

From: [Owen Neal](#)
To: [Southampton to London Pipeline Project](#)
Subject: App Ref: EN070005; Application for Southampton to London Pipeline Project; SE Ref: PA/19/L/NSI/54402
Date: 30 January 2020 17:10:43

Dear Mr Allen

Please find Sport England's responses to the questions you raise in your letter dated 12 December 2019.

1. The route of the Proposed Development would go through a number of playing fields, sports pitches and golf courses. Can you:

i. Explain whether the Applicant has had any specific engagement with you regarding the effect of the Proposed Development on these facilities?

The agent has engaged with Sport England via a telephone discussion on 10 January 2020 to discuss the proposed pipeline route's impact on playing field; playing pitches and golf course sites. This proved useful in understanding the construction process for the pipeline and the specific impact on individual playing field and golf course sites.

ii. If so, explain the advice provided with regards to the potential effect of the Proposed Development on sports provision, with particular reference to specific development taking place on playing fields and sports pitches; and

Sport England understands that in most cases the construction process will involve a narrow trench being dug with the turf either being reinstated or reseeded. It is understood that the open trench crossing construction process is relatively quick once started with little equipment and plant required to undertake the works. Longer term impacts on playing field relate to the use of construction compounds and trenchless crossing pits. Sport England is reassured that based on proposed pipeline route in the main, the impact on sports pitches can be minimised by laying the pipeline around the perimeter of the playing field thus avoiding the principal area of the playing field where the sports pitches are used and marked out. Sport England notes that in a number of cases the applicant will seek to carry out the works during the 'off-season', again to minimise the disruption to the use of the playing field/pitches for sport.

Sport England considers that it will be important that the reinstatement of any playing field/pitches is carried out in accordance with our technical guidance: Natural Turf for Sport (2011) and that provision is made to do so within a reasonable timescale. Sport England tends to use the following condition when part of the playing field and/or outdoor sports facility is temporarily out of use/needs to be restored as a result of the development that has been approved.

- No development shall commence [or alternative appropriate timescale] until a scheme for the removal of the [works/contractors' compound] and the reinstatement of the [identify the relevant land] has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority after consultation with Sport England. [The scheme must be in accordance with [Sport England guidance "Natural Turf for Sport" (2011)] [or refer to other appropriate National Governing Body Performance Quality Standard].]

The [works/contractors' compound] must be removed from the site before first [occupation] [use] of the development in accordance with the approved scheme.

[Within [three] months of] [or in the first planting season following] the removal of the [works/contractors' compound] the [identify the relevant land] must be reinstated in accordance with the approved scheme.

*Reason: To ensure the site is restored to a condition fit for purpose and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.*

Informative: It is recommended that a restoration scheme for playing field land is undertaken by a specialist turf consultant. The applicant should be aiming to ensure that any new or replacement playing field is fit for its intended purpose and should

have regard to Sport England's technical Design Guidance Note entitled "Natural Turf for Sport" (2011) and relevant design guidance of the National Governing Bodies for Sport e.g. performance quality standards produced by the relevant pitch sport National Governing Bodies, for example the Football Association.

Sport England would seek to secure to similar condition, although not necessarily the exact wording, which achieves the outcome of ensuring that the playing field/pitch is restored to a condition which is fit for purpose within a reasonable timescale which minimises disruption to users.

Sport England having reviewed the supporting documentation and wishes to comment on the following playing field sites/sports facilities which will be impacted by the proposed development:

As set out in the order listed in Table 16.2 – "Priority Sites for Assessment":

Site 2. Peter Driver Sports Ground

- It is understood that the proposal will have a significant, albeit temporary, impact on the playing field and the marked out football pitches at the site. It appears that the site contains two 11x11 pitches (1no. youth and 1no. adult). Although we note that the area is probably capable of accommodating 2no, full size adult pitches as identified in the planning statement. Sport England has consulted the Football Foundation on behalf of the FA who comment that the site is used by the following teams/clubs:

Badgers Vets
Fleet Town Colts Youth x 4
Letef Select
Rushmoor Celtic
Wyvern 1st
Wyvern Reserves

We also note that the site is home to Fleet & Crookham Athletics Club.

Sport England considers that the Hart District Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (2015) is now approximately five years old, is at the end of its useful life and is unlikely to represent a robust and upto date picture of playing field provision within the district. Sport England would expect the agent/applicant to work with Hampshire FA and Sport England to identify and secure suitable alternative match play and training arrangements for these teams/clubs during the construction period and dependent on the scale of the pitch/playing field reinstatement the period required for the reinstated sports turf to settle down. As highlighted above we would expect a sports turf specialist/agronomist to prepare a scheme of works to ensure the reinstatement of the playing pitches/field is developed in accordance with our "natural turf for sport" guidance (2011).

Site 3. Southwood Sports Pitches and Cove Cricket Club

- Sport England is satisfied based on discussions with the agent that there is minimal impact on the cricket club's ancillary facilities, specifically, use of the club's car park may be required. However, it is considered that such use will be minimal and unlikely to be at times where the ground will be used for matches and/or training. Sport England is satisfied that the proposed pipeline route will not adversely affect the club's ability to use their ground for matches or training during the construction period.

Site 6. Farnborough Gate Sports Ground

- Sport England notes that there will be significant impact on this playing field site resulting in the entire loss of the playing field/pitches for use as a construction compound for the whole of the pipeline construction period, potentially 2 years. Sport England notes that the site is capable of accommodating a full size 11x11 adult football pitch. Sport England has consulted the Football Foundation on behalf of the FA and has received information that the site is used by a number of teams/clubs, contrary to the agent's assertion that the site isn't used by any established clubs. These are:

Aldershot Town FC U14 Red
Aldershot Town FC U15 Red
Aldershot Town FC U19
Farnborough Athletic

Again, Sport England would expect the agent/applicant to work with Hampshire FA and Sport England to identify and secure suitable alternative match play and training arrangements for these teams/clubs during the construction period and the period following reinstatement required for the new sports turf to settle down and become suitable for playing sport on. As highlighted above we would expect a sports turf specialist/agronomist to prepare a scheme of works to ensure the reinstatement of the playing pitches/field is developed in accordance with our “natural turf for sport” guidance (2011) and to at least the same standard the pitch was prior to development.

Site 10. Salesian School Replacement Pitches

- Sport England notes that the proposed pipeline route across the school's proposed replacement playing pitches will impact on the rugby pitch at the site which in turn will impact on the school's ability to meet its PE curriculum and extra-curricular PE activities during the construction period. However, as far as Sport England is concerned we are not aware of any community use of these planned new pitches. Sport England would ask that the timing of the works is discussed with the school to minimise any disruption to the school's PE activities and that any reinstatement works are carried out in a timely way and to a good standard in accordance with our previously stated requirements for reinstating the affected playing field land.

Site 12. Abbey Rangers FC

Sport England acknowledges that the proposed construction process has been amended to reduce the impact on the playing pitches at the site. Sport England notes that the proposed mitigation relies on the artificial grass pitch (AGP) being constructed and available for use to compensate for the temporary loss of the identified mini-soccer pitches. Can a further update be provided on the status of the AGP development as its not clear whether this is now available for use? Sport England does not object to the approach in principle but would like confirmation that teams can be accommodated on the site by existing or new provision, or whether alternative off-site arrangements will be required. Again, we would seek a condition requiring the suitable reinstatement of any playing pitches in accordance with Sport England's technical guidance on “natural turf for sport” and FA standards within a reasonable timescale.

Golf Courses

- Unlike playing field which is in use or has been in use as playing field land within the last 5 years, Sport England is not a statutory consultee on development affecting golf courses. We note that no permanent loss of golf course provision is proposed but that a number of courses will be affected. We would ask that disruption to play is minimised through avoiding direct impacts on fairways and greens where possible, and where this is not possible that reinstatement works are carried out within a reasonable timescale and to an equivalent standard previously enjoyed on the course. We would expect any works to be carried out in consultation with the operator or club and we would recommend engagement with England Golf to ensure that their views are considered as to how best minimise the impacts.

iii. If not, comment on the potential effects that the Proposed Development may have on sports provision with particular reference to playing fields and sports pitches and if and how these effects could be mitigated. It would assist the ExA if SE could consider the Applicant's response to Written Question PC.1.21 [REP2-047] when providing a response.

Sport England does not have any significant concerns with the applicant's response to question PC.1.21. It will be essential that any pitch reinstatement is carried out using a specialist sports turf contractor or agronomist and in accordance with our natural turf for sport guidance as well as the relevant national governing body for sport's standards and design guidance, and that these works can be undertaken within a reasonable timescale.

2. A number of sports organisations in particular Abbey Rangers Football Club [AS-065] and Cove Cricket Club [REP2-114] have raised concerns about the effect of the construction of the Proposed Development on:

i. Their ability to provide facilities for the relevant leagues during the appropriate playing seasons; and

ii. Their ability to provide facilities of the appropriate standard to comply with the relevant overseeing organisation provision criteria eg the Football Association.

Can SE provide any view on the above concerns to assist the Examination?

Our understanding is that the applicant and agent has worked with named clubs above to address these concerns and that action has been taken to reduce and/or mitigate the impact on these sports clubs. Sport England has raised further questions above with regard to Abbey Rangers FC ground as the proposed mitigation is reliant on the delivery of the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at the site.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal

Planning Manager

T: 02072731913



F: 01628 472 410

E: Owen.Neal@sportengland.org

Sport England



We are undefeatable



National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR



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