



Southampton to London Pipeline – proposed development by Esso Petroleum Ltd

Representation by Royal Mail Group Limited

Introduction

Royal Mail has been an Interested Party during the Examination and wishes to make this final representation to reiterate its position to the Examining Authority and Esso Petroleum Ltd prior to close of the Examination.

Statutory and operational information about Royal Mail

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011 (the “Act”), Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom.

The Act provides that Ofcom’s primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

The Act includes a set of minimum standards for Universal Service Providers, which Ofcom must secure. The conditions imposed by Ofcom reflect those standards.

Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and this should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

The Government imposes financial penalties on Royal Mail if its Universal Service Obligation service delivery targets are not met. These penalties relate to time targets for:

- collections,
- clearance through plant, and
- delivery.

Royal Mail’s postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail’s ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

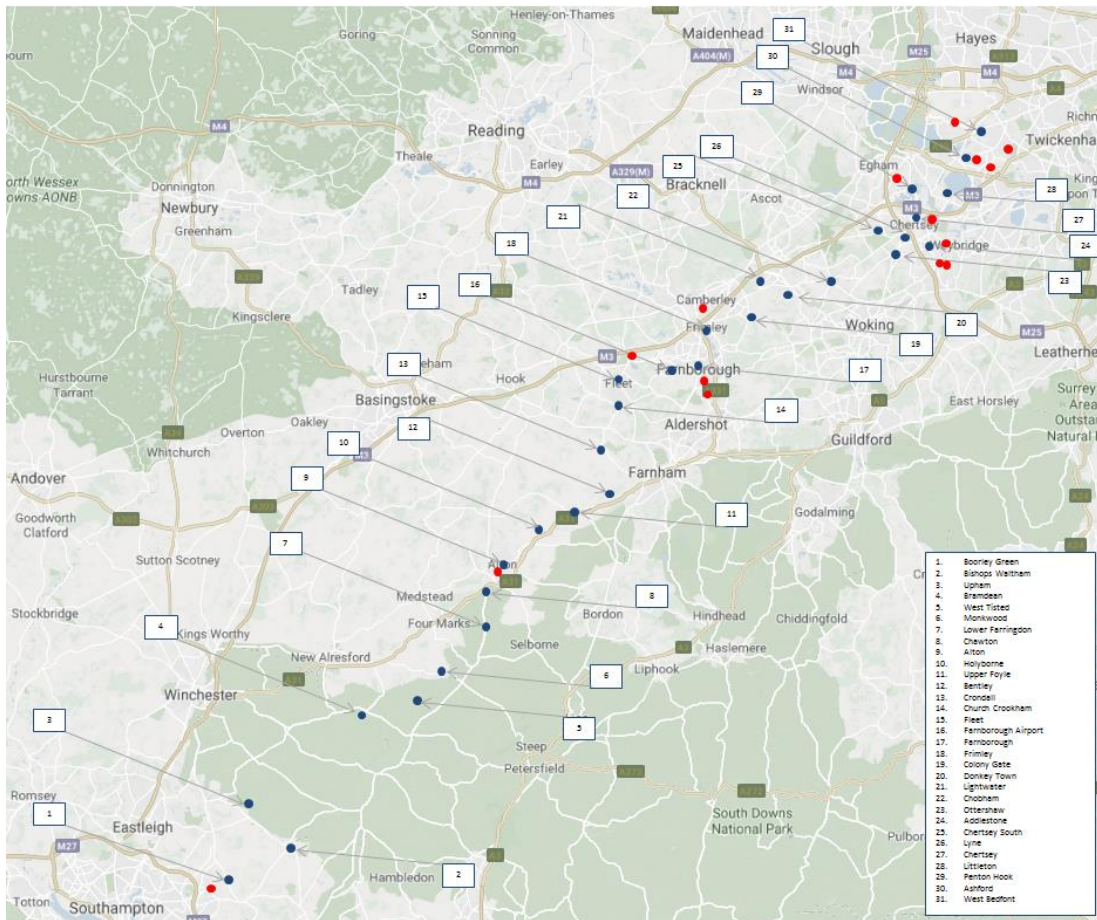
Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail’s operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail’s business.



Potential for impact on Royal Mail operations

Royal Mail has identified a minimum of fifteen operational properties within approximately 5 miles the pipeline corridor route as identified on the schedule and plan below.

LONDON AIR MAIL UNIT HUB	585 Short Road Hounslow TW6 3PR	2.2 Miles from (31)
FELTHAM DELIVERY OFFICE	2 Plane Tree Crescent Feltham TW13 7HH	2.5 Miles from (31) & (30)
ASHFORD DELIVERY OFFICE	Feltham Hill Road Ashford TW15 1YA	0.8 Miles from (30)
SUNBURY ON THAMES DELIVERY OFFICE	45-49 Staines Road W Sunbury on Thames TW16 7AA	2.2 Miles from (30)
STAINES DELIVERY OFFICE	Thorpe Ind Est Crabtree Road Egham, TW20 8RS	1.6 Miles from (29)
SHEPPERTON DELIVERY OFFICE	47 High Street Shepperton TW17 9AA	1.5 Miles from (28)
CHERTSEY DELIVERY OFFICE	74 Guildford Street Chertsey KT16 9AA	0.3 Miles from (27)
ADDLESTONE DELIVERY OFFICE	76 Station Road Addlestone KT15 2AA	0.2 Miles from (24)
WEYBRIDGE DELIVERY OFFICE	1 Elmgrove Road Weybridge KT13 8AA	1.5 Miles from (24)
WEST BYFLEET DELIVERY OFFICE	Circuit Centre Avro Way Weybridge KT13 0XG	1.5 Miles from (24)
CAMBERLEY DELIVERY OFFICE	1 Doman Road Camberley GU15 3HA	1.9 Miles from (18)
FARNBOROUGH DELIVERY OFFICE	108 Alexandra Road Farnborough GU14 6DG	1.1 Miles from (17)
FLEET DELIVERY OFFICE	17 Waterfront Business Park Fleet GU51 3BQ	2.4 Miles from (15)
ALTON DELIVERY OFFICE	73 High Street Alton GU34 1AA	2.1 Miles from (9)
HEDGE END DELIVERY OFFICE	Unit 2 Nelson Ind Park Southampton SO30 2JH	2.3 Miles from 1 (1)



In addition to the above operational properties, there will be post boxes within or adjacent to the pipeline corridor route.

The location, nature and scale of the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline may present risk of construction phase impact / delays to Royal Mail's road based operations on the surrounding road network.

Every day, in exercising its statutory duties Royal Mail vehicles use all of the main roads that may potentially be affected by additional traffic arising from the construction of the Southampton to London Pipeline.

Royal Mail therefore wishes to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivery service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations which may be adversely affected by the construction and operation of this proposed scheme.

Royal Mail's position at close of the Examination

Royal Mail does not wish to stop or delay the Southampton to London Pipeline Project from coming forward for development. However, Royal Mail does wish to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivering service to the public from and to the above identified operational facilities in accordance with its statutory obligations.



In order to do this, Royal Mail requests that:

1. the DCO includes specific requirements that during the construction phase Royal Mail is consulted by Esso Petroleum Ltd or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements, hours of working, and the content of the final Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP),
2. where road closures / diversions are proposed, Esso Petroleum Ltd or its contractors liaise with Royal Mail at least one month in advance to identify and make available alternative highway routes for operational use, where possible, and
3. the final CTMP includes a mechanism to inform major road users (including Royal Mail) about works affecting the local highways network (with particular regard to Royal Mail's distribution facilities in the vicinity of the pipeline corridor route as listed above).

Royal Mail welcomes contact from Esso Petroleum Ltd or its consultants after the Examination in order to assist with addressing the above requests.

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