

# Southampton to London Pipeline Project

## Deadline 6

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management  
Plan (LEMP) (tracked change)

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
<del>NJUG</del>	<del>National Joint Utilities Group</del>
NNR	National Nature Reserve
<del>REAC</del>	<del>Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments</del>
RPA	Root Protection Area
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SNCI	Sites of Nature Conservation Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
<del>TPZ</del>	<del>Tree Protection Zone</del>



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 Esso Petroleum Company, Limited (Esso) has submitted an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to replace 90km (56 miles) of its existing 105km (65 miles) aviation fuel pipeline that runs from the Fawley Refinery near Southampton, to the Esso West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow. The replacement is referred to as the project within this document.
- 1.1.2 Esso has already replaced 10km of pipeline between Hamble and Boorley Green in Hampshire and is now replacing the 90km of pipeline between Boorley Green and the Esso West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow. The areas of land to be permanently or temporarily used for the project are known as the Order Limits.
- 1.1.3 The project will be broken down into a number of stages. These will be based on geographical areas and could in some instances follow planning authority boundaries but would also consider the location of technically challenging sections of works such as a trenchless crossing beneath a major road or river, which may transcend planning boundaries.
- 1.1.4 Works to install and commission the pipeline are expected to start from grant of DCO and be completed by early 2023. Certain advance works may take place prior to development consent where consented under alternative regimes, for example, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 1.1.5 The development authorised by the DCO must be undertaken in accordance with the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) pursuant to Requirement 12 of the DCO.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Outline LEMP

- 1.2.1 An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out to assess the effects that the project, as presented within the application for development consent, would have on the environment. As part of this process, which included extensive stakeholder engagement, a number of commitments were made to good practice measures to be actioned during design and construction. These were assumed as part of the assessment process. In addition, mitigation measures were proposed and committed to, to offset any significant effects identified as part of the assessment. ~~All of these measures were collated into the Register of Actions and Commitments (REAC) (Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 16 (Application Document APP-056)).~~
- 1.2.2 The purpose of the Outline LEMP is to set out how landscape and ecological features such as vegetation and habitats would be protected and managed during construction and reinstated following construction. The LEMP enables the proposed landscape and ecological good practice measures ~~within the REAC~~ to be actioned within the project.

- 1.2.3 The Outline LEMP has been produced to set out how the final LEMP would be structured and to provide clarity on what the final LEMP would contain. The final LEMP will provide a consistent approach to the control of construction activities for the project. The LEMP will cover protection of landscape and ecology during construction, reinstatement of vegetation and habitats post construction and the implementation of other ecological mitigation measures, together with the subsequent aftercare and, where applicable, monitoring arrangements.
- 1.2.4 Under the terms of the DCO Requirement 12, no stage (as outlined in Section 1.1) of the authorised development must commence until an LEMP relating to that stage has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority. Under Requirement 12 of the DCO, the final LEMP must be in accordance with the Outline LEMP and the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) working plans set out in ~~Annex~~Appendix B of the Habitats Regulation Assessment Report, which are added as Appendix A to this Outline LEMP ~~(Document Reference 8.50)~~. The LEMP must also include an implementation timetable and must be carried out as approved.
- 1.2.5 Further consultation will be undertaken with the relevant planning authorities, Natural England and landowners, when developing the final LEMP for approval prior to construction. It is anticipated that relevant planning authorities would, at their discretion, consult relevant statutory bodies, including Natural England and other relevant consultees, such as the local wildlife trusts.
- 1.2.6 Esso will put in place robust procedures to inform and supervise all those working on the project, including its supply chain of contractors, to make sure the control measures set out in the LEMP are adopted when undertaking the construction of the pipeline and ancillary works. The main responsibility for implementing these control measures will fall to Esso's principal contractor. The principal contractor will provide further detail of its plans and proposals as part of the submission the final LEMP for approval.

### **1.3 Structure of the LEMP**

- 1.3.1 This Outline LEMP sets out:
- how existing sensitive features would be retained during construction;
  - how land would be restored post construction;
  - a programme of post construction aftercare; and
  - a programme of monitoring.
- 1.3.2 Section 3 of this Outline LEMP provides an overview of the main landscape and ecological designations which provide the planning policy context for the Outline LEMP. Commitments relevant to vegetation retention and removal are set out in Section 4. Commitments relevant to landscape and ecological reinstatement are set out in Section 5. Aftercare arrangements and monitoring are outlined in Sections 6 and 7 respectively. This Outline LEMP contains the following appendices that will be included in the final LEMP:

- Appendix A – SSSI Working Plans – these show the method of working in SSSIs and areas as set out in Annex B of the Habitats Regulations Assessment ([HRA](#)) Report (**Application Documents [APP-130](#) and [APP-131](#)**).
- Appendix B – Vegetation Reinstatement Plans – an illustrative sample showing a rural environment within the South Downs National Park and urban environment near Ewshot, to provide an example of the level of detail that will be provided in the Vegetation Reinstatement Plans to be included in the final LEMP.
- Appendix C – Approach to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees.
- Appendix D – Site specific method statements – HCX 130.
- Appendix E – Environmental Mitigation Areas.

1.3.3 Commitment G87 states '*Vegetation clearance, retention, protection and replanting/reinstatement drawings would be produced prior to the construction phase*'. This is implemented through Requirement 8 of the DCO (**Document Reference 3.1 (57)**) as follows.

- Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans will be notified to the relevant planning authorities in accordance with Requirement 8(1)(a) of the DCO. These plans will be based on the final design alignment which will take into account the construction and environmental good practice measures, local features and engineering constraints. These plans will reflect the requirements of Section 4 of the LEMP. Where a Site Specific Plan is applicable, the vegetation and removal and retention must be in accordance with the vegetation retention and removal plans set out in the relevant Site Specific Plan, save with such variations as may be agreed by the relevant planning authorities.
- Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans will be included as part of the LEMP in accordance with Requirement 8(1)(b) of the DCO and will reflect the requirements of Section 5 of the LEMP.

1.3.4 This Outline LEMP contains in Appendix B illustrative sample vegetation reinstatement plans showing a rural environment within the South Downs National Park and urban environment near Ewshot. These provide an example of the level of detail that will be provided for the full length of the pipeline installation in the final LEMP. The sample plans are based on the indicative pipeline alignment and could be subject to change.

1.3.5 The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (**Application Document [APP-129](#)**) originally included Annex I, Arboricultural Management Plan. Esso now considers this detail would be better incorporated within the contents and scope of the Outline LEMP rather than the Outline CEMP. The relevant details can be found in:

- Section 4.3: Retention and protection of existing trees;
- Section 4.4: Removal of trees; and
- Section 5.3: Reinstatement of trees.

- 1.3.6 In addition, the 'Approach to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees' is included as Appendix C.
- 1.3.7 The Outline LEMP should be read in conjunction with the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~, the Site Specific Plans and relevant Outline plans that have been produced for the project. In the case of the Outline plans, the DCO requires that the final plans be in accordance with the Outline plans that will be certified as part of the DCO and that they be approved by the relevant authorities prior to the commencement of construction.
- Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~: The CoCP provides a consistent approach to the control of construction activities along the entire pipeline and mitigates potential impacts on people and the environment. It sets out the embedded design measures that have been committed to on the project, including locations and requirements for narrow working. In addition, the CoCP contains construction methodologies about how the works would be undertaken in general. These comprise:
    - Open Cut;
    - trenchless: auger bore;
    - trenchless: horizontal directional drilling;
    - streets;
    - watercourses;
    - woodland;
    - working near trees;
    - hedgerows;
    - schools; and
    - sports pitches and golf courses
  - Site Specific Plans: These have been developed for areas where there are a number of different site sensitivities and complexities between the environmental and engineering constraints. The Site Specific Plans contain the vegetation retention and removal plans for these sites. These locations were identified during the examination process as areas that would require careful design and routing. The locations where Site Specific Plans have been developed are:
    - Queen Elizabeth Park;
    - Turf Hill;
    - Fordbridge Park;
    - Southwood Country Park;
    - St Catherines SANG;
    - St James School;
    - Ashford Road; and
    - Ashford Town Centre ~~(to be submitted for Deadline 5)~~.



- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) ~~(Document Reference 8.51)~~: This sets out generally how environmental management would be undertaken on the project during construction. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities for implementing actions on site, including the role of the Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW). The Outline CEMP also includes relevant appendices, as described below.
  - Appendix A: Emergency Action Plan – sets out the emergency procedures to be put in place for potential environmental incidents.
  - Appendix B: Water Management Plan – sets out a framework for use and control of water on the project. It outlines the environmental risks and considers appropriate methods to mitigate against these risks. It considers surface water and groundwater pollution and surface water runoff contributing to flood risk.
  - Appendix C: Site Waste Management Plan – identifies the main sources of waste produced during construction of the project and how it should be disposed of.
  - Appendix D: Dust Management Plan – sets out how the project would avoid or reduce emissions to air and human exposure to emissions. It also promotes close working with relevant authorities to maintain air quality, and provides for mitigation where dust soiling cannot be prevented.
  - Appendix E: Noise and Vibration Management Plan – sets out measures to reduce noise and vibration impacts at local receptors during the construction of the pipeline. It also promotes positive working relationships with local communities and the relevant planning authorities.
  - Appendix F: Soil Management Plan – sets out the generic commitments that the project has made and details about how soils would be protected, stored and reinstated as part of the works. It also outlines the monitoring and reporting that would be undertaken in respect of soils.
  - Appendix G: Lighting Management Plan – sets out the project’s strategy for lighting, including identification of light-sensitive locations and measures to reduce impacts, for example at bat roosts.
- Outline Community Engagement Plan ~~(Document Reference 8.52)~~: This sets out how the project will communicate with the local community. It sets out the roles and responsibilities for engagement on the project.
- Draft European Protected Species (EPS) Licences: These set out the proposed measures to avoid harm and disturbance to protected species, including great crested newts and rare reptiles. The application includes the draft licences and also the Letters of No Impediment from Natural England. The final licences would be agreed with Natural England following determination. The final LEMP will contain details as to how the licences will be implemented.



## 2 Project Commitments

2.1.1 During application, Esso made a number of good practice measures which would reduce impacts on the landscape and to habitats and ecology, ~~as set out within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) in ES Chapter 16 (Application Document APP-056).~~ These are indicated by a reference number, for example '(G21)'. The overarching good practice measures that would reduce landscape and ecological impacts are listed Table 2.1. There are a number of more detailed commitments relating to specific aspects of the Outline LEMP, which are included at the start of the relevant section.

**Table 2.1 Good Practice Measures Relevant to the Outline LEMP**

Commitment number	Commitment
O1	Commitment to only utilise a 10m width when crossing through boundaries between fields where these include hedgerows, trees or watercourses.
G40	Where sensitive features are to be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, an appropriate buffer zone would be created where this extends within the Order Limits. The buffers would be established using appropriate fencing and signage. Suitable methodologies would be produced to ensure that construction works are undertaken in a manner that reduces the risk of damage or disturbance to the sensitive feature.
G61	Construction within Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI would be in accordance with <del>Annex</del> Appendix B of the Habitat Regulations Assessment ( <b>application document 6.5</b> ). Where necessary, detailed methodologies would be agreed with Natural England prior to commencement. All construction works would be in accordance with the detailed methodologies.
G65	Working widths would be reduced in specific locations where trees or hedges are present. Where notable, TPO, Ancient Woodland and veteran trees would be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, the trees and their root protection areas would be protected where they extend within the Order Limits and are at risk. This would be by means of fencing or other measures.
G88	Where possible, reinstatement of vegetation would generally be using the same or similar species to that removed (subject to restrictions for planting over and around pipeline easements).
G91	The contractor(s) would retain vegetation where practicable and in accordance with, as a minimum, the vegetation retention drawings.
G92	A five-year aftercare period would be established for all mitigation planting and reinstatement.
G94	Land used temporarily would be reinstated to an appropriate condition relevant to its previous use.
G95	The contractor(s) would <del>consider and</del> apply the relevant protective principles set out in the <del>National Joint Utilities Group Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to British Standard 5837:2012: Trees ('NJUG Volume 4' (2007))</del> in relation to design, demolition and construction. This would be applied to trees within the Order Limits which would be preserved through the construction phase, and to trees outside of the Order Limits where such measures do not hinder or prevent the use of the relevant working width for construction.
G97	Where woodland vegetation is lost and trees cannot be replaced due to the restrictions of pipeline easements, native shrub planting approved by Esso would be used as a replacement, <del>in accordance with the vegetation reinstatement plans to be approved by the relevant planning authorities as part of the LEMP. The approved vegetation reinstatement plan will also include replacement tree planting where appropriate.</del>
<u>G200</u>	<u>Trees that are removed as a result of the construction of the project will be replaced on a one for one basis in accordance with the vegetation reinstatement plans approved under the LEMP. Where possible, replacement tree planting will be located in close</u>



Commitment number	Commitment
	<u>proximity to the original tree. It should be noted that such tree reinstatement would not apply to areas where tree removal is for habitat improvement reasons, such as at Chobham Common and this has been agreed with Natural England and the relevant landowners.</u>
HRA1	Heathland within statutory or non-statutory designated wildlife sites would be reinstated using natural regeneration, unless otherwise agreed with Natural England.

## 3 Landscape and Ecological Features

### 3.1 Landscape and Ecological Designations

3.1.1 The landscape and ecological designations relevant to the Outline LEMP are summarised below. Further details relating to landscape designations can be found in ES Chapter 10 (**Application Document [APP-050](#)**), and further information relating to ecological designations can be found in ES Chapter 7 (**Application Document [APP-047](#)**).

3.1.2 At its southern extent, the pipeline route passes through approximately 25km of the South Downs National Park between Bishops Waltham and Alton. East of Chertsey, the route runs through Woburn Hill and Chertsey Meads Area of Landscape Importance. The route also runs through Southwood Country Park, south of Southwood.

3.1.3 The following landscape designations are also relevant to the Outline LEMP:

- Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at Chawton House and Woburn Farm;
- National Trails, South Downs and Thames Path;
- Common Land at West End Common and Chobham Common;
- Open Access Land at Chobham Common, along the Maultway B3015 along Red Road B311, southeast of Lightwater and at Turf Hill;
- Ancient Woodland;
- Tree Preservation Orders; and
- Conservation Areas at Basingstoke Canal and Farnborough Hill, where trees are afforded a similar level of protection to Tree Preservation Orders.

3.1.4 Other important tree classifications comprise:

- potential ancient woodland;
- veteran and potential veteran trees; and
- notable trees.

3.1.5 The statutory ecological designations relevant to the Outline LEMP are:

- Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA);
- National Nature Reserve (NNR) at Chobham Common;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Bourley and Long Valley (Forest of Eversley, east of Church Crookham), Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath (east of Fleet), Chobham Common; and
- Chertsey Meads Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (east of Chertsey).

- 3.1.6 Non-statutory designated sites that are also relevant to the Outline LEMP are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in Hampshire and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) in Surrey. These comprise:
- Ewshot Meadows SINC;
  - Wakefords Copse, Crondall SINC
  - Cove Brook Grasslands SINC;
  - Cove Valley, Southern Grassland SINC;
  - Southwood Golf Course West SINC;
  - Blackwater Valley, Frimley Bridge SINC;
  - Frimley Hatches SNCI;
  - Frith Hill SNCI;
  - Frimley Fuel Allotments SNCI;
  - Monk's Walk North and West (incl. M3 Exchange Land) SNCI;
  - Pannell's Farm SNCI; and
  - Chertsey Meads SNCI.
- 3.1.7 Other important ecological features which the pipeline route impacts, but which are not formally designated, comprise:
- Habitats of Principal Importance in England, i.e. Priority Habitats that include: Lowland Heathland; Lowland Meadows; Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures; Hedgerows; and Wet Woodland; and
  - Notable plants within designated sites and protected and notable species, e.g. aquatic macroinvertebrates; bats; badger; breeding birds; hazel dormouse; reptile species, including sand lizard; great crested newt; riparian mammals; and fish.

## **3.2 Summary of Main Land Uses Crossed by the Pipeline Route**

- 3.2.1 The land uses that the Order Limits would pass through are presented in ES Chapter 12 (**Application Document [APP-052](#)**). Soils and geology are described within ES Chapter 11 (**Application Document [APP-051](#)**). For the purpose of identifying landscape mitigation and management, the main land uses that the Order Limits would pass through are summarised below. Soils have been broadly categorised by reference to LandIS (Cranfield University, 2019).

### **Agricultural Land (Including Pasture)**

- 3.2.2 Agricultural land is located throughout the route, but especially within the southern part of the route, south of Crondall. This mostly comprises arable land, with some pasture (improved and semi-improved), typically separated into fields by hedgerows and tree belts.
- 3.2.3 Soils within the southern part of the route can be broadly categorised as follows:

- south of Bishops Waltham soils are predominantly seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey;
- across the South Downs soils are predominantly shallow lime-rich over chalk or limestone; and
- between Four Marks and Crondall there are freely draining slightly acidic or lime rich loamy soils.

3.2.4 Soils within the northern part of the route can be broadly categorised as follows:

- between Crondall and Chertsey, soils are largely naturally wet or freely draining very acid, sandy and loamy;
- north of Chertsey, there are loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater; and
- there are freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soils north of the River Thames.

### Woodland

3.2.5 North of Crondall, the Order Limits run through some large areas of woodland, including broadleaved, coniferous and mixed. Examples include the Forest of Eversley, east of Church Crookham, and woodland at Frith Hill, east of Frimley. The Order Limits have avoided designated Ancient Woodland in line with overarching Commitment O2: '*Design route alignment to avoid all areas of existing classified Ancient Woodland*'. There are areas of potential ancient woodland (less than 2ha) including at Durley Mill Copse and Greendane Copse (see Appendix C Approach to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees) for more details.

### Priority Habitats (Including Heathland)

3.2.6 ~~Between Frimley and Chertsey, the Order Limits run through~~ There are priority habitats found within the designation sites outlined in 3.1 and in other areas outlined within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Application Documents APP-080 and APP-081). Examples include areas of heathland including Westend Common, Turf Hill and Chobham Common. Soils are predominantly naturally wet or freely draining very acid, sandy and loamy within heathland areas.

3.2.7 There are areas of semi-natural habitat at Cove Brook (coastal and floodplain grazing marsh Priority Habitat) and Chertsey Meads LNR which supports Lowland Meadows Priority habitat. There are also semi-natural habitats confined to the edges of flooded former gravel pits where neutral grassland exists.

### Amenity Land (Including Parks and Sports Grounds)

3.2.8 Parks are mainly located within the northern section of the route and include Southwood Country Park and Queen Elizabeth Park at Farnborough and Fordbridge Park at Ashford. Chertsey Meads at Chertsey provides an area of public open space south of the River Thames. Other community land includes Cove Brook, Frith Hill and Turf Hill.



- 3.2.9 Golf courses are mainly located within the northern section of the route and include Four Marks Golf Club at Four Marks, Oak Park Golf Club at Crondall, Pine Ridge Golf Club at Frimley, Foxhills Golf Club, Ottershaw, and Abbey Moor Golf Course at Chertsey.
- 3.2.10 There are a number of sports grounds and playing fields along the route. These include playing fields associated with schools such as Farnborough Hill School and St James Senior Boys School and sports grounds such as Abbey Rangers Football Club and Cove Cricket Club.

### **Residential Areas**

- 3.2.11 In addition to the land uses identified above, the Order Limits would pass through residential areas including urban areas of Farnborough, Frimley and Ashford. The Order Limits also border several settlements including Bishop's Waltham, Alton, Fleet, Lightwater, Addlestone and Chertsey.

## 4 Vegetation Retention and Removal

### 4.1 Planning and Programming of Vegetation Removal

4.1.1 As set out in Requirement 12 of the DCO, the final LEMP must include an implementation timetable. This would take account of restrictions such as constraints on timing due to seasonal and/or ecological constraints including the good practice measures set out in Table 4.1 and also areas with specific requirements, for example:

- working within Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI, including methods to protect soil during construction including reducing topsoil stripping and/or providing matting as set out in Appendix A;
- working in areas identified with the potential presence of Schedule 9 plant species or other invasive species;
- techniques that would be used for the removal, storage and transplantation of any vegetation which is to be reused, relocated or transplanted; and
- site-specific measures in relation to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees as set out in Appendix C.

**Table 4.1: Good Practice Measures for Planning and Programming**

Commitment number	Commitment
G34	Where restrictions to working are required due to ecological seasonality, e.g. for hibernation or breeding of protected species, standard timings have been indicated. However, due to alterations in weather patterns and temperatures from year to year, the restricted season may alter. It would be at the discretion of the ECoW in consultation with Natural England, where applicable, to decide the actual dates for restriction of works.
G35	Bird Breeding Season: The assumption would be that vegetation with the potential to support bird nests would not be removed during the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive). If any works become necessary during the breeding bird season, works would be supervised by an ECoW. Appropriate protection measures would be put in place should active nests be found. These would include exclusion zones around active nests until chicks fledge or nests become inactive as determined by monitoring by the ECoW.
G42	A suitable methodology would be produced to set out how identifiable areas with the potential presence of Schedule 9 plant species or other invasive species would be demarcated, and how any affected soils would be appropriately managed throughout the works.
G52	Adder and sand lizard hibernacula would be retained and protected during construction where practicable. If unavoidable, the removal of vegetation and groundworks at hibernacula would be timed to avoid the hibernation season.
G59	Potential disturbance to ponds would preferably be timed to avoid the amphibian breeding season or would be supervised by an ECoW. Any amphibians captured during supervision would be translocated to the nearest undisturbed pond.
G61	Construction within Bourley and Long Valley SSSI, Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI would be in accordance with <del>Annex</del> Appendix B of the Habitat Regulations Assessment ( <b>application document 6.5</b> ). Where necessary, detailed methodologies would be agreed with Natural England prior to commencement. All construction works would be in accordance with the detailed methodologies.



Commitment number	Commitment
G196	All habitats suitable for common reptiles would be subject to two-stage habitat manipulation between mid-March and mid-October. Firstly, vegetation would be cut to approximately 150mm (with the arisings removed) under the supervision of an ECoW and the site left for a minimum of two days to allow reptiles to move away from the area. Secondly, vegetation would be cleared down to ground level under the supervision of an ECoW. Vegetation clearance would be achieved using appropriate equipment based on the type of vegetation to be removed, the area affected, and the risk of killing or injuring reptiles. Construction works could commence immediately after completion of the second stage.

## 4.2 General Principles of Vegetation Retention and Removal

- 4.2.1 The overarching aim would be to *'retain vegetation where practicable and in accordance with, as a minimum, the vegetation retention drawings'* (Commitment G91).
- 4.2.2 The vegetation retention and removal plans to be submitted in accordance with Requirement 8(1)(a) of the DCO (the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans), will be determined by Esso's contractor following the selection of the final pipeline alignment and provided to the relevant planning authorities for information in accordance with Requirement 8. Vegetation retention and removal at the areas covered by the Site Specific Plans will be as per the Site Specific Plan unless otherwise approved by the relevant planning authority.
- 4.2.3 The Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans will follow the requirements of Article [4142](#) of DCO Article [4142](#) – Felling or lopping, namely:

*'(1) The undertaker may fell, lop, prune, coppice, pollard or reduce in height or width, any tree or shrub within or overhanging land within the Order limits, or may cut back the roots of a tree or shrub which extend into the Order limits if it reasonably believes it to be necessary to do so to prevent the tree, shrub or roots from—*

*(a) obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance or operation of the authorised development or any apparatus used in connection with the authorised development; or*

*(b) constituting a danger to persons using the authorised development.*

*(2) In carrying out any activity authorised by paragraph (1) or (3), the undertaker must not cause unnecessary damage to any tree, shrub or hedgerow and must pay compensation to any person who sustains any loss or damage arising from such activity for that loss or damage.*

*(3) The undertaker may, for the purpose of the authorised development—*

*(a) subject to paragraph (2), remove any hedgerows within the Order limits that may be required for the purposes of carrying out the authorised development; and*

*(b) only remove important hedgerows identified in Schedule 10 (Removal of important hedgerows) to the extent shown on the plans identified in Schedule 10 [of the DCO]*

- 4.2.4 The Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans will, where applicable, implement the SSSI working plans contained at Appendix A in accordance with Requirement 12(1) of the DCO.
- 4.2.5 The Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans will show:
- final working areas (taking into account narrow working and trenchless crossings where applicable) and the final pipeline trench alignment;
  - vegetation to be retained;
  - ~~TreeRoot~~ Protection ~~Zones~~ (TPZsAreas (RPAs)) of trees to be retained (for individual trees or tree groupings);
  - other landscape and ecological features to be retained such as hedgerows, ponds and trees with bat roosts;
  - measures to protect vegetation, including trees, such as protective matting or fencing;
  - locations where a method statement has been produced for bespoke measures to protect a feature, for example a Veteran Tree; and
  - Vegetation to be removed.

### 4.3 Vegetation and Tree Retention

4.3.1 The overarching aim would be to *'retain vegetation where practicable and in accordance with, as a minimum, the vegetation retention drawings'* (Commitment G91). Table 4.2 includes the key project commitments that are relevant to retention of existing vegetation which would be implemented when developing the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans.

**Table 4.2: Good Practice Measures in Relation to Retention of Vegetation**

Commitment number	Commitment
O1	Commitment to only utilise a 10m width when crossing through boundaries between fields where these include hedgerows, trees or watercourses.
G40	Where sensitive features are to be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, an appropriate buffer zone would be created where this extends within the Order Limits. The buffers would be established using appropriate fencing and signage. Suitable methodologies would be produced to ensure that construction works are undertaken in a manner that reduces the risk of damage or disturbance to the sensitive feature.
G51	Where works in wet heath would be unavoidable, effects on soils and surface vegetation would be reduced through the use of ground protection matting and use of appropriate machinery.
G52	Adder and sand lizard hibernacula would be retained and protected during construction where practicable. If unavoidable, the removal of vegetation and groundworks at hibernacula would be timed to avoid the hibernation season.

Commitment number	Commitment
G57	Earth banks within SSSIs which are likely to be of importance for common reptiles and invertebrates would be avoided and protected, where practicable. If their removal is unavoidable during construction, the banks should be reinstated.
G65	Working widths would be reduced in specific locations where trees or hedges are present. Where notable, TPO, Ancient Woodland and veteran trees would be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, the trees and their root protection areas would be protected where they extend within the Order Limits and are at risk. This would be by means of fencing or other measures.
G86	Works to notable, TPO and veteran trees, where at risk of damage, would be supervised by the ECoW and supported by an experienced arboriculturalist.
G91	The contractor(s) would retain vegetation where practicable and in accordance with, as a minimum, the vegetation retention drawings.
G95	The contractor(s) would <del>consider and</del> apply the relevant protective principles set out in the <del>National Joint Utilities Group Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to British Standard 5837:2012 Trees ('NJUG Volume 4' (2007))</del> in relation to design, demolition and construction. This would be applied to trees within the Order Limits which would be preserved through the construction phase, and to trees outside of the Order Limits where such measures do not hinder or prevent the use of the relevant working width for construction.
G131	River bank and in-channel vegetation would be retained where not directly affected by installation works
G174	Buildings, structures and trees within the Order Limits, confirmed to have high or moderate potential to support bats, that do not require removal, would be retained and protected with an appropriate buffer zone. Those that require removal and have high or moderate potential for bat roosts would be surveyed prior to their removal and either removed or removed under licence from Natural England if roosts are confirmed to be present.
G175	For trenchless crossings TC001 to TC015, TC019, TC021 to TC028, TC030 to TC040, vegetation would be retained except where emergency access is required to trenchless equipment or ecological works have been proposed. At TC029 vegetation would be retained to the east of Hardwick Lane but not to the west side due to the requirement for access. At TC016, TC017 and TC018, there would be limited removal of vegetation along the alignment of the existing pathway to allow for pipe stringing.

4.3.2 In certain areas, a commitment has been made to a narrower working width within the Order Limits to reduce impacts at these specific locations. This approach involves using a narrower working width than the typical 30m due to localised constraints, such as working in roads or ecologically sensitive areas. Vegetation outside of the narrow working limit would be retained and shown as such in the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans. The full list of narrow working locations is listed in Annex A of the CoCP ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~.

4.3.3 There are also areas where the project has made commitments to avoid features within the Order Limits (embedded design measures) set out in Table 23.1 of the CoCP ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~. For example, Commitment D7, North of Sailors Lane (SU5849323046), which states, 'Ensure pipe alignment is located to the west away from woodland block... To avoid impact on Priority Habitat – large woodland block.'. The vegetation and trees listed within these commitments would be retained, and this will be reflected in the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans.

## Retention and Protection of Woodland and Trees

- 4.3.4 The CoCP (~~Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3)~~) contains a construction methodology for typical works within woodland and for trees. When crossing a woodland, the working area would be typically reduced to 15m wide. Trees not being retained would be removed from the working area. As with typical woodland management, tree stumps would be left in situ, to reduce the ground disruption and for ecological value (for invertebrates during decomposition), providing this does not impede the use of the working area.
- 4.3.5 The Order Limits have been defined to avoid Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees, where practicable. Where works are located near to Ancient Woodland (including potential ancient woodland) and Veteran Trees (including potential veteran trees), these will follow the mitigation principles set out in Appendix C and this will be reflected in the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans. This has been developed having regard to the joint standing advice from Natural England and the Forestry Commission (2018) 'Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: protecting them from development'.
- 4.3.6 Appendix C sets out the agreed mitigation hierarchy for the protection of Ancient (and potential ancient) Woodland and Veteran (and potential veteran) Trees. The starting assumption is that the project will seek to locate the pipeline trench outside of a 15 buffer around designated trees where practicable. If this is not practicable, for example due to engineering or other environmental constraints, then the project would avoid locating the pipeline trench within the Root Protection Area (RPA). Where avoidance of the RPA is also not practicable, specialist construction measures for use within the RPA would be adopted and set out in a method statement.
- 4.3.7 Commitment G65 states that *'working widths would be reduced in specific locations where trees or hedges are present. Where notable, TPO, Ancient Woodland and veteran trees would be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, the trees and their root protection areas would be protected where they extend within the Order Limits and are at risk. This would be by means of fencing or other measures'*. In addition, *'works to notable, TPO and veteran trees, where at risk of damage, would be supervised by an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) and supported by an experienced arboriculturalist'* (Commitment G86).
- 4.3.8 For all other trees, *'the contractor(s) would ~~consider and~~ apply the relevant protective principles set out in the ~~National Joint Utilities Group Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to British Standard 5837:2012 Trees ('NJUG Volume 4' (2007)) in relation to design, demolition and construction~~. This would be applied to trees within the Order Limits which would be preserved through the construction phase, and to trees outside of the Order Limits where such measures do not hinder or prevent the use of the relevant working width for construction'* (Commitment G95).
- 4.3.9 All retained trees will be protected during construction to reduce the risk of accidental damage and compaction of roots. If retained trees are within the vicinity of works, the following hierarchy of methods would be adopted:

- The extent of TPZRPA shall be identified in the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans and delineated with fencing. The TPZRPA may be identified using tree groupings rather than individual trees. In this case, an arboriculturalist will advise on the TPZRPA using experience based on the site features.
- Where some encroachment into TPZsRPAs is unavoidable, an arboriculturalist will assess and specify temporary ground protection if deemed necessary to avoid compaction. This will be based upon the extent of encroachment into the TPZRPA (area or linear length), the duration of the works and the type of work to be carried out. The specified ground protection will be suitable for the level of encroachment and type of traffic. This area would be indicated on the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans.

- 4.3.10 The working method near trees will take into account installation requirements, such as working space, soil type and construction activities, and site constraints, such as proximity to services, watercourses or archaeology.
- 4.3.11 Where location specific method statements are required, such as those prepared in accordance with Appendix C to outline the works around Ancient Woodland, potential ancient woodland and Veteran Trees, they will be prepared in conjunction with the final pipeline alignment and will be included in the final LEMP.
- 4.3.12 The location of protection measures, such as fencing, will be shown on the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans.
- 4.3.13 There is limited potential for 'windthrow' (trees uprooted or damaged by wind) of trees by the project. This is because there are limited locations where trees are being removed from the edge of a woodland in exposed locations. As a precautionary approach, where there are trees being removed on the edge of woodland areas in exposed locations, the contractor will undertake a risk assessment of the potential for windthrow and, if required, will identify risk reduction measures in the final LEMP and the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans. Measures could include prioritising the removal or coppicing of weaker specimens, taking care not to create wind tunnels which could exacerbate the risk of windthrow, to create a softer, more scalloped, woodland edge.

### Protection of Watercourses

- 4.3.14 The crossing of major rivers by the project, including the River Thames and the River Ash, would be undertaken using trenchless methods in accordance with overarching Commitment O5: '*Trenchless crossing technology to be used for crossings of waterways over 30m wide*'. A construction methodology has been developed set out in the CoCP to describe how the remaining watercourses would be crossed using open methods ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~. This includes Commitment O1, '*to only utilise a 10m width when crossing. In order to retain and protect watercourses*'. River bank and in-channel vegetation would be retained where not directly affected by installation works (G131). Such works will also be in accordance with approvals from the Environment Agency or Lead Local Flood Authorities as per the protective provisions in Schedule 9 of the DCO ~~(Document Reference 3.1 (5))~~.



- 4.3.15 In addition, appropriate buffer zones would be established within Order Limits adjacent to identified watercourses (G39). These would be indicated on the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans. Appropriate buffer zones would be determined by the ECoW based on knowledge of the site and also in discussion with the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authority through the protective provisions on flood risk activities.
- 4.3.16 Measures relating to pollution prevention are set out in Outline CEMP, Appendix B Outline Water Management Plan.

### **Retention and Protection of Ecological Features**

- 4.3.17 The CoCP (~~Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3)~~) contains the locations where there are embedded measures (Table 23.1) and narrow working (Annex A) are proposed. These include locations where there are specific ecological features that would need to be retained and protected. In addition, further measures to retain and protect features specific to protected species are set out in the Protected and Controlled Species Legislation Compliance Report (Appendix 7.17 of the ES (**Application Document APP-101**)) and would be confirmed in the EPS licences.
- 4.3.18 Habitat features that would be retained and protected are set out in the following commitments, which will be implemented by Esso and reflected in the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans where applicable:
- Commitment HRA4: *'Topsoil stripping would be reduced to a minimum extent within European designated sites and SSSIs except where identified within the HRA. (Some unavoidable stripping would take place as part of the trenching for the pipeline and in construction compounds where matting is not a workable alternative).'*
  - Commitment G51: *'Where works in wet heath would be unavoidable, effects on soils and surface vegetation would be reduced through the use of ground protection matting and use of appropriate machinery.'*
  - Commitment G174: *'Buildings, structures and trees within the Order Limits, confirmed to have high or moderate potential to support bats, that do not require removal, would be retained and protected with an appropriate buffer zone. Those that require removal and have high or moderate potential for bat roosts would be surveyed prior to their removal and either removed or removed under licence from Natural England if roosts are confirmed to be present.'*
  - Commitment G52: *'Adder and sand lizard hibernacula would be retained and protected during construction where practicable. If unavoidable, the removal of vegetation and groundworks at hibernacula would be timed to avoid the hibernation season.'*
  - Commitment G57: *'Earth banks within SSSIs which are likely to be of importance for common reptiles and invertebrates would be avoided and protected, where practicable. If their removal is unavoidable during construction, the banks should be reinstated.'*
  - Commitment G60: *'Where there would be a risk of animal entrapment, a means of escape would be installed into all excavations left open overnight.'*

### **Retention and Protection of Hard Landscape Features**

- 4.3.19 Where existing hard landscape features lie within the Order Limits, such as walls, paths or street furniture, such features will be protected during construction where practicable. Where it is not practicable to retain such features, these will be removed from the working area and, where appropriate, stored to allow reinstatement following the works, or replaced with new. Details will be recorded about the location of the feature(s) to aid reinstatement following construction and details would be shown on the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans.

### **Retention and Protection of Specific Features**

- 4.3.20 There may be the need to produce a bespoke method statement for construction near specific retained landscaping features. An example of which is hedgerow (HCX130), near Chawton, where the hedgerow forms a continuation of an ancient coppice within Chawton House Registered Park and Garden. In such cases, a bespoke method statement would be developed to outline the proposed working method with regards to the feature. The bespoke method statement for HCX130 is contained in Appendix D. This and any other bespoke method statements would be included in Appendix D of the final LEMP.

## **4.4 Vegetation and Tree Removal**

### **General Approach to Removal of Vegetation**

- 4.4.1 The Vegetation and Removal Plans will show the locations where vegetation would be removed.
- 4.4.2 The vegetation clearance would be supervised by the ECoW and supported by an experienced arboriculturalist at locations where tree works are required to notable, TPO and veteran trees (in accordance with Commitment G86).

### **Woodland and Tree Removal**

- 4.4.3 All tree works will be carried out by a specialist contractor. Where trees and shrubs are removed to facilitate construction access but do not lie within the direct route of excavation, these may be coppiced to allow rapid regeneration. Where trees are removed within the direct route of excavation, stumps shall be ground out or excavated using a tracked excavator. Details of the location of trees to be removed and those to be coppiced would be shown on the Vegetation and Removal Plans.
- 4.4.4 In addition, at heathland SSSIs, targeted scrub and secondary woodland within the Order Limits would be removed to help reinstate heathland habitat following the works (Commitment HRA2). Further details can be found in Section 5.4.

### **Hedgerows**

- 4.4.5 The Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans will show the extent of hedge to be removed consistent with Commitment O1, *'to only utilise a 10m width when crossing through boundaries between fields where these include hedgerows, trees or watercourses'*. The selection of the location would be based on the least impactful



10m width, taking into account other local considerations. For example, this could include taking advantage of gaps within an existing hedge where possible. Further details can be found in the construction methodology for hedgerows in the CoCP (~~Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3)~~).

### Ecological Considerations

- 4.4.6 The final LEMP will contain details for site specific vegetation removal, such as in areas that provide suitable habitat for protected species. ~~For example, all~~ habitats suitable for common reptiles would be subject to two-stage habitat manipulation between mid-March and mid-October. Firstly, vegetation would be cut to approximately 150mm (with the arisings removed) under the supervision of an ECoW and the site left for a minimum of two days to allow reptiles to move away from the area. Secondly, vegetation would be cleared down to ground level under the supervision of an ECoW. Vegetation clearance would be achieved using appropriate equipment based on the type of vegetation to be removed, the area affected and the risk of killing or injuring reptiles. Construction works could commence immediately after completion of the second stage (Commitment G196).
- 4.4.7 Where there is evidence of water voles from pre-construction surveys, vegetation from within the working width (up to 5m either side of the trench) would be removed using a strimmer until only bare earth remains. The strimmed area would extend to the top of the bank and a further 2m beyond. All arisings from the strimmed area would be raked off and removed. The area would be maintained as unsuitable for water voles as the works are carried out (Commitment G197).

## 4.5 Transplantation (Including Turf Stripping)

- 4.5.1 In accordance with Commitment G89, *'appropriate techniques would be used for the removal, storage and transplantation of any vegetation which is to be reused, relocated or transplanted'*. Further details, including specific locations, would be provided in this section of the final LEMP.
- 4.5.2 The Phase 1 Habitat Survey (**Application Documents [APP-080](#) and [APP-081](#)**) identified locations of particularly species-diverse Priority Habitat where natural regeneration would not be suitable. In these locations, translocation and turf stripping is proposed to retain the diverse seedbank and allow quicker establishment of land use following construction. Locations would be determined based on the age and condition of the existing vegetation and whether the translocation is likely to be successful. Specific locations where translocation would be undertaken and suitable receptor sites would be set out in the final LEMP and shown on the Vegetation and Removal Plans and Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans.
- 4.5.3 Where translocation is proposed, a site-specific method statement would be developed when the areas are known, to identify appropriate techniques used for the removal, storage and transplantation of any vegetation which is to be reused, relocated or transplanted (Commitment G89). Where turf stripping is to be undertaken, a site-specific method statement would be produced to outline how the turf would be stripped, stored and reinstated. This would include techniques for uplift, storage and maintenance of turfs once lifted and procedure for re-laying.

4.5.4 Locations where transplantation or turf stripping would be undertaken comprise the following.

- Bourley and Long Valley SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI: Individual plants of creeping willow (*Salix repens*) and common wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*), where likely to be affected by construction, would be translocated into suitable receptor locations within the Order Limits where practicable. The location of the receptor site would be determined by the ECoW and protected by an appropriate buffer during the pipeline construction period (Commitment G55).
- Cove Brook Grassland SINC and Cove Valley, Southern Grassland SINC: Broadleaved semi-natural woodland habitat could be reinstated partly with translocation of retained rooted material.
- Blackwater Valley: If Open Cut is used at this location, the impacted reedbed habitat could be restored using retained excavated material as well as natural regeneration.
- NW1: Durley Meadows: This comprises Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures Priority Habitat. Turf would be stripped, stored and reinstated above the trench for an approximate distance of 35m between approximate grid references SU 52306 16340 to SU 52329 16365. The exact methodology for this would be defined in a site-specific method statement.
- NW21: Chertsey Meads LNR and SINC: Chertsey Meads partly comprises areas of Lowland Meadows Priority Habitat. Post construction reinstatement would comprise using existing turf that was stripped and suitably stored during the construction phase. The exact methodology for this would be defined in a site-specific method statement.
- Watercourses: Typically, in-stream vegetation within the crossing area would be temporarily translocated within the watercourse slightly up or down stream of the works and will be returned to its original position as part of the reinstatement. The bed material will also be stored separately and used for reinstatement. Further details can be found in the construction methodology for watercourses in the CoCP ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~.
- Sports pitches and golf courses: Typically, the only area that would require topsoil to be removed would be above the trench to reduce the impact and reinstatement time. In such areas, the turf would be removed and stored before being re-laid following pipeline installation. Further details can be found in the construction methodology for Sports Pitches and Golf Courses in the CoCP ~~(Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3))~~.

## **4.6 Removal of Invasive Species**

4.6.1 Invasive species include rhododendron, Himalayan balsam and Gaultheria species. Invasive non-native species have been identified across and adjacent to the Order Limits (see Appendix 7.4 of the ES (**Application Document APP-084**)). Pre-construction surveys would locate the distribution and extent of all invasive species. Current known sites include:

- Cove Brook;



- Queen Elizabeth Park;
- Frith Hill;
- Turf Hill;
- Chobham Common; and
- Fordbridge Park.

4.6.2 A pre-construction walkover would be undertaken at least one month prior to works commencing to identify the presence of Schedule 9 plant species or other invasive species. In areas where Schedule 9 plant species or other invasive species are identified, a method statement would be produced. The method statement will set out how identifiable areas with the potential presence of Schedule 9 plant species or other invasive species would be demarcated, and how any affected soils would be appropriately managed throughout the works (G42). It will also include how vegetation would be removed from the site in accordance with the CEMP, Appendix C Site Waste Management Plan ~~(Document Reference 8.51)~~. The method statement would be approved by the ECoW and supported by an ecologist.

4.6.3 Where invasive shrub species are removed (such as rhododendron), stumps would be treated to prevent regrowth. In larger areas away from retained trees, stumps may be excavated, mulched or ground out. Areas of invasive species will be shown on the Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans.

## 5 Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section will set out the general principles for how reinstatement would be undertaken on the project. It will include the reinstatement of hard landscaping features such as walls and fences. It also covers soft landscaping, including the reinstatement of vegetation that has been removed and reinstatement of habitat areas.
- 5.1.2 Requirement 8 of the DCO ~~((Document Reference 3.1 (5)))~~ states that *'the reinstatement of all vegetation must be undertaken in accordance with a written plan of reinstatement to be prepared by the undertaker in accordance with paragraph (2). The written plan of reinstatement referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(b) must form part of the LEMP approved in accordance with Requirement 12 (landscape and ecological management plan)'*.
- 5.1.3 Appendix B contains two sample Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans, which are based on the indicative alignment of the pipeline. These illustrate examples of the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans that would be provided for the full extent of the pipeline route within the final LEMP to show locations where specific measures would be applied.
- 5.1.4 The final Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans to be included in the LEMP will show:
- existing features retained;
  - location of hard landscaping features to be reinstated, such as walls and fences and surfacing of paths within public parks;
  - vegetation, including hedges and trees, to be replanted with reference to types and sizes; and
  - landscape and ecological mitigation measures, for example provision of bat boxes.

### 5.2 General Reinstatement Proposals

- 5.2.1 The final LEMP will include an implementation timetable of reinstatement, in accordance with Requirement 12 of the DCO ~~((Document Reference 3.1 (5)))~~ (paragraph 2), which states that *'the LEMP must include an implementation timetable and must be carried out as approved'*. Reinstatement would be undertaken in the first available planting season following completion of installation of the pipeline.
- 5.2.2 The general principle of reinstatement on the project is that *'Land used temporarily would be reinstated to an appropriate condition relevant to its previous use'* (Commitment G94). Reinstatement would be on a like-for-like basis, unless specified otherwise. For example, an exception would be where there are invasive species, heathland restoration is planned, or where planting over the 6.3m pipeline

easement ~~where, in which case~~ native shrub planting would be used. ~~Further commitments in relation to reinstatement are included in Table 5.1.~~

5.2.3 Reinstatement tree planting would be undertaken in accordance with G200. Where possible this will be in the same location or in close proximity to the tree that has been removed. In some locations existing constraints or the location of the pipeline easement may preclude planting in close proximity and in which case the planting would be undertaken as close as possible to the original location (and still within the Order Limits). Reinstatement planting would be shown on the vegetation reinstatement plans.. Further commitments in relation to reinstatement are included in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Good Practice Measures for Reinstatement**

Commitment number	Commitment
G53	Replacement hibernacula and refugia would be provided within the Order Limits to mitigate habitat loss to reptiles and amphibians.
G55	Individual plants of creeping willow ( <i>Salix repens</i> ) and common wintergreen ( <i>Pyrola minor</i> ) at Bourley and Long Valley SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI, where likely to be affected by construction, would be translocated into suitable receptor locations within the Order Limits where practicable. The location of the receptor site would be determined by the ECoW and protected by an appropriate buffer during the pipeline construction period.
G56	Alternative roost structures (bat boxes) would be provided (with landowner consent) on retained trees within the Order Limits. Three boxes would be provided for all trees with moderate bat roost potential to be felled. Five boxes would be provided for all trees with high bat roost potential to be felled.
G58	Barn owl boxes would be provided for barn owls as necessary. Two boxes per roost would be positioned a minimum of 40m away from the likely construction zone of disturbance.
G62	Vegetation arisings would be disposed of responsibly. Small quantities may be reused on site to create ecological habitat.
G88	Where possible, reinstatement of vegetation would generally be using the same or similar species to that removed (subject to restrictions for planting over and around pipeline easements).
G93	Hedgerows, fences and walls ( <u>including associated earthworks and boundary features</u> ) would be reinstated to a similar style and quality to those that were removed, with landowner agreement.
G94	Land used temporarily would be reinstated to an appropriate condition relevant to its previous use.
G97	Where woodland vegetation is lost and trees cannot be replaced due to the restrictions of pipeline easements, native shrub planting approved by Esso would be used as a replacement <del>-, in accordance with the vegetation reinstatement plans to be approved by the relevant planning authorities as part of the LEMP. The approved vegetation reinstatement plan will also include replacement tree planting where appropriate.</del>
<u>G200</u>	<u>Trees that are removed as a result of the construction of the project will be replaced on a one for one basis in accordance with the vegetation reinstatement plans approved under the LEMP. Where possible, replacement tree planting will be located in close proximity to the original tree. It should be noted that such tree reinstatement would not apply to areas where tree removal is for habitat improvement reasons, such as at Chobham Common and this has been agreed with Natural England and the relevant landowners.</u>
HRA1	Heathland within statutory or non-statutory designated wildlife sites would be reinstated using natural regeneration, unless otherwise agreed with Natural England.

Commitment number	Commitment
HRA2	At heathland SSSIs, targeted scrub and secondary woodland within the Order Limits would be removed. Subject to landowner consent, these areas would be reinstated as heathland or acid grassland through natural regeneration.

5.2.35.2.4 The Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans would be discussed with the relevant landowner (and, where appropriate, tenant). This will be to confirm the suitability of proposed planting, the specification of hard landscape features such as fences and walls (based on like for like reinstatement) and will also include discussions about the acceptance of the planting once the five-year aftercare period has been completed.

5.2.45.2.5 Landscape reinstatement will follow the following principles:

- Trees and shrubs will be of local provenance and shall be supplied in accordance with British Standard (BS) 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape (British Standards Institution, 2014). Exceptions may include urban or park environments, where ornamental species may be more appropriate. In these cases, the proposed species will be discussed with the relevant planning authority prior to the final LEMP being produced.
- Reinstatement planting, including any subsequent replacement of failed planting, shall be carried out in the first available planting season. For example, tree and scrub planting would typically be undertaken between November and the end of March, avoiding periods of frosts, extreme cold and waterlogged conditions.
- Planting shall be undertaken by an appropriately experienced landscape contractor, in accordance with good horticultural practice and the following current British Standards:
  - BS 4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (British Standards Institution, 1989); and
  - BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape (British Standards Institution, 2014).
- Tree and shrub planting areas will initially be protected to shield young trees from browsing rabbits and deer during establishment, for example using tree/shrub shelters or fencing.

5.2.55.2.6 Indicative proposed species mixes and typical stock sizes for the main planting reinstatement types are set out in the following sections, to reflect existing species compositions and habitat types (see ES Appendix 7.1 (**Application Documents ~~APP-080 and APP-081~~APP-080 and APP-081**)) and ES Figure 7.4 (**Application Document ~~APP-061~~APP-061 for further details**). However, these mixes will be further refined in the final LEMP, in conjunction with landowners and the relevant planning authorities, in order to reflect the specific species composition suitable for each location based on existing soil and drainage conditions.



## 5.3 Reinstatement of Woodland and Trees

5.3.1 Following construction, areas of woodland that were removed would be reinstated using the same or similar species to those removed. Where tree species cannot be used due to the restrictions of the 6.3m wide pipeline easement, native shrub understorey/edge planting would be used, as indicated in Table 5.2. Reinstatement woodland and tree planting would typically be undertaken between November and the end of March, avoiding periods of frosts, extreme cold and waterlogged conditions.

### Broadleaved Woodland

5.3.2 Broadleaved woodland areas, including north of the Hale Bourne, east of Lightwater, and north and south of Quetta Park, would be reinstated using the native, broadleaved woodland mix outlined in Table 5.2. This would be refined on the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans in the final LEMP, where relevant, to reflect the native species composition identified in ES Appendix 7.1 (**Application Documents [APP-080](#) and [APP-081](#)**).

**Table 5.2: Indicative Native Broadleaved Woodland Mix**

Common name	Latin name	Height cm	Stock type
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised
Common Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>	60-80	0/1; Cutting
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	60-80	0/1; Cutting
Small-leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	60-80	1+1 or 1/1; branched; 3 breaks
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	60-80	Caned; several shoots; 2 breaks
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	60-80	0/1; Branched; 2 breaks
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks



### Coniferous Woodland

- 5.3.3 Reinstatement of coniferous woodland is proposed within some golf courses, including Pine Ridge Golf Course and Foxhills Golf Course, and Windlemere SANG to reflect the existing species composition. Coniferous woodland areas would be reinstated using the coniferous mix outlined in Table 5.3. This would be refined on the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans, where relevant, to reflect the existing species composition identified in ES Appendix 7.1 (**Application Documents [APP-080](#) and [APP-081](#)**).

**Table 5.3: Indicative Coniferous Woodland Mix**

Common name	Latin name	Height cm	Stock type
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	40-60	1+2; Transplant - seed raised
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	40-60	3x; leaders; furnished to base
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60	Leader with laterals

### Mixed Broadleaved and Coniferous Woodland

- 5.3.4 Reinstatement of mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland is proposed at Southwood Country Park, Frimley Fuel Allotments and the Forest of Eversley at Church Crookham to reflect the existing native species composition. Appropriate broadleaved and coniferous species mixes would be reinstated using the mixed broadleaved and coniferous mix outlined in Table 5.4. This would be refined on the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans, where relevant, to reflect the existing species composition identified in ES Appendix 7.1 (**Application Documents [APP-080](#) and [APP-081](#)**).

**Table 5.4: Indicative Mixed Broadleaved and Coniferous Woodland Mix**

Common name	Latin name	Height cm	Stock type
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	60 -80	1+1 or 1/1; Branched; 2 breaks
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	125-150	0/1/2; Transplant - cutting raised; 3 breaks

Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	40-60	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	40-60	1+2; Transplant - seed raised
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	40-60	3x; leaders; furnished to base
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	40-60	Leader with laterals

### Reinstatement of Hedgerow and Woodland Field Boundary

- 5.3.5 The construction methodology for hedgerows in the CoCP (~~Document Reference 6.4 Appendix 16.1 (3)~~) sets out how construction would be undertaken in hedgerows and woodland field boundaries. Following construction, hedgerows and woodland field boundaries that were removed would be reinstated using the same or similar species to those removed. Where tree species cannot be used due to the restrictions of the 6.3m wide pipeline easement, native shrub would be used, as indicated in Table 5.5.
- 5.3.6 Hedgerows will be typically planted at 300mm centres in a double staggered row 450mm apart, with tree species randomly incorporated where appropriate. However, where the pipeline installation requires removal of 10m of hedge, trees would not be replaced over the 6.3 m pipeline easement but would be located either side of this area (in the remaining 3.7m). The reinstated hedgerow would be boxed with stockproof post and rail to protect the plants until they established. In addition, dead hedging will be installed for hedgerows to restore ecological connectivity until permanent reinstatement can be undertaken.
- 5.3.7 A proportion of tree species within hedgerows would be planted as feathered stock to help establish hedgerow tree forms. The proportion of feathered tree species within reinstatement hedgerow planting would be set out in the final LEMP. A higher proportion of feathered tree species would be used for reinstatement of woodland field boundaries compared to a hedgerow, to establish a replacement tree line/woodland belt.

**Table 5.5: Indicative Native Hedgerow and Woodland Field Boundary Mix**

Common name	Latin name	Height cm	Stock type
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	60-80	Leader with laterals
Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	60-80	1+1 or 1/1 0/2; branched; 3 breaks
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 2 breaks

Common name	Latin name	Height cm	Stock type
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Common Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	125-150	2x; Feathered; 3 breaks
		60-80	1+1; Transplant - seed raised
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	125-150	2x; Feathered; 2 breaks
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	125-150	2x; Feathered; 3 breaks
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	125-150	2x; Feathered; 2 breaks
		60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	100-125	2x; Feathered
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	125-150	2x; Feathered; 2 breaks
		60-80	1+2; Transplant - seed raised
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	125-150	0/2; branched; 3 breaks
		60-80	0/1; branched; 2 breaks
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	150-175	2x; Feathered; 3 breaks

### Reinstatement of Individual Trees

- 5.3.8 Where individual mature trees may need to be removed, for example at Queen Elizabeth Park, Turf Hill or Fordbridge Park, they will be replaced with a mix of feathered and extra heavy trees from, but not limited to, the species indicated in Table 5.6. The final specification set out in the final LEMP will draw on the baseline information from the arboricultural surveys and discussions with the landowner and the relevant planning authority.
- 5.3.9 The depth and size of topsoil pit for tree planting shall be appropriate to the stock size of tree to be planted and in accordance with BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape (British Standards Institution, 2014).

**Table 5.6: Indicative Tree Species**

Common name	Latin name	Girth cm	Height cm	Stock type
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	6-8	250-300	2x; Feathered; 5 breaks
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	14-16	300-350	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	6-8	250-300	2x; Feathered; 5 breaks
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	8-10	250-300	2x; Feathered; 5 breaks
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	10-12	300-350	2x; Feathered; 7 breaks
Himalayan Birch	<i>Betula utilis</i>	4-6	200-250	2x; Feathered; 5 breaks
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks

Common name	Latin name	Girth cm	Height cm	Stock type
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Blue Atlas Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> 'Glauca'	-	200-250	3x; leader with laterals
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	8-10	250-300	2x; Feathered; 5 breaks
Common Walnut	<i>Juglans Regia</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	16-18	min 450	4x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm
Corsican Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i> <i>maritima</i>			
Black Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>	14-16	425-600	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Purple-leaved Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
False Acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks
Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	14-16	400-450	3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks

## 5.4 Reinstatement of Lowland Heathland

- 5.4.1 Removal of trees in heathland areas is beneficial for the conservation of this particular habitat and to keep its ecological value, which depends on an open and diverse vegetation structure. Therefore, targeted scrub and woodland removal would be undertaken in heathland areas during construction and would not be replaced as part of the reinstatement proposals. These sites will be reinstated using natural regeneration unless otherwise agreed with Natural England (Commitments HRA1 and HRA2). In these locations, a site-specific method statement would be developed. Once installation is complete, the soil would be replaced and no seeding would be undertaken. The heathland would naturally regenerate during the aftercare period.
- 5.4.2 Targeted scrub and woodland removal and natural regeneration will be undertaken at the following sites:
- Bourley and Long Valley SSSI (targeted scrub and woodland removal at EM52 and EM53);
  - Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath SSSI (targeted scrub and woodland removal at EM56 and EM57);

- Chobham Common SSSI (targeted scrub and woodland removal at EM60); and
- Blackwater Valley SINC (if Open Cut is required).

5.4.3 The final LEMP will provide comprehensive plans showing the location of the areas of scrub and woodland removal and the natural reinstatement once the pipeline alignment is known.

## 5.5 Reinstatement of Grassland

5.5.1 Areas of grassland and verges disturbed by construction activities will be reinstated by seeding of an appropriate grass mix suited to the existing soil conditions and site use. Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring, but can be sown at the other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans will show the land use type and proposed species mix composition. Examples would include the following.

- Species rich grass: Species-rich areas (as identified in ES Appendix 7.1 (**Application Documents [APP-080](#) and [APP-081](#)**)) will be seeded with a flower rich mixture suitable to the specific ground conditions, such as acid, neutral, calcareous, sandy, clay and loamy soils, based on existing grass types identified in ES Figure 7.4 (**Application Document [APP-061](#)**). Example locations include Ewshot Meadows SINC and Turf Hill.
- Pasture and non-amenity grassland: Disturbed areas of pasture shall be seeded with a similar species mix to that of the existing land use and based on discussions with the landowner. Proposed species and composition mixes are outline in Table 5.7.
- Amenity grass: School grounds, golf courses and road verges in urban areas affected by construction activities shall be seeded with a mixture suitably resilient for pathways and play and based on discussions with the landowner. Indicative species and composition mixes are outline in Table 5.8.

**Table 5.7: Indicative Mixture Composition of Pasture Grassland**

Common name	Latin name	Percentage
Crested Dogstail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	12%
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	9%
Strong-creeping Red-fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	12%
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	35%
Smaller Cat's-tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	6%
Meadow Fescue	<i>Schedonorus pratensis (Festuca pratensis)</i>	12%
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	3%
Small Leaved White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	2%

**Table 5.8: Indicative Mixture Composition of Amenity Grassland**

Common name	Latin name	Percentage
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	2.5%
Highland Bent	<i>Agrostis castellana</i>	2.5%

Common name	Latin name	Percentage
Slender-creeping Red-fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	50%
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	25%
Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	20%

## 5.6 Reinstatement of Hard Landscaping

5.6.1 Details of hard landscape features to be reinstated or replaced, for example reinstating fencing, walls or bank features that were removed during installation. Details would be provided in the final LEMP and would be shown on the Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans, samples of which are provided in Appendix B of this Outline LEMP.

## 5.7 Ecological Habitat Creation and Improvements

5.7.1 Parts of the working area would be reinstated using natural regeneration, which would reinstate heathland in existing scrub areas. See Section 5.4 for further details.

~~5.7.2 In addition, a number of Environmental Mitigation Areas (EMA) have been identified and are shown in the General Arrangement Plans to the DCO (Document Reference 2.6 (4)). These areas would be used. The EMAs have been secured within the Order Limits to provide sufficient area for native species tree planting, hedge infilling undertaking the good practice measures and new hedge planting, as detailed mitigation identified within the Environmental Statement, HRA Report (Application Documents APP-130 and APP-131)) and the draft European Protected Species (EPS) Licences.~~

~~5.7.2 The locations of the EMAs are shown on the figures in Appendix E (LV1). These features will be shown in the final LEMP figures. Species mixes for this planting will be as shown for native broadleaved woodland and hedgerow and woodland field boundaries set out in Tables 5.2 and 5.5.~~

~~5.7.3 In addition, provision of habitats would be undertaken in accordance with the project commitments and as a requirement of EPS licences. This will include replacing hibernacula and refugia and providing bat and barn owl boxes in accordance with commitments G53, G56 and G58. Further details will be added to this section following the approval of the licences by Natural England. further details are provided within the table in Appendix E. Not all of the EMAs may be required, as a precautionary approach was taken when identifying areas that may be required for good practice measures and mitigation within the EPS licences. Also, the EMAs identified for potential tree planting were identified in case it is not possible to undertake reinstatement planting in situ or close to the location where TPO trees are removed, as set out in ES Chapter 10 (Application Document APP-050). The final EMAs and measures proposed in these areas will be included in the final LEMP.~~

5.7.4 Any activities identified within Esso's Environmental Investment Programme would be managed separately.

5.7.5 The EMAs are split into the following types:



### **Bat boxes**

5.7.6 It is currently unknown which specific trees would require felling. If following the pre-construction surveys and later design work there is a need to remove a tree with a bat roost, then a licence from Natural England would be required (Commitment G174). In ES Appendix 7.17 (APP-101) paragraph 6.4.14 and 6.4.15, it states that 'Where a confirmed bat roost is unavoidably lost, replacement bat boxes would be installed on retained trees within the Order Limits... A review of the Order Limits has been undertaken to confirm that there are sufficient trees outside the Limits of Deviation on which replacement boxes could be installed. These areas encompass woodland or mature trees, so that there is a very high degree of confidence that there would be sufficient local retained trees within the Order Limits on which to deliver this measure'. These are the areas labelled as 'bat boxes' in Appendix E.

### **Great Crested Newts (GCN)**

5.7.7 Annex B E1 and Figure E3.1 in the draft GCN Licence Application (APP-096 and APP-097) outline the mitigation proposed within the licence. Paragraph 1.3.13 of the GCN Licence states that 'hibernacula and/or refugia would be constructed within receptor areas'. The relevant information is replicated in Appendix E of the Outline LEMP for ease of reference and links the EMA reference to the receptor area reference used within the draft GCN Licence Application.

### **Hedgerow infilling**

5.7.8 Section E3.2 in the Draft Dormouse Licence (APP-091) states 'limited tree and linear planting within the Order Limits are proposed that would benefit dormice'. See Figure E3 in the draft Licence for locations'. Section E3.2 of the draft licence states 'The additional hedgerow planting and gapping up within the Order Limits (i.e. excluding the like-for like habitat replacement where hedgerow removal is required) mitigates the effects of temporary habitat loss associated with the project'. These are the areas labelled as 'hedge infilling' in Appendix E.

### **Habitat creation**

5.7.9 These are areas associated with designated habitats where the habitat would benefit from scrub / tree removal to allow more diverse habitats, such as heathland to establish. The EMAs associated with the European designated sites are shown on the figures in Appendix B of the HRA Report (Application Documents APP-130). In addition, there is scrub clearance associated with Ewshot Meadows as a good practice measure to improve the diversity of habitat at the site, which was recommended by the Biodiversity Officer at Hart District Council. This is noted within paragraph 7.5.391 of ES Chapter 7 (Application Document APP-047). These areas are labelled as 'habitat creation' in Appendix E.

### **Tree planting**

5.7.10 ES Chapter 10 (APP-050) identified a potential significant effect in relation to TPOs and Conservation Areas. Paragraph 10.7.5 states in relation to TPOs and trees within Conservation Areas that 'Whilst reinstatement planting would establish to





reinstate lost vegetation, it would not be possible to fully mitigate the potential permanent loss of TPO trees in the same location. There would be restrictions to planting trees over and around pipeline easements. There may also be less scope to accommodate reinstatement of trees within the wider urban area because of restrictions caused by built development, proximity to highways and underground services for example. Post construction year 15 the magnitude of impact would be medium and the significance of effect on TPO trees would be moderate'. Therefore, additional tree planting areas were identified to provide for mitigation of trees, where it was not possible to reinstate in situ or close proximity to those removed. This was covered by Commitment LV1.

5.7.11 Commitment LV1 has been updated to reference the figures in Appendix E of the Outline LEMP. LV1 now states 'native trees and hedgerows would be planted within areas identified as tree planting and hedge infilling on the figures in Appendix E of the Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan'. These are the areas labelled as 'tree planting' in Appendix E.

## 6 Aftercare

### 6.1 General Aftercare Commitments

- 6.1.1 As a general principle, at the end of installation, *'land used temporarily would be reinstated to an appropriate condition relevant to its previous use'* (Commitment G94). In many locations, the land would be handed back to the relevant landowner at the end of reinstatement. Where vegetation including woodland, hedgerows and trees have been planted as part of the reinstatement, these would have a five-year aftercare period in accordance with Commitment G92 and Requirement 8 of the DCO ~~(Document Reference 3.1 (5))~~. The programme of aftercare operations would be developed for inclusion in the final LEMP.
- 6.1.2 Requirement 8 states, *'any vegetation planting which is part of an approved reinstatement plan that, within a period of five years beginning with the date of planting, is removed, uprooted, destroyed, dies or (in the reasonable opinion of the relevant planning authority) becomes seriously damaged or defective, must be replaced with planting material of the same specification as that originally planted unless otherwise approved by the relevant planning authority and the landowner concerned'*.
- 6.1.3 Periodic checks would be undertaken by a suitably experienced professional to check reinstatement and to replace species that have not taken. The landscape contractor would prepare inspection reports as part of these visits.
- 6.1.4 Prior to the end of the five-year aftercare period, an interim final inspection shall be undertaken jointly with Esso and the landowner at which any final replacement planting required prior shall be agreed. Following the completion of any agreed replacement planting, a final inspection shall then be held as part of the completion of the aftercare, whereupon Esso shall cease to have any further maintenance obligation.
- 6.1.5 The following sub-sections set out indicative proposed aftercare arrangements based on planting/habitat type. The indicative operations will be refined, with further details set out in the final LEMP.

### 6.2 Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows

- 6.2.1 The five-year aftercare would include inspections by a suitably experienced professional for all reinstated woodland, hedgerows, woodland field boundaries and individual trees to:
- check and record failing, dead or defective plants and replace any failed planting each year, between November and end of March;
  - re-firm plants and inspect, adjust or remove stakes, guards and ties as required;
  - apply herbicide to maintain weed-free plant circles around base of transplants and spot treat undesirable species, having regard to any restrictions on use of herbicides in certain locations, for example, in proximity to water courses of other sensitive habitats; and



- water individual larger specimen trees that have been planted, as required, during the five-year aftercare. In addition, water other scrub and tree planting areas as required during, for example, periods of prolonged drought.

### **6.3 Lowland Heathland**

6.3.1 The five-year aftercare would include periodic inspections by a suitably experienced professional to:

- undertake annual checks by an ecologist to assess vegetation composition and structure (see Section 7); and
- remove invasive species such as bracken and birch.

6.3.2 Where negative elements are identified during monitoring, such as colonisation of trees, shrubs or bracken, further or more intensive management may be needed and would be discussed and agreed with Natural England and the landowner.

### **6.4 Pests and Diseases**

6.4.1 The periodic checks of reinstatement planting would include a check for any obvious signs of pests or diseases, including ash die back or reoccurrence of invasive species. Any instances recorded would be reported on the quarterly inspection reports and appropriate action taken.

## **7 Ecological Monitoring**

### **7.1 Monitoring at Designated Ecological Sites**

7.1.1 A programme of post-construction monitoring and objectives/targets for designated ecological sites would be agreed and implemented in accordance with DCO requirements at the following sites:

- Bourley and Long Valley SSSI;
- Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath SSSI;
- Chobham Common SSSI/NNR; and
- Chertsey Meads LNR

7.1.2 The programme and content of post construction monitoring would be agreed with Natural England and recorded within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Commitment G47).

7.1.3 In the areas listed in Commitment G47, the monitoring plan would be developed to set out the habitat management objectives and actions for site. Annual monitoring would be undertaken at these sites to inform the five-year aftercare period, which would be reviewed as required. The monitoring plan would be developed with Natural England and the landowner. Further details of the monitoring plan would be set in the final LEMP. The monitoring plan would set out any ongoing actions or management requirements that may be required beyond the five-year aftercare period.

### **7.2 Monitoring in Relation to Protected Species**

7.2.1 In addition, further measures may be required by the conditions of species licencing, as required by the licencing authority, Natural England. These would last for a minimum of one year but may extend to the full five years of aftercare.

7.2.2 The scope of the protected species monitoring would be set out in the final EPS licence applications and would be agreed with Natural England. This may include site checks to monitor the presence/absence of a species or population monitoring of a species. This would be used to determine the success of the mitigation undertaken. This would include nest box checks for bats and dormouse and habitat creation checks of hibernacula and egg-laying substrate for amphibians, reptiles and invertebrate assemblages.

7.2.3 The monitoring requirements, including locations and frequency of inspections, would be set out within the finalised EPS licence applications and would be agreed with Natural England. Any corrective actions that may be required would be agreed with Natural England and implemented as required.



## References

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## **Appendices**

- A. SSSI Working Plans
- B. Landscape and Ecological Reinstatement Plans (samples provided in Outline LEMP, full set to be provided in the final LEMP)
- C Approach to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees
- D Site specific method statements (HCX 130)
- E Environmental Mitigation Areas