

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Southampton to London Pipeline Project](#)
Subject: Your ref: EN070005
Date: 13 November 2019 11:39:56

Sirs,

We have read and are in complete agreement with the Presentation submitted by the Heronscourt and Colville Gardens Residents' Associations dated November 2019.

Having lived at [REDACTED] for 40 years and able to enjoy the close proximity of the mature woodland area of Turf Hill Park, whilst also gaining considerable enjoyment and leisure activity from being able, on a very regular basis, to walk the paths of this public amenity.

Our boundary with the route of the proposed pipeline comprises a 100+ year old holly hedge or two mature oaks. Any damage or loss of these important landscape features would clearly have a serious adverse impact upon our property but generally to the locality.

The bridleway running adjacent to the residential properties of Heronscourt and Colville Gardens comprises an exceptional and much used leisure facility, highly attractive due to the wide variety of mature trees including oak, beech, holly pine and fir. The same is true of the two north/south routes of the pipeline route. These areas are much used by walkers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders.

The decision of the applicants to abandon the established pipeline route across the open area of Turf Hill Park to lay a new (replacement) pipe for a far greater distance with several bends and within mature woodland from Red Road to Guildford Road seems totally illogical. The explanation that this was necessary to provide protection for nesting birds and sand lizards does nothing, in our view, to provide sound reasoning to justify the need to fell many trees and potentially affect the life and stability of many more mature trees as a result of excavation or heavy machinery movement.

Whilst it is our understanding and acceptance that all reasonable precautions must be taken to protect endangered wildlife, a reasonable balance must be struck. Due to the nature of the open area of the existing pipeline route with gorse being the only prominent feature, the area cannot be attractive to ground nesting birds and in any event suitable steps can be taken to avoid construction works during the March/September period. The sand lizards, which we have never seen, were introduced to a small area of Turf Hill Park a few years and if they were disturbed would presumably move naturally or can again be relocated or temporary physical steps taken to isolate their location from the construction works.

Any loss of trees is highly regrettable, seriously damaging to the environment and is counter productive to the Government policy to protect and maintain existing woodland and to plant many millions of new trees.

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