between 11am and 5pm on Saturday 9 February in Ashford.

5.7.4 A total of 92 responses to the route refinement targeted consultation were received. After the consultation closed on 19 February 2019 an independent consultation expert collated and analysed all consultation responses. Details are included in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).

5.7.5 Potential impacts that were raised by consultees included the following, which have been considered in the project and ES:



- traffic management;
- property access;
- access to Public Rights of Way;
- impacts on local businesses; and
- impacts on trees.

## **5.8 References**

Esso (2018). Southampton to London Pipeline Project: Scoping Report. Planning Inspectorate Reference Number EN070005. July 2018.



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