

The Planning Act 2008

Application for Development Consent for the Southampton to London Pipeline Project

Case Ref: EN070005

The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection 2

Background

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection on Tuesday 26 November 2019 (USI2). This was done alongside the accompanied site inspection (ASI) on the same day. Its purpose was to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Southampton to London Pipeline ('the application').

In the interest of efficiency, the ExA carried out its USI2 from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways). With the exception of Foxhills Golf Course (discussed below), no inspections were undertaken on private land, advance permission to enter land was not required and so these inspections could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The site inspection was undertaken in order to view the route of the existing pipeline and the proposed scheme, roads and the surrounding area.

It is anticipated that further unaccompanied site inspections will take place during the Examination.

Particulars of the Site Visit

The visit was undertaken all members of the ExA with the exception of the evening visit, in which Mr Allen did not attend. There were no other persons in attendance except at Foxhills Golf Course.

The visit was undertaken by car and foot. Weather conditions were overcast with light rain. The air temperature was circa five degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were at all times adequate to appreciate long range views.

Inspections commenced at approximately 08:00 and finished at approximately 09:00; recommenced 11:45 until 12:00; and a final inspection took place at around 17:00. A list of the locations visited is attached in Annex A.

Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection

The ExA undertook a site inspection at Foxhills Golf Course. This was pre-arranged because the golf course is private land. We observed the route of the proposed pipeline at holes 13 and 17 on the Bernard Hunt course, and holes 3, 5, 7, 16 and 17 on the Longcross courses. As the golf course is on private land, the ExA were accompanied by two representatives from Foxhills; and only matters of clarification were discussed during that time.

After the ASI had finished at Turf Hill and before it commenced at Queen Elizabeth Park, the ExA undertook a further inspection of Stake Lane, noting the garages proposed to be removed as well as the road conditions of both Stake Lane and Brewers Close. We then drove to and observed the Cove Green open space, noting the pedestrian route from Queen Elizabeth Park under the railway bridge and along Prospect Road.

Finally, revisited for a second time Cove Road and Nash Close. Due to the time of the visit we were able to observe traffic on Cove Road during the evening peak.