

# Southampton to London Pipeline Project

## Deadline 2

Signed SoCG with Forestry Commission  
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Southampton to London  
Pipeline Project



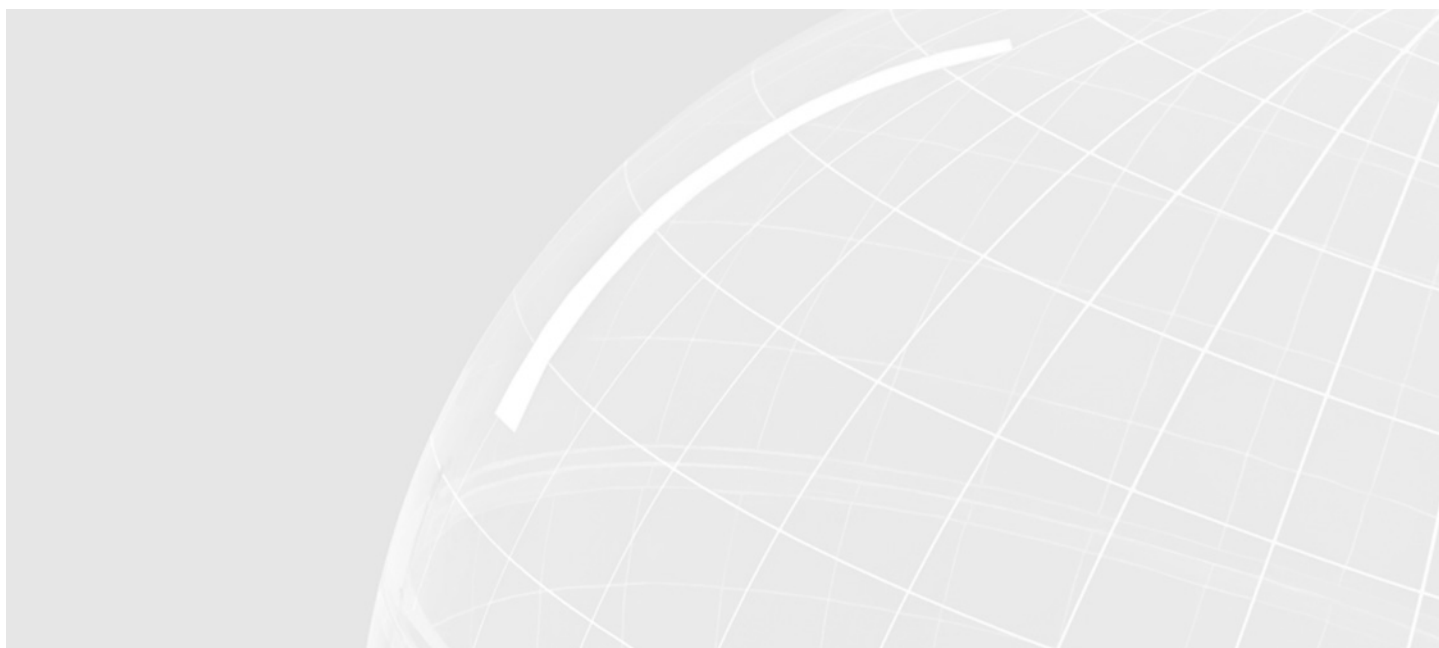
## **Southampton to London Pipeline Project**

### **Statement of Common Ground**


#### **Between:**

**Esso Petroleum Company, Limited and the Forestry  
Commission**

Date: September 2019



<b>Signed</b>	
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Position	SLP Porject Executive
On behalf of	Esso Petroleum Company Ltd
Date	13/11/19

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Position	<b>Area Director</b>
On behalf of	<b>Forestry Commision</b>
Date	<b>07/11/19</b>

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and another party. It sets out matters of agreement between both parties, as well as matters where there is not an agreement and matters which are under discussion.
- 1.1.2 The aim of SoCGs is to provide a clear record of the issues discussed and the stage each issue is at during the discussion. The SoCG can be used as evidence of these discussions in representations to the Planning Inspectorate as part of their examination of the DCO application.

## 1.2 Description of the Project

- 1.2.1 We (Esso Petroleum Company, Limited) launched the Southampton to London Pipeline Project late in 2017. The project proposes to replace 90km of the 105km aviation fuel pipeline that runs from the Fawley Refinery near Southampton, to the West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow. We recently completed the public consultation on our preferred route for the replacement pipeline. This was the project's second public consultation.
- 1.2.2 More information can be found on our website [[www.slpproject.co.uk](http://www.slpproject.co.uk)].

## 1.3 This Statement of Common Ground

- 1.3.1 This SoCG has been prepared in respect of the scheme by Esso Petroleum Company Limited (Esso) as the Applicant, and the Forestry Commission as a prescribed consultee.
- 1.3.2 This complies with the Examining Authority's Rule 6 Letter dated 5 September 2019 (**Procedural Document PD-005**) which requested that a Statement of Common Ground be prepared between the Applicant and the Forestry Commission to include the effect of the project on woodlands.
- 1.3.3 Esso is a brand of ExxonMobil, which has operated in the UK for over 120 years. In the early days ExxonMobil imported high quality lamp oil to the UK market. Today their focus on quality fuels remains, but operations are far more extensive. Esso owns and operates the UK's largest refinery at Fawley, which provides fuel for more than 800,000 retail customers every day at Esso-branded service stations. An underground distribution pipeline network transports fuel from Fawley to Esso's fuel terminals at Avonmouth, Birmingham, Hythe, Purfleet, West London and also for use at the UK's busiest airports.
- 1.3.4 The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial government department responsible for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woodlands and increasing their value to society and the environment.
- 1.3.5 Throughout this SoCG:

- Where a section begins 'matters agreed', this sets out matters that have been specifically agreed between the Forestry Commission and Esso.
- Where a section begins 'matters not agreed', this sets out matters that are not agreed between the Forestry Commission and Esso.
- Where a section begins 'matters subject to ongoing discussion', this sets out matters that are subject to further negotiation between the Forestry Commission and Esso.

## **1.4 Structure of the Statement of Common Ground**

- 1.4.1 This SoCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of relevance to the Forestry Commission in respect of the Southampton to London Pipeline Project.
- Section 2 provides an overview of the engagement to date between the Forestry Commission and Esso.
  - Section 3 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed.
  - Section 4 provides a record of areas that have not yet been agreed
  - Section 5 provides a note of ongoing matters which will be managed through the detailed design phase.
  - Section 6 provides a record of relevant documents and drawings.

## 2 Record of Engagement Undertaken to Date

### 2.1 Pre-application Engagement and Consultation

2.1.1 The table below sets out the consultation that has been undertaken between Esso and the Forestry Commission prior to the submission of the DCO application.

Date	Format	Topic	Discussion Points
11/12/2017	Letter	Project launch	Esso's Project Executive wrote to the Forestry Commission to launch the project.
19/03/2018	Letter	Corridor consultation launch	Esso's Land and Pipeline Technical Lead wrote to the Forestry Commission to launch the corridor consultation.
27/03/2019	Correspondence	Meeting request	The Forestry Commission requested a meeting with the project team via email. Meeting was arranged for 19/04/2018
19/04/2018	Meeting	Project update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project updates</li> <li>• Route options</li> <li>• Information sharing</li> </ul>
19/04/2018	Information Sharing	Person with Interest in Land	Forestry Commission completed a Person with Interest in Land questionnaire.
30/04/2018	Consultation response	Response to corridor consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat Regulations Assessment</li> <li>• Valuation of Ancient Woodland</li> <li>• Forestry Regulation</li> <li>• Compensation options</li> <li>• Policy</li> <li>• Alice Holt Wood</li> </ul>
30/05/2018	Letter	Preferred corridor announcement	Esso's Land and Pipeline Technical Lead wrote to the Forestry Commission to announce the preferred corridor.
27/06/2018	Letter	Initial Working Route	Esso's Project Executive wrote to the Forestry Commission to provide a project update and introduce the Initial Working Route.
21/08/2018	Workshop	Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project update</li> <li>• Felling licenses</li> <li>• Net gain</li> <li>• Community access during construction</li> </ul>
24/08/2018	Consultation response	Response to Planning Inspectorate Scoping Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Land use</li> <li>• Arboricultural survey</li> </ul>
06/09/2018	Letter	Launch of statutory consultation	Esso's Land and Pipeline Technical Lead wrote to the Forestry Commission to launch the Preferred Route Statutory Consultation.

Date	Format	Topic	Discussion Points
28/02/2019	Meeting	Project update	<p>Attended by Forestry Commission's Local Partnership Advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project update</li> <li>• Design principles</li> <li>• Construction techniques</li> <li>• Environmental Investment Programme</li> <li>• Statement of Common Ground</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Engagement Following Submission of Application

2.2.1 The table below sets out the consultation that has been undertaken between Esso and the Forestry Commission since the submission of the DCO application.

Date	Format	Topic	Discussion Points
10/09/2019	Meeting	SOCG and Response to Application	Meeting with the Forestry Commission's Partnerships and Expertise Manager for London, Thames and Chilterns South East and London Area, and Natural England's Senior Planning Adviser, to discuss their Relevant Representations on the submitted application and to progress Statements of Common Ground, in relation to impacts on trees and woodlands.
21/10/19	Correspondence	Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees	Clarification that In areas where A2 /A3 is being applied, if there are larger trees inside the outside boundary of trees, these are used to calculate the RPA and the largest RPA calculations would be used.
29/10/19	Correspondence	SOCG	Clarification Reinstatement of woodland areas. Reduce working areas within woodland.

2.2.2 Although not considered to be an examination issue, the Parties will continue to engage on the voluntary Environmental Investment Programme and intend for the broad scope of this programme to be agreed shortly.



### 3 Matters Agreed

3.1.1 The table below sets out the matters agreed in relation to different topics.

Topic	Matter agreed
ES methodology	That the methodology used in the ES for the prediction and assessment of effects on biodiversity and landscape in relation to trees and woodland are appropriate.
Tree survey	That the Forestry Commission agrees that the scope and methods of the arboricultural surveys are appropriate.
Ancient Woodland – survey	That the Forestry Commission agrees that appropriate measures have been taken to identify all areas of Ancient Woodland, and areas of Potential Ancient Woodland that do not appear on Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory.
Ancient Woodland - avoidance	That the Forestry Commission agree that the Order Limits avoid all areas of existing classified Ancient Woodland. Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees provides clarity.
Ancient trees - avoidance	That the Forestry Commission agrees that the route will avoid all recorded ancient trees identified by the Ancient Tree Forum/ Inventory. Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees provides clarity.
Ancient Woodland and veteran trees - mitigation	That the Forestry Commission agrees that the proposed approach to mitigating effects on Ancient Woodland, potential ancient woodland and veteran trees, as described in the ES and the further information included in the Arboricultural Mitigation Strategy, are appropriate. Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees provides clarity.
Biodiversity and landscape - mitigation	That the mitigation set out within the Environmental Statement for biodiversity and landscape in relation to trees and woodland is appropriate.
Reinstatement	That the Forestry Commission accepts that the removal of some trees in SSSIs, to allow the restoration of heathland habitat, is appropriate.
Reinstatement	That the Forestry Commission accepts that trees to be removed on the MOD estate will be replaced on a one to one basis in the local area. The details would be agreed through the Environmental Investment Programme.
Environmental Investment Programme (EIP)	Although not considered to be an examination issue, the Parties will continue to engage on the voluntary Environmental Investment Programme and intend for the broad scope of this programme to be agreed shortly.

## 4 Matters Not Agreed

4.1.1 The table below sets out the matters **not** agreed in relation to different topics.

Topic	Matter not agreed



## 5 Matters Subject to On-going Discussion

5.1.1 The table below sets out the matters subject to ongoing discussion.

Topic	Matter not agreed

## 6 Relevant documents and drawings

### 6.1 List of relevant documents and drawings

The following is a list of documents and drawings upon which this Statement of Common Ground is based.

Application Reference	Title	Content	Date
EN070005 Document 6.1	Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary	Overview of the Environmental Statement	14 May 2019
EN070005 Document 6.2	Environmental Statement	Report of the Environmental Impact Assessment	14 May 2019
EN070005 Document 6.3	Environmental Statement Figures	Illustrative material to support the Environmental Statement	14 May 2019
EN070005 Document 6.4	Environmental Statement Appendices	Additional data and evidence to support the Environmental Statement	14 May 2019
	Technical Note: Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees	Further information on the approach to reduce and mitigate potential effects on designated trees within 15m of the Order Limits, and further mitigation principles over and above those set out in the Environmental Statement.	09 October 2019