

The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for the Southampton to London Pipeline Project

Case Ref: EN070005

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection

Background

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline ('the application') on Monday 2 December 2019.

In the interest of efficiency, the ExA carried out its unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways). No inspections were undertaken on private land, advance permission to enter land was not required and so these inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The site inspection was undertaken in order to view the route of the existing pipeline and the proposed scheme, roads and the surrounding area.

It is anticipated that further unaccompanied site inspections will take place during the Examination.

Particulars of the Site Visit

The visit was undertaken by: Richard Allen, Jo Dowling and Neil Humphrey, except for Ship Lane and Ringwood Road, which Richard Allen did not attend.

The visit was undertaken by car and foot. Weather conditions were sunny with light cloud, with a temperature circa five degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were at all times adequate to appreciate long range views.

Inspections commenced at approximately 12.50 and finished at approximately 16.20. A list of the locations visited is attached in Annex A.

Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection

The ExA undertook a site inspection at the following locations.

Woodthorpe Road – to look at an access point to Fordbridge Park, parking and access points along Woodthorpe Road, Ashford Community Association hall and car park, the play space adjacent to Buxton Road, the proposed location of the construction compound and the approach to Ashford Station.

Station Approach and Station Road - to look at the route of the proposed pipeline and the existing on-street parking situation.

Ashford Town centre

Guilford Road – where the location of the proposed construction compound in relation to Westbury was observed.

Canford Drive and Roakes Avenue – to look at the route of the proposed pipeline, parking and access arrangements and also the proposed crossing point for the A317 Chertsey Road.

Red Road – to look at the route of the proposed pipeline.

The location of the proposed logistics hub/construction compound on Deepcut Bridge Road (B3015).

St Catherine's Road – to see both St. Catherines Road which is planned for temporary closure on the route of the proposed pipeline and the adjacent Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace that would be the location of a construction compound.

Balmoral Drive – to observe the route of proposed pipeline and possible closure and to look at Frimley Community Centre, Frimley Baptist Church and the local shopping centre.

Ship Lane and Ringwood Drive – to look at the route of the proposed pipeline. It was noted that both of these streets had survey works being undertaken on behalf of Esso that involve road openings and in the case of Ship Lane temporary traffic lights. In addition, the location and extent of Ship Lane Cemetery, Farnborough Sports pitch and the adjacent Bowling Club was noted.