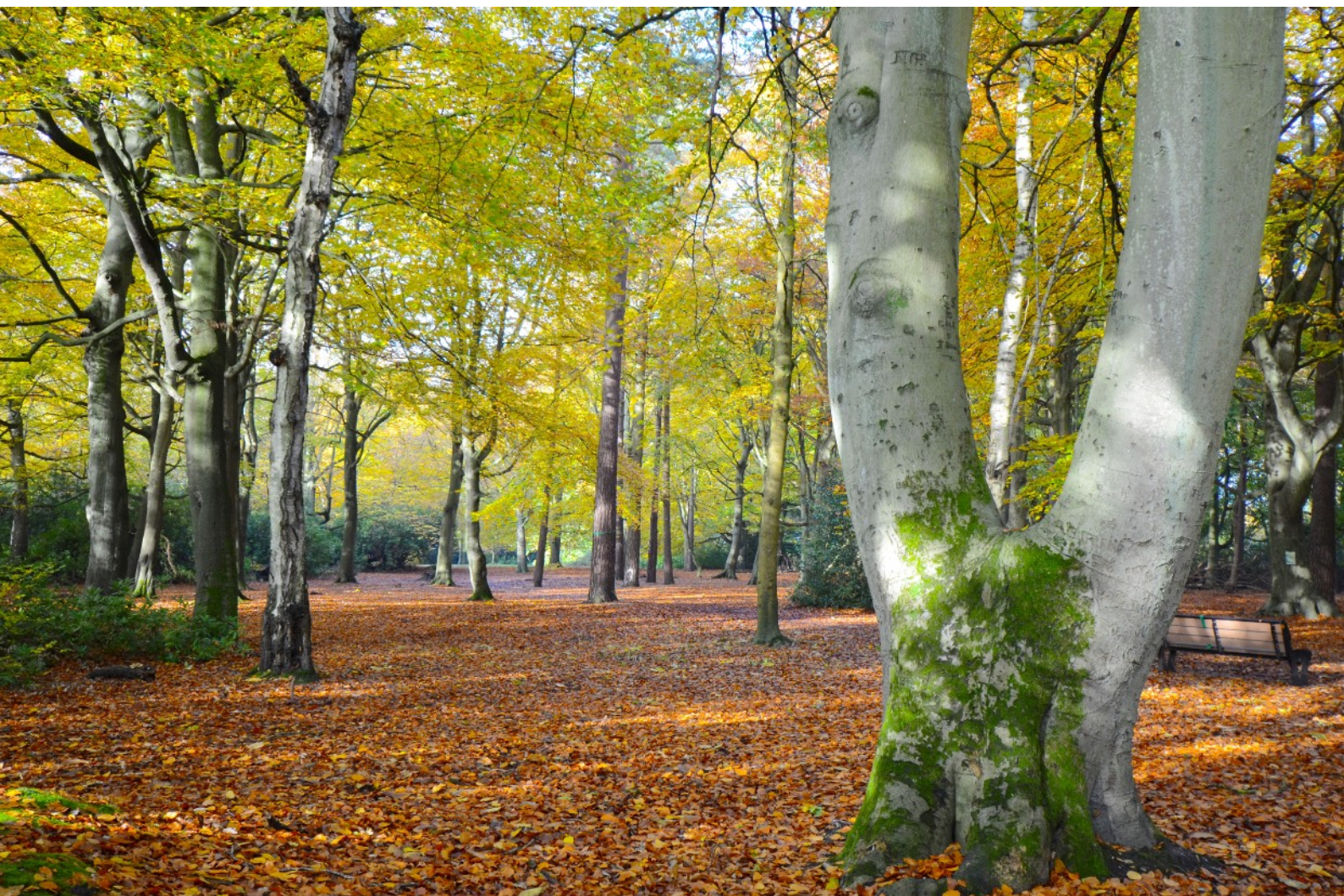


**Responses to
the Examining Authority's Written Questions
on Behalf of the**

Neighbours and Users of Queen Elizabeth Park



Nick Jarman

Interested Party reference no: **20022545**

Introduction

This document contains responses to some of the Examining Authority's Written Questions (ExQ1), which were issued on 16 October 2019.

Responses

LV.1.24 Working Width

- **ExA's Question**

Explain the criteria used to determine when a narrow working width would be used and why it is not proposed in public parks such as Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Fordingbridge Park, but it is proposed at Turf Hill.

- **Response**

Esso's treatment of Queen Elizabeth Park seems to be based on thinking of it as an open space, not a woodland. We believe this is wrong and every effort should be made to minimise tree loss or preferably, avoid tree loss altogether.

PC.1.7 Noise Effects from Tree Loss

- **ExA's Question**

Trees are known to help screen and filter noise. The Proposed Development would result in the loss of a significant number of trees.

- i) Explain whether the noise assessments, particularly for Fordingbridge Park, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Stakes Lane and Brewers Close, allow for the loss of these trees.
- ii) If they did not, explain why not and whether the results of those assessments differ if the tree loss was included in the assessment.

- **Response**

The proposed tree loss will have a major effect on the noise level for local residents and park users. This does not appear to have been fully assessed and no mitigation actions are proposed. The main sources of noise are the A325, M3 and the adjacent railway. Current screening is effective enough to provide a haven of tranquility and quietness at the centre of the park.

PC.1.13 Noise Effects

- **ExA's Question**

The assessment of effects on Human Health (Appendix 13.4, [APP-122]) considers the short-term effects of noise from construction on human health. However, the Proposed Development would result in the removal of a significant number of trees which in some locations (such as Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Fordingbridge Park and alongside the railway embankment in Stake Lane) provide an important filter for noise and air quality as well as a visual screen.

- i) Explain whether the long-term effects of the loss of these trees on human health has been considered.
- ii) If they were, signpost to where in the documentation this information can be found.
- iii) If these effects were not assessed, explain why not and what would be the outcome on the long-term effects on human health if they were.

- **Response**

The dramatic loss of trees and the impact on the noise screening and air filtering is likely to cause long term negative impact on human health, including the mental health of residents and park users. We have found no evidence that this has been assessed.

QE.1.1 Play Provision

- **ExA's Question**

Sheet 34 of the Works Plans [AS-048] would appear to necessitate the removal of the play area in Queen Elizabeth Country Park:

- i) Confirm if it would be necessary to remove or temporarily close the play area during the proposed construction period.
- ii) If it would need to be closed or removed, what alternative provision would be made for play for the duration of the construction period.
- iii) If the play area is to be removed, would it be reinstated after the Proposed Development has been completed and if not, what alternative/replacement provision is proposed and where would this be located.
- iv) Confirm that the reinstatement of the play provision is secured in the draft DCO [AS-059].

- **Response**

It has been confirmed that the play area will be removed for the (unknown) duration of the project, but the DCO does not confirm the temporary replacement because currently no suitable alternative location has been identified.

Residents do not want to lose the use of a play area during the project.

QE.1.2 Tree Removal

- **ExA's Question**

Confirm the total number of trees to be removed during the construction of the proposed pipeline route at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

- **Response**

The number of, and the identification of, the trees to be removed has not been documented. A full tree survey is needed to understand the current age and species of trees at risk. Some of the trees are very old and a few are possibly veteran trees.

The vagueness about the route of the new pipeline and the wide working width, along with the proposal for the auger boring pit means that the extent of the tree loss has not been quantified.

QE.1.3 Location of Route

- **ExA's Question**

A large number of RRs have raised concerns about the route for the Proposed Development across Queen Elizabeth Country Park. On their Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) the ExA observed this to be a well-used space with a busy children's play area and significant number of mature trees that contributed positively to the character of the area. The ExA is concerned about the route of the Proposed Development across this space and the potential effects it would have on local communities. Chapter 4 of the ES gives no assessment of the alternative routes considered to specifically avoid this public space.

- i) Explain whether other route locations were considered to avoid the use of this community open space.
- ii) Explain why the working width was not minimised here, as at other locations where trees and hedges are to be retained to limit the land take and minimise loss of trees.

- **Response**

- i) Other routes were presented during the early consultation stages but were dismissed too readily. A route which follows Prospect Road northwards was de-selected due to concerns about access to Frimley Park Hospital, 1.5 miles away. There is no reason why the Prospect Road section of this route could not have been considered in isolation from Frimley Park Hospital.

A route which avoids the park altogether would have much more support in the local community.

- ii) Working width should be kept to an absolute minimum (we understand 5 metres is being used in other places along the route). Ideally the issue would be avoided altogether by using horizontal directional drilling under the park.

QE.1.4 Tree Survey

- **ExA's Question**

Respond to the concerns raised in RR-102 regarding inaccuracies in the data submitted with regards to the plotting of the tree groups in Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Farnborough in Appendix 10.2 [APP-115].

- **Response**

There are errors in the co-ordinates of tree groups along the entire route, not just within the park. Please see the map here: https://www.queenelizabethpark.net/notable_tree_map.

QE.1.5 Trenchless Techniques

- **ExA's Question**

- Explain whether trenchless techniques were considered for construction of the Proposed Development at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Explain why they were discounted.
- Consider trenchless techniques for the said areas given the effect on tree loss.

- **Response**

We would be supportive of trenchless techniques within the park if this meant that no trees were lost.

QE.1.6 Access to Open Space during Construction

- **ExA's Question**

- Confirm whether public access to Queen Elizabeth Country Park would be restricted/prevented during construction
- If so, confirm for how long it would be unavailable and whether alternative provision would be provided.
- Explain whether access would be able to be maintained if a trenchless technique was used.

- **Response**

- The Cabrol Road entrance is narrow and we would like to see Esso's proposals for how this can serve as a site entrance to the construction compound whilst also allowing safe access to the park for pedestrians. If access is via Cabrol Road is not possible, the walking route across the park will be lost for the duration of the work.

We also expect the southern Farnborough Road entrance will be closed due to its proximity to the auger boring drive pit while that part of the work is in progress.

The southern path is within the Order Limits so we expect this will be fenced off while work takes place there.

This would leave only the northern Farnborough Road entrance open, with large areas of the park inaccessible due to the enclosure of the Order Limits.

- ii) We are doubtful that it is practical for alternative access to be provided at the Cabrol Road side of the park, so we believe that access from Cabrol Road will not be possible during the project.
- iii) We expect that a trenchless technique would still result in the closure of the Cabrol Road entrance because a construction compound would still be required. However, we expect that access to the rest of the park could be maintained.