

**Comments on Responses
Submitted for Deadline 3**
on Behalf of the
**Neighbours and Users of
Queen Elizabeth Park**



Nick Jarman

Interested Party reference no: **20022545**

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1. General Arrangement Plans (3 of 3)¹

1.1. Lack of Clarity

Queen Elizabeth Park has been identified by the Examining Authority as a 'hotspot'. We are therefore disappointed to see that it is not represented in detail on a single sheet in the General Arrangement Plans. Instead it is split across sheets 34 and 35. Sheet 106 shows the majority of the park but it would be more useful if it showed the entire park.

1.2. Tree Preservation Orders

The Tree Preservation Orders which lie adjacent to the Order Limits have been shown on the plans as green hatched areas. For example, TPO 054 and TPO 055 (Surrey Heath Borough Council) on sheets 38 and 39.

1. Rushmoor Borough Council TPO 194, which covers Queen Victoria Court and extends to the order limits has not been included. This should be shown on sheets 34, 35 and 106.
2. Rushmoor Borough Council TPO 386 covers an area adjacent to the north side of Queen Elizabeth Park. Due to its proximity to the Order Limits, it would be useful to show this too.

1.3. Location of Notable Trees

Action point 9 from ISH3 asks for the location of notable trees to be shown on the General Arrangement Plans. Esso have responded to this by shading entire areas of the park in beige.

1. This is not satisfactory because it does not show how individual trees might be affected by the working areas (this would have been known when providing the response to action point 7 from ISH 2).
2. Trees which were listed on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory at the time the plans were produced should have been included.
3. Preliminary results of Esso's tree survey would also have been available (these even seem to be shown in Figure 1.4 on page 72 of Esso's Responses to Written Representations - Other Parties).

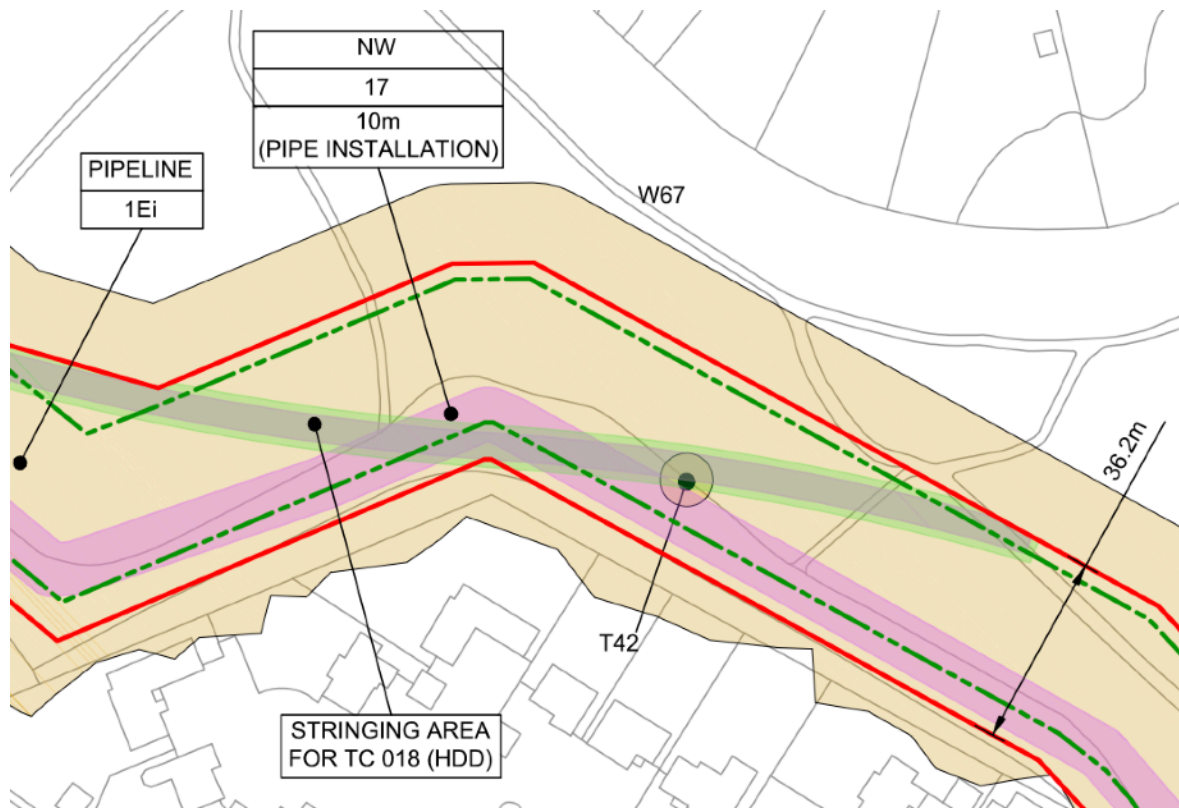
The plans do not make best use of the information available at the time they were produced.

We understand that Esso's tree survey must be submitted at Deadline 4, so we expect the next revision of the General Arrangement Plans to show the required details.

¹ General Arrangement Plans (3 of 3) Application Document: 2.6, Revision No. 3.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000993-2.6%20General%20Arrangement%20Plans%20\(3%20of%203\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000993-2.6%20General%20Arrangement%20Plans%20(3%20of%203).pdf))

1.4. Narrow Working Areas

On Sheet 106, we note that both the narrow working area and stringing area run through T42 (the Fairy Tree).



There are a number of issues with the plan:

1. There is no indication of what the T42 circle indicates. This appears to be neither the trunk size nor the size of the canopy, nor the root protection zone.
2. Likewise, there is no indication of what the spot at the centre of the T42 circle indicates. We assume this is the centre of the trunk but there is no confirmation of this.
3. We are doubtful that the position of T42 is accurately shown by this map. In reality, we believe it is closer to the southern boundary of the park than indicated here.
4. The plans do not show veteran tree 197352 (Beech, pollarded), which was added to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory on 4th November 2019 and pointed out during the Accompanied Site Inspection on 26th November. It is located within the narrow working area, near the 'elbow' on the left of the plan extract.
5. The stringing area (indicated in green) is wider than the narrow working area within it (indicated in pink). We assume that the pink area is 5 metres wide, which means the stringing area must be wider than that - and therefore wider than the width committed to in NW17.

There are also some issues with regard to the apparent placement of the working areas around T42:

6. The 5 metre width within the stringing area and the 10 metre pipe installation width both intersect with the circle indicating T42.

7. The works around T42 are mitigation B3 in the hierarchy in Esso's Technical Note on Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees² (Table 5.1). It is our view that B1 should be used, meaning no digging or compacting activities in the buffer area. This means that both the trench and stringing area must be located elsewhere.
8. Veteran Tree 197352 will also require a suitable buffer zone, which will affect the location of the trench area.

We would have expected the plans submitted at Deadline 3 to take all these issues into account because they were all well known at the time of the Issue Specific Hearings in December. The plans as submitted by Esso do not show any changes to the position of the trench or stringing area. It seems that Esso have no intention of making any changes and intend to carry on with their original plans.

1.5. Drill and Receptor Pits

Action point 9 from ISH3³ asked for the location of drill and receptor pits to be shown for narrow working areas and streets. Esso's summary of oral submissions at ISH3⁴ also records this request and commits to showing drill and receptor pits along the entire route (item 3.1.3).

1. No drill or receptor pits are shown within Queen Elizabeth Park.
2. We realise that these pits are not themselves within a narrow working area but they are in a known hotspot and they directly adjoin a narrow working area.

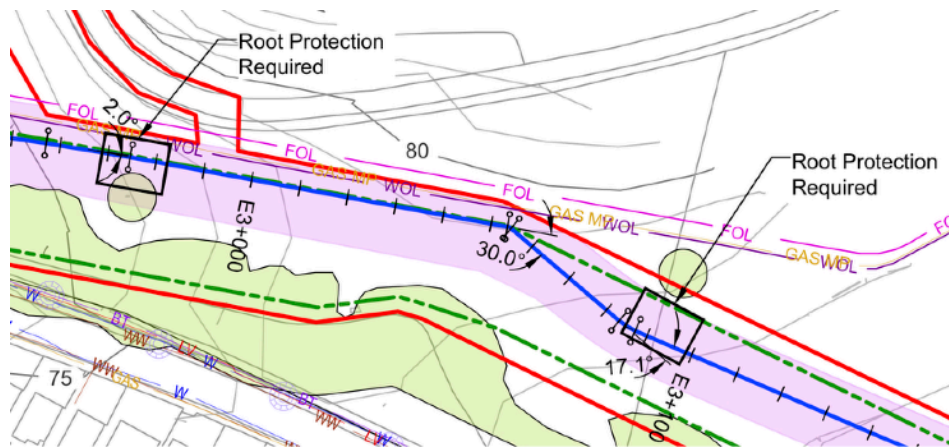
² Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees Application Document: 8.15, Revision No. 1.0 November 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000836-8.15%20Technical%20Note%20Ancient%20Woodland%20and%20Veteran%20Trees.pdf>)

³ Action points arising from ISH3 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000952-Action%20Points%20from%204.12.19%20FV.pdf>)

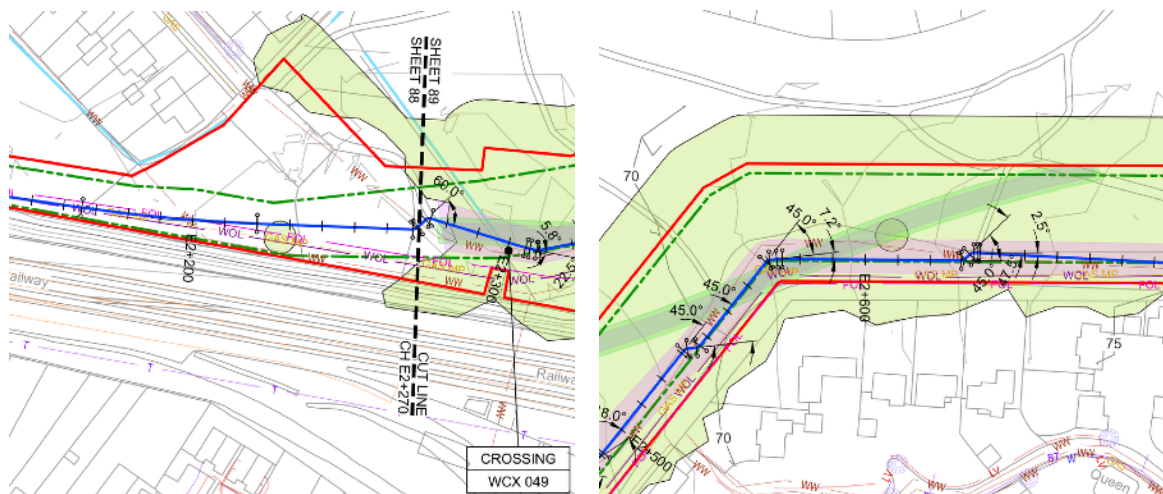
⁴ Written Summary of Oral Submissions put at the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters on 4 December 2019 (ISH3), Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001001-8.21%20Written%20Summary%20of%20Oral%20Submissions%20put%20at%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%204%20December%202019%20\(ISH3\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001001-8.21%20Written%20Summary%20of%20Oral%20Submissions%20put%20at%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%204%20December%202019%20(ISH3).pdf))

2. Alignment Sheets (Narrow Working) (3 of 3)⁵

Sheet 90 shows root protection areas in the narrow working area near trees in Farnborough Hill School grounds:



No such areas are shown next to the two individually indicated trees (T41 and T42) in Queen Elizabeth Park on sheet 89:



T41 is the circle at the centre of the extract on the left, T42 is the circle in the same position on the right.

In addition to the already stated concerns about the proximity of the working areas to these important trees, we are also concerned that:

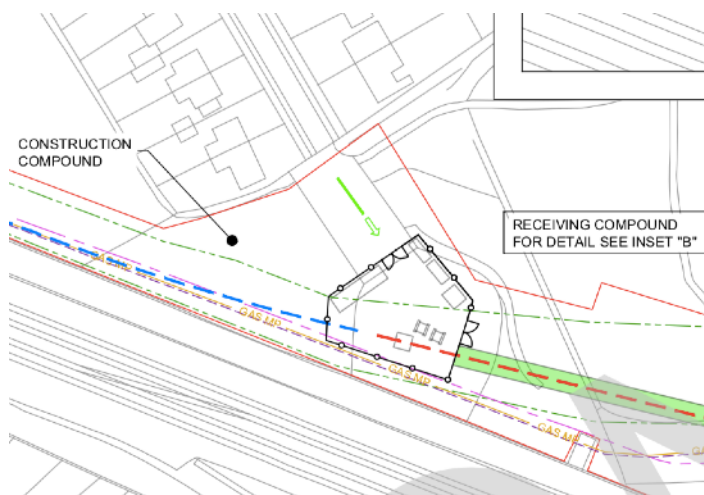
1. There seem to be no plans to protect the root areas of T41 and T42.
2. There are no plans to protect root areas of any other trees in the park.

⁵ Alignment Sheets (narrow working) (3 of 3) Application Document: 8.30, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001013-8.30%20Alignment%20Sheets%20\(narrow%20working\)%20\(3%20of%203\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001013-8.30%20Alignment%20Sheets%20(narrow%20working)%20(3%20of%203).pdf))

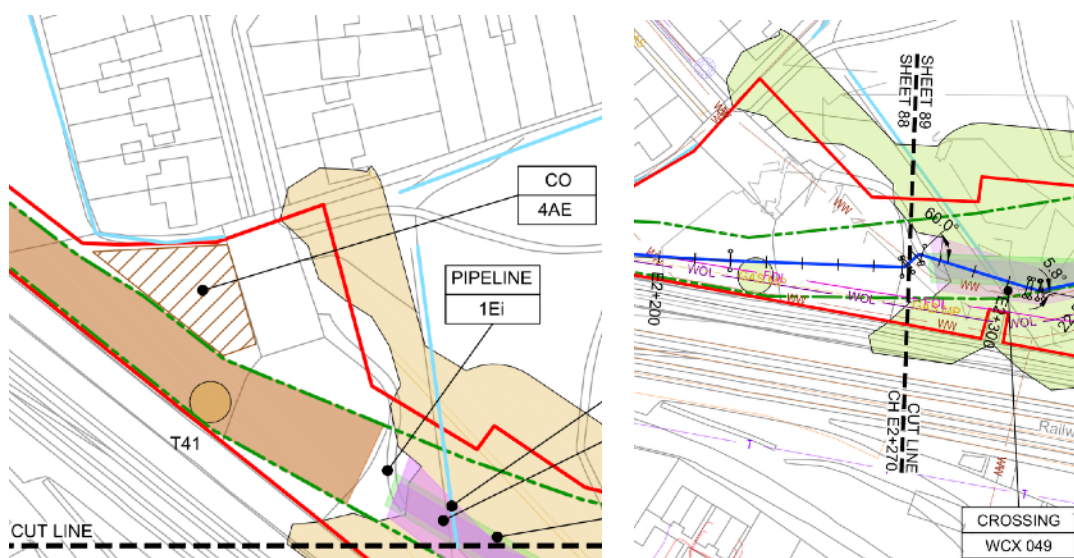
3. Crossing Drawings⁶

3.1. Tree T41

The drawing for TC018 omits Tree T41. This is a notable tree from Esso's list which is near the Queen Elizabeth Park play area. It is situated within the HDD limits of deviation.



T41 is shown in the General Arrangement Plans on sheet 105 (below left) and in the Alignment Sheets (narrow working) on sheet 89 (below right).



This tree is also absent from the longitudinal section (A-A) of the TC018 drawing.

There are a number of issues:

1. T41 is in the section where the bore rises to enter the reception pit and therefore it is at risk of root damage.

⁶ Crossing Drawings, Application Document: 8.31, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001014-8.31%20Crossing%20Drawings.pdf>)

2. The works are within the root protection area of the tree.
3. As a minimum, Esso's Technical Note on Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees commits to mitigation B3, specialist techniques, e.g. hand digging.
4. Hand digging within a tree's root protection zone is the most invasive of the three mitigation categories. However, in this case, a rising HDD bore is being driven through the root zone, which is far more invasive and destructive.

3.2. A325 Crossing (TC019)

There is no drawing of the A325 crossing (TC019). We note that this crossing is shown in the response to Action number 8 in Esso's ISH3 Action Points document, however this does not include the same amount of detail and there is no sectional drawing.

4. Responses to Written Representations - Other Parties⁷

4.1. Page 54, WR Paragraph 2.1.1: Meeting with QEP Group

Esso's comment: *'The Applicant is prepared to work with the local community group and has spoken to Rushmoor Borough Council to request its assistance in arranging a meeting with this group.'*

Esso have never made a direct request to the Queen Elizabeth Park group for a meeting. We have had no contact from the Rushmoor Borough Council on the matter either. We have asked Rushmoor Borough Council whether Esso have contacted them to request a meeting and they report that they have received no such request.

Despite being well aware of who we are and how we can be contacted, Esso has made no proactive attempts to engage with us at any point during the examination.

4.2. Page 54, WR Paragraph 2.2.1: Play Area

Esso's comment: *'The Applicant has had early discussions with a potential specialist supplier who has indicated that play provision to create space where children interact with the woodland through play can be installed without tree removal.'*

Esso has proposed a Trim Trail to Rushmoor Borough Council as an alternative to a play area in the park. Rushmoor Borough Council expressed the opinion that this would result in further tree loss⁸. The residents feel strongly that this is not a suitable addition to the park and there is not sufficient space to support this type of construction.

Esso's comment: *'As per the commitment outlined above, the Applicant has committed to installing a temporary play area within the Order Limits within the park, if a suitable alternative location is not agreed with Rushmoor Borough Council.'*

The shape of the Order Limits and the activities already known to be planned within them mean that it is not possible to accommodate a play area within them.

⁷ Responses to Written Representations - Other Parties, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001009-8.24%20Responses%20to%20Written%20Representations%20-%20Other%20Parties.pdf>)

⁸ Rushmoor Borough Council Written Representation, section 1.2.4 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000882-Rushmoor%20Borough%20Council's%20Written%20Representations.pdf>)

4.3. Page 57-59, WR Paragraph 2.3.1: Flooding in Cabrol Road

Esso dismiss flooding concerns using Defra's RoFSW mapping. Figure 1.1 on page 59 shows RoFSW mapping for 1 in 30 and 1 in 100 events, however the affected areas shown on the map do not correspond to the actual surface water accumulations which are readily observable.

1. On the day of the Accompanied Site Inspection, standing water was present in the play area and in Cabrol Road, adjacent to the car park entrance.
2. Neither of these are shown in the mapping so we question the value of this data in supporting Esso's conclusions.

4.4. Page 61, WR Paragraph 2.4.1: Working Width and Installation Speed

Esso's comment: *'In response to point 1, the 5 metre working areas are significantly confined [...] there are a number of challenges that 5m causes such as increased vehicle movements, lack of storage and slower progress.'*

On page 79 of the same document, in response to WR paragraph 2.7.2, Esso state that *'speed of installation [within Queen Elizabeth Park] was not a definitive criterion.'*

In their response to Action Point 10 from ISH 3, Esso state that the rate of progress in streetworks (which is the methodology to be used at Old Ively Road) is 90 metres of pipeline per week. In the same section, they state that the rate of progress in sports areas, golf courses and schools is also 90 metres per week. The accompanying diagram suggests a working width of 10 metres in these areas.

We can therefore conclude that although the constraints imposed by 5 and 10 metre working widths might be different, the resulting rate of progress is the same, and so the speed of installation is not a valid criteria.

Work in other similar areas (e.g. Old Ively Road) shows that a 5 metre working width is possible. Our view is that, if trenched installation must be used within the park, it should be confined to the narrowest width possible, which means 5 metres.

4.5. Page 62, WR Paragraph 2.4.1: Tree Removal Within the Working Width

Esso's comment: *'In response to point 3, the Applicant has undertaken an arboricultural survey compliant with British Standard BS5837 and is aware that there are old trees within the park. We do not expect these will be removed.'*

We are concerned that the arboricultural survey will simply be used to quantify the number of trees which will be removed rather than to change the routing of the pipeline and the positioning of compounds to avoid any damage to the trees.

We believe that there is no feasible route for a trenched installation in the park (with accompanying compounds) without necessitating the removal of mature, Notable and Veteran Trees. If there is a feasible route and compound layout we expect this to be shown on amended plans, taking into account the results of the arboricultural survey, at Deadline 4.

4.6. Page 63, WR Paragraph 2.4.2 Tree Loss Due to Stringing Out

Esso's comment: *'the mature trees to the east of the pond are well spaced and the Applicant is confident these will not need to be removed.'*

The bend radius of the pipe is 400 metres, which imposes constraints on its path through the park. With this limitation, we think that Esso's confidence is misplaced and that it will not be possible to avoid specific trees. Indeed, Esso themselves made much the same statement at Deadline 2 in their response to Written Question TH.1.4⁹ on Turf Hill:

'This technique requires a stringing area that is straight or of a constant radius of curvature. Clearing space for such stringing areas in Turf Hill would take away the project's ability to navigate working areas around select trees.'

Tree loss due to stringing out seems to be inevitable, though the extent of this is currently unknown. In our view the only way to be sure of avoiding tree removal is to revise the Stake Lane HDD run to avoid the need to string out in the park. The simplest way to do this is to shorten the bore length and locate the reception pit in the allotments.

4.7. Page 67, WR Paragraph 2.4.5: Tree Loss in the Local Context

Esso's comment: *'The Applicant has not been made aware of local tree loss within or near to the Park and does not anticipate substantial tree loss as part of the project.'*

Now that Esso are aware of this issue, they should take it into account and respond accordingly. Rushmoor Borough Council has an aim to increase tree cover in the borough as part of its Climate Emergency declaration¹⁰. The removal of groups of trees will make this more difficult to achieve.

Esso also state that: *'Given the minimal nature and the temporary nature of tree loss no impact on the park's capacity to cool the air is expected.'*

Loss of mature trees is not 'temporary'. This illustrates that Esso do not understand the magnitude of the damage their plans will cause.

⁹ Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions Turf Hill (TH), Revision No. 1.0 November 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000824-8.6.11%20Response%20to%20the%20ExA's%20First%20Written%20Questions%20-%20Turf%20Hill%20\(TH\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000824-8.6.11%20Response%20to%20the%20ExA's%20First%20Written%20Questions%20-%20Turf%20Hill%20(TH).pdf))

¹⁰ Meeting of the Borough Council held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Farnborough on Thursday, 20th June, 2019 at 7.00 pm, Motion 1 (<https://democracy.rushmoor.gov.uk/documents/s6701/Minutes%20of%20Previous%20Meeting.pdf>)

4.8. Page 73, WR Paragraph 2.6.2: Auger Boring Compound

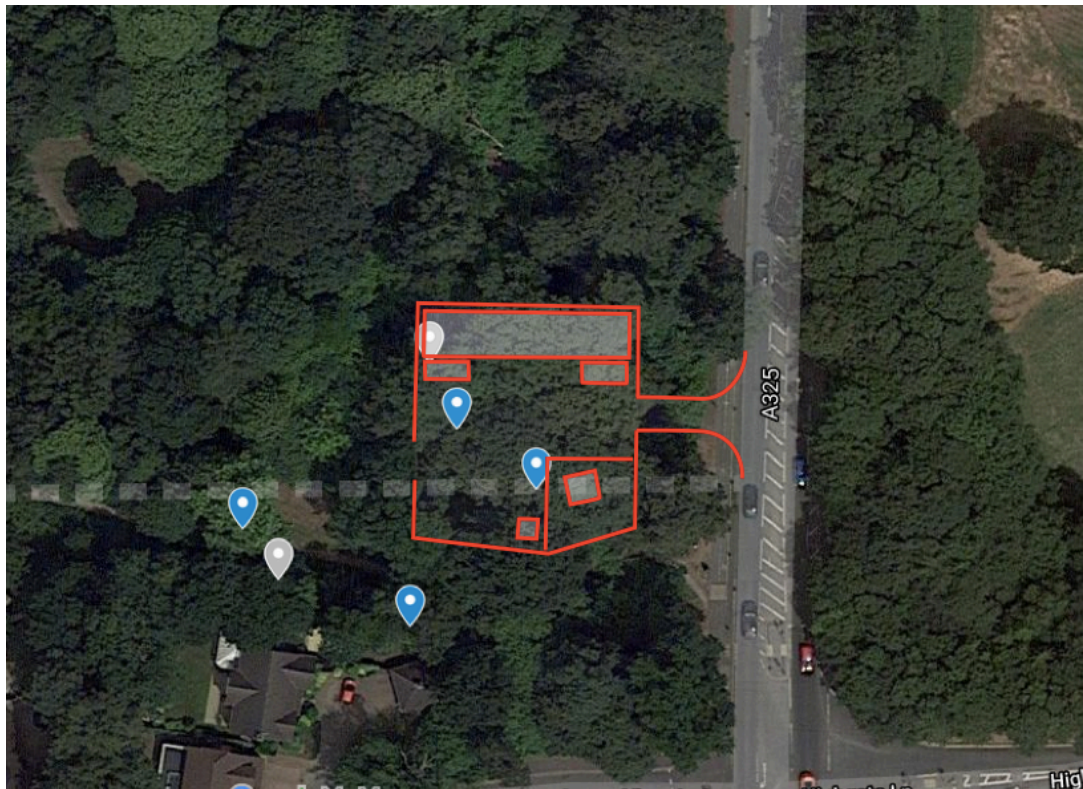
4.8.1. Inconsistency on Tree Removal

Esso's comment: *'the Applicant has positioned the drive pit and reception pit compounds so as to reduce tree loss ... The Applicant can position equipment in and around the larger trees and anticipates that vegetation clearance in both areas can be kept to a minimum.'*

This ignores root protection zones. We would also be very interested to know which equipment Esso plans to position **in** the trees. We are unable to think of any construction equipment which would benefit from such placement, and are concerned about the potential damage it could cause to the trees.

The comments about the anticipated extent of tree removal are contradicted in Esso's response to paragraph 2.4.1 on page 63: *'The area for the trenchless crossing of the A325 will require greater tree removal in comparison [to the narrow working area].'*

By overlaying Esso's diagram from Figure 1.5 on an aerial view of the park, it is easy to see that significant tree removal will be required, including two notable trees (marked in blue). Even if all trees are retained there will be major disruption in their root protection zones.



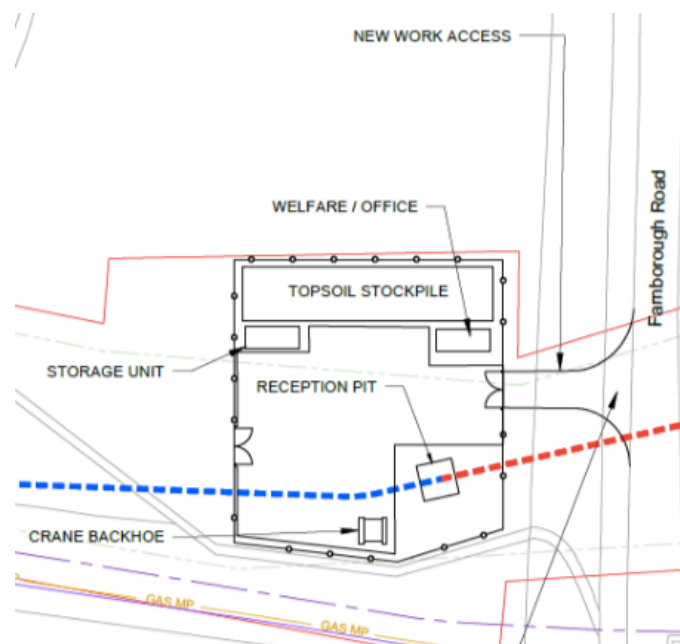
(The grey dotted line is Google Maps' representation of the footpath. This does not represent the true position of the footpath: it does not run through the proposed compound.)

With the layout shown above, it does not seem to be feasible to operate the working area in a satisfactory manner without removing trees. For example, one of the notable trees will prevent the backhoe/excavator from rotating anti-clockwise from the reception pit to unload its bucket into a wheeled dumper for transport to the topsoil stockpile. It is difficult to envisage a safe, working compound with the trees still in place.

Our understanding and expectation is that Esso plan to clear the trees in this area to create the compound and reception pit. We object to this approach and to the tree loss.

4.8.2. New Compound

The structure shown in Esso's Figure 1.5 shows that the previously proposed auger boring pit has now grown to become an additional compound in the park, with storage and welfare facilities.



We have a number of concerns about the expansion of the reception pit area into a full compound:

1. Until Deadline 3, Esso's plans had indicated that only one compound would be present in the park. Now, with the addition of this compound and the one around the Stake Lane reception pit, there are three compounds.
2. No generator is shown yet this compound contains a welfare/office facility.
3. The possible presence of a generator - and its location - are particularly pertinent details due to the close proximity of this compound to number 25 Queen Victoria Court.

4.8.3. New Access Into the Park

Esso's Figure 1.5 shows gates which provide access from the compound into the park. These gates should not be necessary because Esso have stated on page 75, in response to paragraph 2.6.2, that:

'These works could take place independently of the other works within the park and therefore the route from the southern end of the park may not have commenced when the works to TC019 are underway. The works are not interdependent.'

We believe that Esso should provide details to explain:

1. The intended purpose of the gates in the western side of the compound
2. What will be brought in and out of the park via the compound?

4.9. Page 77, WR Paragraph 2.7.1: Working Hours

Esso's comment: *'the Applicant has modified the core construction working hours in Requirement 14(1) of the dDCO to reduce the working hours to 8am-6pm Monday to Saturday'*

With startup and shutdown activities for 1 hour each side of this, there will still be disruption from 7am to 7pm. In a residential area, it would be more appropriate to confine activities to normal working hours or 9am to 5pm on weekdays only, with an hour each side of this, thereby limiting disruption to the hours of 8am to 6pm.

In addition, Esso state that: *'the Applicant has no planned work for Sundays.'*

This response does not address our objection to weekend working in residential areas. We continue to say that this is not appropriate and that the DCO should not allow it.

4.10. Page 78, WR Paragraph 2.7.1: Clearance of Screening Vegetation

Esso's comment: *'the Applicant has recognised the importance of screening and stated its intention in the Queen Elizabeth Park information sheet (Appendix 2) that this will be retained. The majority of the private property and park boundary is outside of the Order Limits and the Applicant has off set the Order Limits from the boundary.'*

The Queen Elizabeth Park information sheet in Esso's appendix 2 makes no commitments to retain screening, in fact there is no mention of screening at all.

Esso sent a letter to residents neighbouring the park dated 16th December (Appendix B) in which they state:

'We have also offered [to] remove some Rhododendron outside of our Order Limits'

Although the neighbouring properties are outside the park and the Order Limits, the screening is within the park and borders the Order Limits.

The retention of screening for the adjacent properties is very important and must be a secured commitment in the DCO, with a commitment to consult the property owners should any screening need to be removed or be accidentally damaged.

4.11. Page 80, WR Paragraph 2.7.4: Tree Removal in the Construction Compound

Esso's comment: *'In response to point 5, we don't anticipate removing the trees in the compound area.'*

For clarity, this refers to the Cabrol Road construction compound (Work No. CO 4AE). There are currently four Notable trees listed in the Woodland Trust ATI adjacent to or within the proposed construction compound.

1. The boundary of the construction compound should be adjusted to avoid the root protection areas of these trees. (ATI references: 197333, 198024, 198027, 198030)
2. The willow next to the Cabrol Road car park (ATI reference 197333) was pointed out during the Accompanied Site Inspection and a representative from Esso said that it would have to be trimmed to enable proper access to the compound. Since this is a notable tree there should be no encroachment into the protection zone and therefore trimming should not be necessary.

4.12. Page 81, WR Paragraph 2.7.4: Permeable Surface for Cabrol Road Compound

Esso's comment: *'In response to point 7, this is detailed in commitment G126: Where new or additional surfacing is required on any access tracks and compound areas, these would be permeable surfaces where ground conditions allow.'*

This does not answer the concern which we expressed. This is an area where a permeable surface should be used but there is no commitment to do so.

4.13. Page 84, WR Paragraph 2.8.1: Purpose of the Cabrol Road Compound

Esso's comment: *'the Applicant can confirm that the construction compound in Queen Elizabeth Park – Work No. CO 4AE - will only service the installation within the park. In response to point 6, the compound will only be active to support the duration of the installation through the park.'*

This statement is incorrect: the compound is also being used to construct the pipe which will be pulled into Stake Lane.

4.14. Page 82, WR Paragraph 2.8.1: Accuracy of Quoted Timescales

Esso has used the following extract from an April 2019 information sheet to refute the suggestion that their quoted timescales get longer:

'Our current estimate is that we may be working within the park for up to 12 months. However, this would not necessarily be continuous'

This illustrates the point we made because it is longer than the '2-3 months in a local area' which Esso quoted in September 2018 (also included in their response).

There is also ambiguity in the wording:

'up to 12 months. However, this would not necessarily be continuous'

This can be interpreted as 'a continuous period of 12 months, with work only occurring during some of these' or 'a total of 12 months of work, spread out over a longer time'. As the plans become clearer, it seems that the latter interpretation is correct.

4.15. Page 86, WR Paragraph 2.8.2: Green Commuter Route

Esso's comment: *'pedestrians have multiple routes open in this area. The existing alternative path provides a green corridor route and there are alternative road diversions pedestrians could take. A review by the Applicant has estimated that between one and four minutes would be added onto an approximate 22 to 24-minute journey time (using Prospect Road and Stake Lane as examples based on a diversion via Union Street)*

1. Although the alternative route is 1-4 minutes longer, there are gradient changes and busy road crossings at the entrance to Farnborough Main station.
2. Union Street is considerably more dangerous route than the park for cyclists, particularly in a section where there is on-street parking and traffic in two directions.
3. A route through the park avoids traffic noise and pollution.

4.16. Page 87, WR Paragraph 2.9.1: Woodland Ride

Esso's comment: *'Discussion with Rushmoor Borough Council officers has indicated that it would welcome the creation of a woodland ride, which is part of the Applicant's Environmental Investment Programme. The Council has requested that rhododendron is removed to open the area around the existing path.'*

It is our understanding that Rushmoor Borough Council do not favour the creation of a woodland ride, on the basis that it is not an appropriate feature for a woodland of this size.

Rhododendron clearance from within the park is neither strongly favoured nor opposed, though the ecological benefits of removing it are understood by some.

Clearance of rhododendron screening on the southern side of the path requires consultation with owners of neighbouring properties and is covered elsewhere in this response.

4.17. Page 91, WR Section 3: Alternative Route

Esso's comment: *'The Applicant has undertaken two consultations in this area, including the statutory Preferred Route Consultation. The Applicant has also been regularly meeting with Rushmoor Borough Council since the project commenced in December 2017, including forums and one-to-one meetings with Council officers.'*

From speaking to members of the local community whilst gathering signatures for the petition submitted at Deadline 2¹¹, we can confidently say that Esso's plans were not well known. Most people said that this was the first they had heard of the project. The number of signatures clearly shows the magnitude of opposition to the route through the park. Many people also expressed the view that Esso should choose a route which avoids the park altogether.

Regardless of how these views have been obtained, the strength of feeling amongst local residents in support of the alternative route should be taken into account.

The total number of signatures on the petition now stands at 7,373 (as of 26th January 2020). All signatures added since our Deadline 2 submission have been gathered online with no active promotion of the petition.

¹¹ Save Queen Elizabeth Park petition, Deadline 2 submission (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000771-Peta%20Howell%20on%20behalf%20of%20Save%20Queen%20Elizabeth%20Park%20Petition%20covering%20letter.pdf>)

5. Esso's Responses to Written Representations - Local Authorities¹²

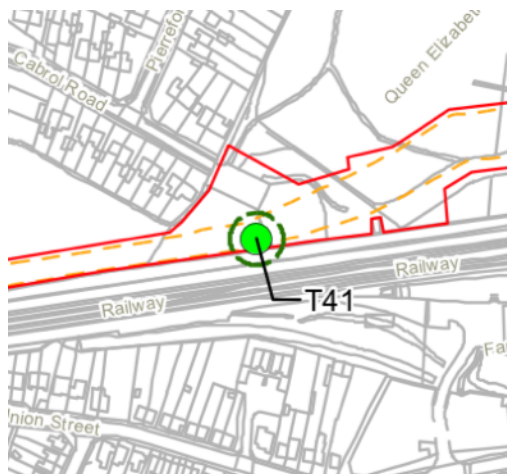
Appendix 2 of Esso's document shows the location of Veteran Trees and potential Veteran Trees. Sheet 103 covers Queen Elizabeth Park.

The notes on this sheet state that Veteran Trees which were in the Woodland Trust database (Ancient Tree Inventory) as of 29th August 2019 are shown. Potential Veteran Trees identified by Esso are also shown.

1. Only one potential Veteran Tree is shown in Queen Elizabeth Park: Esso's T41. T42 is missing, even though it was identified by Esso during their survey. We question why this has been omitted.
2. The Limits of Deviation run straight through the indicated buffer zone of T41. T41's buffer zone also intersects with the proposed Cabrol Road construction compound and the proposed Stake Lane HDD reception pit compound.

In Esso's Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees¹³, tables 5.2 and C1 propose mitigation B1: a 15 metre buffer zone.

This means that the limits of deviation and the compound areas cannot intersect the T41 buffer zone and need to be adjusted to fulfil this commitment.



¹² Responses to Written Representations - Local Authorities, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001008-8.23%20Responses%20to%20Written%20Representations%20-%20Local%20Authorities.pdf>)

¹³ Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees, Revision No. 1.0 November 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-000836-8.15%20Technical%20Note%20Ancient%20Woodland%20and%20Veteran%20Trees.pdf>)

6. Esso's Comments on Responses to ExA's Written Questions¹⁴

Page 36, Esso's comment regarding the Farnborough Airshow: *'The Applicant notes that the Airshow is no longer open to the public and this will therefore reduce the number of visitors'*

This is not correct: the Farnborough Air Show will be open to the public on Friday 24th July 2020.¹⁵

¹⁴ Comments on Responses to ExA's Written Questions Application Document: 8.27, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001007-8.27%20Comments%20on%20Responses%20to%20ExA's%20Written%20Questions.pdf>)

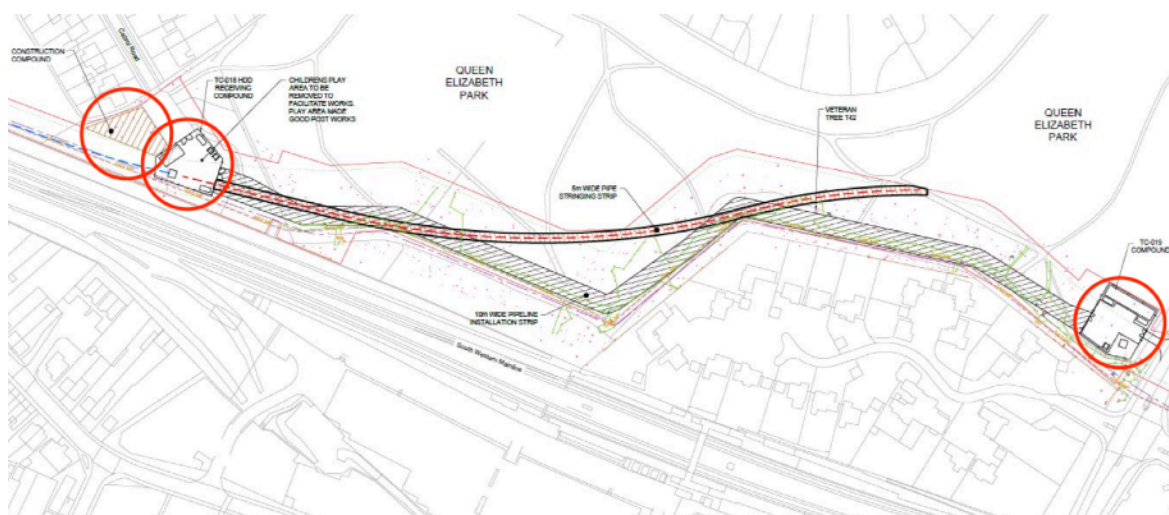
¹⁵ Farnborough Air Show website, 1st March 2019 (<https://www.farnboroughairshow.com/news-blogs/farnborough-international-to-go-back-to-its-roots/>)

7. Esso's Responses to Action Points from ISH2¹⁶

7.1. Action Point 7: Number of Trees Lost in Queen Elizabeth Park

Although not directly related to the action point, we have some observations about the plan presented in Esso's response. We raise them here because the details which concern us are not shown on any of the plans submitted for Deadline 3.

Esso's Figure 1.1 (reproduced below) shows three compounds in the park (circled):



We believe that the leftmost compound on the plan, indicated by the hatched area, is identified as Work No. 4AE in the dDCO.

Two additional compounds are shown, which were previously referred to as drill pits, for example, in Esso's Queen Elizabeth Park Information Sheet¹⁷. As the plans in Esso's Figure 1.1 show, these drill pits are now compounds and contain far more extensive facilities than originally indicated.

The drill pits contain facilities which we would only expect to exist in a construction compound, such as storage and welfare/office facilities.

This means that there are 3 sets of welfare facilities, 3 sets of office space, and 3 sets of storage, all within the relatively small area of the park.

¹⁶ Response to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters on 3 December 2019 (ISH2) Application Document: 8.20, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001004-8.20%20Response%20to%20the%20Action%20Points%20from%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%203%20December%202019%20\(ISH2\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001004-8.20%20Response%20to%20the%20Action%20Points%20from%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%203%20December%202019%20(ISH2).pdf))

¹⁷ Responses to Written Representations - Other Parties, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019, Appendix 2 (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001009-8.24%20Responses%20to%20Written%20Representations%20-%20Other%20Parties.pdf>)

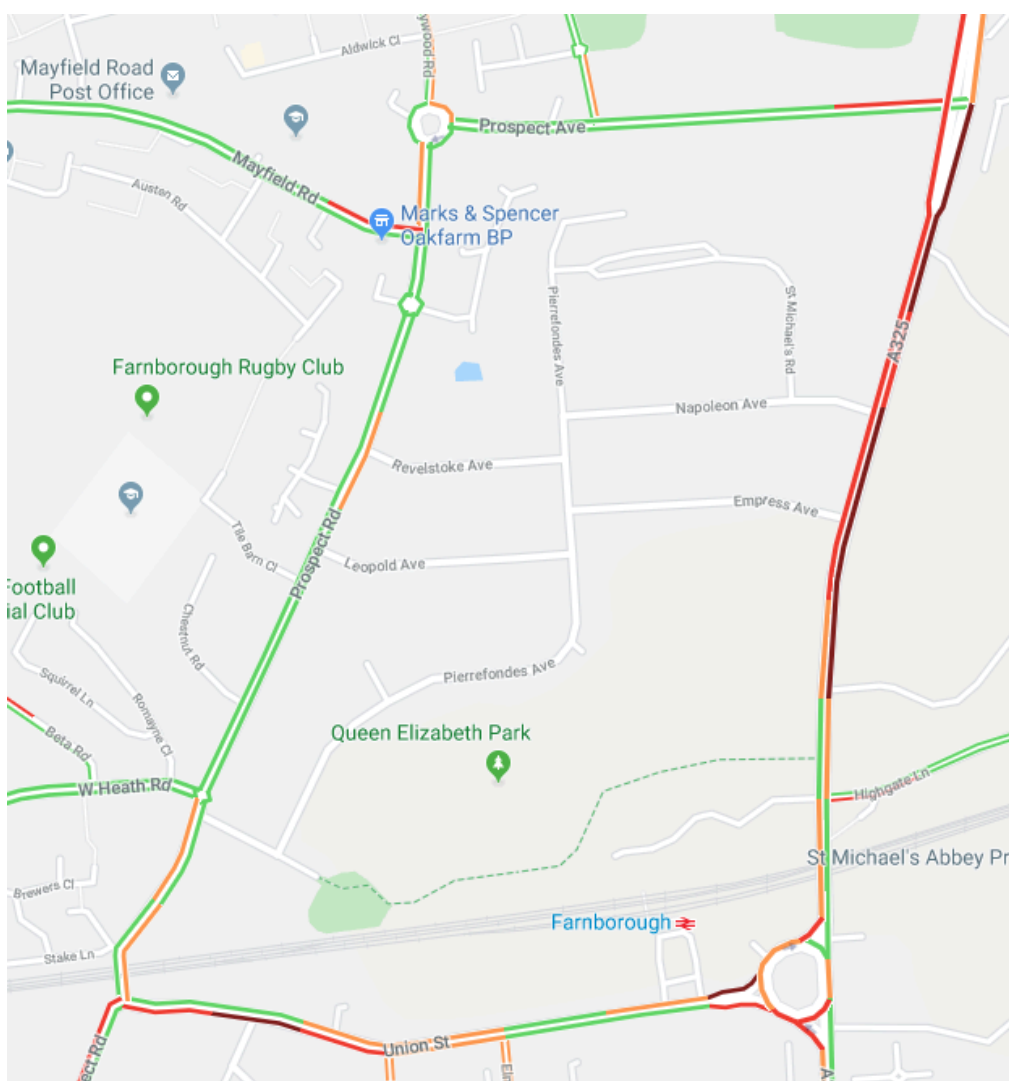
7.2. Action Point 15: Trenchless Installation in the Park

Our response to Action Point 15 is provided in our response to the Examining Authority's Further Written Question QE.2.5.

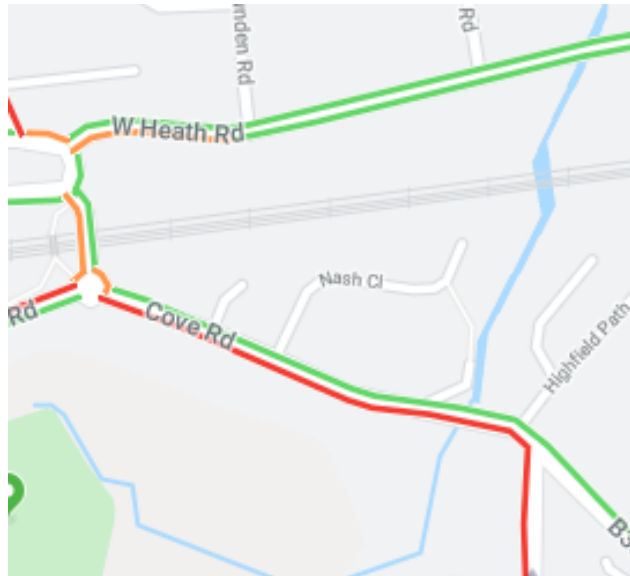
7.3. Action Point 17: Alternative Route

Esso state that works on the alternative route via Prospect Road and Prospect Avenue will have an impact on *'the already busy Cove Road'*. They also state that *'The route introduces a significant length of street works in an already heavily traffic congested area.'*

In fact, traffic levels on Prospect Road and Prospect Avenue levels are typically light, as can be seen from Google Maps, showing traffic load at 17:30 on a Tuesday evening.



On the other hand, the stretch of Cove Road adjacent to Nash Close, where Esso have chosen to do street works, is congested. We find their reasoning to be inconsistent and unconvincing.



The second bullet point states that *'there is no viable route from the A325 junction with Prospect Ave to ultimately end up at Balmoral Drive, other than to continue with open trench street works along the A325, then crossing over at the junction where Ship Lane joins the A325. This bring the route back into the Applicant route down Ringwood road.'*

1. Although worded to appear otherwise, this suggests that Esso are in agreement with our proposal: there is a viable route to connect Prospect Avenue with Ringwood Road.
2. At the end of ISH3, we informally asked a representative from Hampshire County Council's Highways Department whether they would be willing to consider how traffic could be managed along the proposed route. The response was that whilst it is not straightforward, they would be willing to discuss how this could be done.

Esso also state *'street works are considerably slower than working open areas such as parks and fields'*.

3. In their response to action point 10 from ISH3, Esso state that the rate of installation for narrow working in highways is about 90 metres per week.
4. For a length of 1.5 kilometres (along Prospect Road and Prospect Avenue), installation would take 17 weeks at a rate of 90 metres per week. This is considerably less than the 12 months of work currently planned for the park.
5. A length of pipeline equivalent to that which will be installed in the park (600 metres) would be installed in about 7 weeks at a rate of 90 metres per week.
6. Based on the information provided by Esso, installation through the park is considerably slower than installation in a highway.
7. It would be useful if Esso could explain why they continue to refer to Queen Elizabeth Park as an 'open area'.

We still propose that the alternative route which avoids the park altogether is the best option. Traffic congestion is temporary and can be managed, whilst loss of mature trees will take generations to recover. This proposal completely avoids the tree loss in the park, and the disruption in Farnborough Hill School.

We again request Esso to perform a detailed analysis of this alternative route for feasibility, with particular attention being paid to the use of the central reservation of the A325 for pipeline installation and how traffic could be managed in the six available lanes at this location.

8. Esso's Written Summary of Oral Submissions at ISH2¹⁸

Esso's summary (emphasis is ours): '3.1 Mr Newman explained that QEP had two distinct characteristics. First, the area adjacent to the railway and secondly, the larger open woodland area on the opposite side. Mr Newman explained that it was the Applicant's intention for the pipeline route to follow the eastern southern boundary where it was currently denser and less characteristically open, and **introduce a more open feel once finished** which reflected the majority of the park to the north. Mr Newman added that the Applicant was very much focussed on carrying out work on the overgrown less open area.'

We request that Esso do not change the characteristics of the park without discussion and agreement from the community group. We are confident that we have the support of Rushmoor Borough Council in making this request.

¹⁸ Written Summary of Oral Submissions put at the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters on 3 December 2019 (ISH2) Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001003-8.19%20Written%20Summary%20of%20Oral%20Submissions%20put%20at%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%203%20December%202019%20\(ISH2\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001003-8.19%20Written%20Summary%20of%20Oral%20Submissions%20put%20at%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%203%20December%202019%20(ISH2).pdf))

9. **Esso's Responses to Action Points from ISH3¹⁹**

Action Point 19, Noise Mitigation: We are concerned that there are no plans to install Echo Barrier noise screening in Queen Elizabeth Park. We note that the Examining Authority is pursuing this in FWQ PC.2.1.

¹⁹ Response to Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters on 4 December 2019 (ISH3) Application Document: 8.22, Revision No. 1.0 December 2019 ([https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001005-8.22%20Response%20to%20the%20Action%20Points%20from%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%204%20December%202019%20\(ISH3\).pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070005/EN070005-001005-8.22%20Response%20to%20the%20Action%20Points%20from%20the%20Issue%20Specific%20Hearing%20on%20Environmental%20Matters%20on%204%20December%202019%20(ISH3).pdf))

A. Trees Currently Listed on Woodland Trust's ATI

This image shows the location of all Notable and Veteran Trees in Queen Elizabeth Park which are listed on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) as of 27th January 2020. We have chosen to overlay the tree positions on an aerial photograph instead of a map to indicate the density of tree cover in the park.

There are three Veteran Trees, indicated by red markers. There are 66 Notable Trees, indicated by blue markers.



Note that the route of the footpath, indicated by the dashed line, is incorrect at the eastern edge of the park: it actually bends southwards.

A.1. Veteran Trees

Grid ref.	ATI ref.	Species	Girth...	...at height	Comments
SU8681356177	197341	Beech	5.91	1.5	T42
SU8675356087	197352	Beech	4.00	1.5	Recently pollarded
SU8644155990	198037	Willow	4.27	1.5	

A.2. Notable Trees

Grid ref.	ATI ref.	Species	Girth...	...at height	Comments
SU8648956023	197333	Willow	4.10	1.0	
SU8694156303	197342	Sweet chestnut	2.97	1.5	Joined with 197343
SU86945630	197343	Beech	2.71	1.5	Joined with 197342
SU8688956226	197346	Sweet chestnut	4.05	1.5	Multi stem
SU86875619	197348	Sweet chestnut	5.33	0.5	Multi stem
SU8676556119	197350	Sweet chestnut	2.65	1.5	
SU8675456083	197351	Beech	2.62	1.5	
SU8673056080	197353	Sweet chestnut	3.97	1.5	Multi stem
SU8670856032	197354	Oak	2.7	1.5	
SU8648756053	197355	Oak	3.55	1.5	
SU8647656039	198024	Oak	2.57	1.5	
SU8646856019	198027	Willow	4.65	1.5	
SU8644956007	198030	Willow	4.73	1.5	
SU8652956055	198040	Oak	2.97	1.5	Multi stem
SU8654856010	198042	Oak	2.59	1.5	
SU8660356022	198045	Beech	2.32	1.5	
SU86635607	198046	Beech	3.05	1.5	Coppice
SU8664656082	198048	Sweet chestnut	5.04	1.5	Multi stem
SU8663656088	198049	Beech	2.07	1.5	
SU8666256064	198050	Scots pine	2.14	1.5	
SU8673156050	198052	Sweet chestnut	3.76	1.5	Multi stem
SU8674456119	198055	Beech	3.16	1.5	
SU8676556133	198056	Beech	4.35	1.5	Multi stem
SU8675956145	198057	Beech	4.04	1.5	Multi stem
SU8671256124	198058	Beech	2.6	1.5	
SU8677556140	198060	Beech	2.31	1.5	
SU8678456155	198061	Beech	3.57	1.5	Multi stem
SU8678756180	198062	Beech	4.85	1.5	Multi stem
SU8679256180	198063	Beech	2.37	1.5	

Grid ref.	ATI ref.	Species	Girth...	...at height	Comments
SU8696856174	198065	Oak	3.19	1.5	
SU8651556074	198066	Oak	3.44	1.5	Coppice
SU8694556187	198138	Oak	2.91	1.5	
SU8697456201	198139	Beech	3.03	1.5	
SU8698556193	198144	Beech	2.92	1.5	
SU86705605	198706	Beech	3.06	1.5	
SU8674856035	198707	Beech	3.34	1.5	
SU8656656171	198963	Beech	2.51	1.5	
SU8654356167	198964	Beech	3.38	0.4	Multi stem
SU8655456192	198966	Sweet chestnut	3.14	0.1	
SU8659056186	198968	Sweet chestnut	2.4	0.1	Multi stem
SU8659056189	198969	Sweet chestnut	3.42	0.1	Multi stem
SU8660456168	198971	Beech	5.00	1.5	Coppice
SU8662556200	198972	Beech	2.60	1.5	
SU8662356214	198974	Beech	2.88	1.5	
SU8662556199	198975	Beech	2.50	1.5	
SU8668456219	198977	Beech	2.51	1.5	
SU8666456212	198978	Sweet chestnut	2.35	1.5	
SU8673656204	198980	Beech	3.61	1	Multi stem
SU8679556228	198981	Sweet chestnut	2.94	0.15	
SU8680356217	198982	Beech	2.47	1.5	
SU8680656214	198983	Sweet chestnut	3.73	0.35	Coppice
SU8680656217	198984	Sweet chestnut	2.83	1.5	
SU8664156153	198985	Beech	2.71	1.5	
SU8673256222	199015	Holly	3.17	0.1	Coppice
SU86825625	199017	Sweet chestnut	3.77	0.1	Multi stem
SU8684056276	199019	Sweet chestnut	4.03	0.1	
SU8683956272	199020	Sweet chestnut	3.7	0.1	Multi stem
SU8684156297	199021	Beech	2.38	1.5	
SU8685556309	199022	Sweet chestnut	2.2	1.5	
SU8684656357	199023	Sweet chestnut	2.32	1.5	

Grid ref.	ATI ref.	Species	Girth...	...at height	Comments
SU8688656331	199024	Beech	4.92	1.5	Multi stem
SU8687456318	199025	Beech	3.13	1.5	
SU8685256363	199026	Sweet chestnut	3.07	0.9	Multi stem
SU8687756391	199027	Beech	2.78	1.5	
SU8689656397	199029	Beech	4.25	1.5	
SU8692856389	199030	Sweet chestnut	4.37	0.5	Coppice

B. Letter and Card From Esso, 16 December 2019

The letter and postcard attached below were sent by post to residents in the vicinity of Queen Elizabeth Park in December 2019.

This is included to support our statements in section 4.10 but we would also like the Examining Authority to note that they contain statements which contradict Esso's submissions to the Examination. They also contain a number of factual inaccuracies. Some of the main points are:

1. The Order Limits in the park are 36 metres wide, not 30 metres as claimed in this document.
2. The Cabrol Road construction compound will be used for installation of the Stake Lane HDD run as well as installation within the park.
3. There is no ornamental pond in the park. There is an ephemeral pond near the play area. It is vital that this pond is left to dry out to sustain the newt population in it, and Esso need to commit to retain its current use.
4. There is no pond by the A325. It is not shown on any maps (of any age) and it is not known to residents (of any age). There is however a small pool which forms during heavy rain. We understand that neither Rushmoor Borough Council nor the community group want a pond to be created in this location.

The letter was signed by the Project Executive and we are concerned by the fact that these inaccuracies have his endorsement.



16 December 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Esso's Southampton to London Pipeline Project – Information regarding Queen Elizabeth Park, Farnborough

I am writing to you because I am aware of the community concerns about our application for permission to install a replacement pipeline close to the existing pipelines in Queen Elizabeth Park. These concerns were raised by residents during Examination Hearings, held by the Planning Inspectorate, on 25 and 27 November and 3 and 4 December 2019. We will also be answering every point raised in the Queen Elizabeth Park community's written representation.

I appreciate that many people would not have had the opportunity to attend these public hearings and I wish to share details of our plans, and the safeguards committed to in our application, that will reduce the impact on trees and your use of the park.

To share what we have presented at the hearings, my project team have created a dedicated webpage (www.SLPandQEP.co.uk) where you can find a video that explains how installation would take place in the park.

As a resident of [REDACTED] I wanted to directly provide you with information about our plans. This is summarised below. If you have any questions, now or in the future, please call my team on 07925 068 905, or send an email to info@slpproject.co.uk.

- We are seeking development consent for our replacement pipeline. Our application contains a detailed environmental impact assessment and provides a framework for permission and installation requirements that we must legally work within and deliver upon.
- Through the park we have asked for permission to work within Order Limits, which are 30 metres wide. As the Order Limits do not cover the whole of the park, we will have no ability to close the park completely.
- Within our application we have committed to use narrow working methods, contained within the 30 metre wide Order Limits. The width of the Order Limits gives us flexibility to move around features, such as veteran trees and unknown underground features. We will only find these underground features once we start to work within the park.
- The narrow working commitments we have made are to use: a maximum of ten metres for the open-cut installation of the pipeline through the park and a maximum of five metres for the above ground stringing of the pipe for the trenchless technique from Stake Lane. Stringing is where sections of pipe are welded together on rollers ready to be pulled back through underground.



- We will only fence off the working areas while they are needed for installation or reinstatement.
- Where we plan to install the pipeline through the park, we will use an open-cut technique. This requires a 1 metre wide and 1.6 metre deep trench. We will roughly follow the existing footpath. Where we are digging near tree roots of veteran trees (within their Root Protection Areas) we can use hand digging or air spades to protect the trees.
- The area where we plan to install the pipeline contains fewer mature trees than the rest of the park and is heavily populated with rhododendron.
- Because of the flexibility of the methods we can use, some of which are outlined above, we will not be removing 25% of trees from Queen Elizabeth Park. The 25% of trees being removed is not an accurate figure.
- Our engineers are confident they can work around, or protect the roots of, many of the mature trees within the park, including the large beech tree, the Fairy Tree, "T42" which is in our Schedule of Notable Trees.
- Where we do have to remove trees and rhododendron, we will replant with native trees and shrubs. There will be a six metre wide protective strip over the replacement pipeline, and this will either be covered by a new woodland trail incorporating a new footpath, or we will plant native bushes and plants.
- We will replace the playground with new equipment after installation and we are also working with Rushmoor Borough Council to provide a temporary play area during the works. This could be within the park or nearby.
- The construction compound near Cabrol Road will only be used for installation within the park. It will not be in place for two years. It will always be safe and secure. Our team is used to working in residential areas and will keep the area surrounding the compound clean and safe.
- Our current estimate is that we may be working within the park for up to 12 months. However, this would not necessarily be continuous due to the different techniques we would be using, which require separate machinery and would have variable periods for installation. We will not be closing off the park or stopping people accessing or travelling through the park. There will be access for pedestrians and cyclists from Cabrol Road and the A325. Vehicle access and parking will be maintained from the A325.

SLP Project
1180 Eskdale Road
Winnersh
Wokingham
RG41 5TU
07925 068 905
info@slpproject.co.uk



Southampton to London
Pipeline Project

- The memorial benches are outside of the area we are seeking permission to work within (our Order Limits).
- We believe that the construction compound and installation works in the park will not exacerbate the surface water drainage or flooding that occurs on Cabrol Road.
- We understand that our working in the park will create disturbance and disrupt how people currently use the park. This is why we have also offered to create a woodland trail, improve two ponds within the park and remove some rhododendron outside of our Order Limits. Rhododendron is an invasive plant that the local council is currently trying to clear from the park to improve the environment. These are part of our Environmental Investment Programme which we are discussing with Rushmoor Borough Council.

We still have a lot of work to do to prepare detailed construction plans. This work will take place in 2020. Once this work is complete, we will be able to share the exact time and length of works in the park and we will hold a public event before we start installation in the park to share this information with the public.

If the project receives permission, the application and the commitments it contains become legally binding. Further, I will personally make sure that we install in the safest and most sensitive way through the park.

While we have now submitted our application for Examination, it does not mean we are not prepared to meet residents or answer questions about our plans. I would encourage you to come directly to us. While we appreciate some may not agree with our proposals, I do believe that on balance it is the best route in this complex area of Farnborough and that we have safeguards to suitably protect the environment and community during installation of the replacement pipeline.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Sunderland
Southampton to London Pipeline Project Executive
Esso Petroleum Company, Limited

SLP Project team
Tel: 07925 068 905
Email: info@slpproject.co.uk
Website: www.slpproject.co.uk

ESSO Petroleum Company, Limited Registered in England No. 26538
Registered Office: Ermyn House, Ermyn Way, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8UX

Our replacement pipeline through Queen Elizabeth Park

We are aware of local concern about our plans to install the replacement pipeline close to the existing pipelines that run through Queen Elizabeth Park.

Our application for permission to install the replacement pipeline (known as Development Consent) is currently being examined by the Planning Inspectorate. We understand that it can be difficult to determine exactly where, what and how we would install the replacement pipeline from the extensive application documents.

We'd like to explain our proposals and give you the reassurance that we will work sensitively within the park. We will not be closing the park completely. We will reduce impacts to the mature trees, work with Rushmoor to provide temporary play facilities and make sure people can still access the majority of the park during installation.

We have created a video to explain our plans. More information can be found on our dedicated webpage at: www.SLPandQEP.co.uk

The Project

Esso is seeking permission to replace 90km of its aviation fuel pipeline that runs from its Fawley Refinery near Southampton, to its West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow.

- This is a replacement for the existing aviation fuel pipeline, which has been in place since 1972.
- Pipelines are a safe, secure and low impact method of transporting fuel to some of the UK's busiest airports.
- Once installed, the replacement pipeline will be buried and would not be noticed by most people.



Southampton to London
Pipeline Project



To get in touch, please contact us:

info@slpproject.co.uk



07925 068 905

A summary of our plans in the park

We will not be closing the park completely.

Pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained from both Cabrol Road and from the A325. Vehicle access and parking will be maintained from the A325.

We will use **narrow working methods through the park:**

- maximum 5m wide for above ground stringing;
- maximum 10m wide for open-cut installation.

The trench to install the pipeline is only 1m wide and being much smaller than the working area means we will have flexibility to work around mature trees.

We are not clearing **25% of trees in the park.** We:

- are surveying all trees within the Order Limits (to the British Standard, BS5837);
- will not be removing the veteran Beech tree (T42); and
- will only remove trees that we can't work around.

Installation of the replacement pipeline will be safe.

- **The working area will be safely fenced.**
- **The compound will have appropriate security.**

We will replant:

- with native trees; and
- with native shrubs and plants.

We will replace, as new:

- the play area;
- the car park; and
- the path, including lighting.

The memorial benches are outside of the area we are seeking permission to work within.

In recognition that there will be disruption, we have offered Rushmoor additional voluntary investments in the park:

- creating a woodland trail;
- improving the ornamental pond;
- re-establishing the A325 pond; and helping their ongoing rhododendron management.



Southampton to London
Pipeline Project

For more information please visit

www.SLPandQEP.co.uk