



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Southampton to London Pipeline Project
<b>File reference</b>	EN070005
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	6 June 2018
<b>Meeting with</b>	Esso Petroleum Company Limited
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given

#### Introduction

Esso (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate outlined its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

#### Project update

The Applicant explained that they had recently undertaken non-statutory consultation, which ended in April 2018. There were 11 events held across the route with 1900 attendees and approximately 1000 responses received. Following a review of these responses the Applicant has chosen their [preferred corridor](#) and this was announced in May.

The Applicant advised that they propose to start statutory consultation in early autumn 2018. The Applicant intends to submit the application in 2019.

#### Submission of Scoping Report

The Applicant advised that the scoping report would still include some route options as there is insufficient information to determine the final route at this stage. However, the Applicant does not currently intend to include route options in the application when it is submitted for Examination.

The Applicant has reviewed the Inspectorate's [Advice Note Seven](#) and intends to submit an appropriately focused scoping report based on the advice contained in this. Where an assessment of matters could be included in more than one aspect chapter (for example, air quality effects on human receptors), the Applicant intends to include one aspect chapter rather than separate chapters, but also include supporting technical notes. This is intended to reduce repetition of information.

The Applicant advised that they are aiming to submit their scoping report at the end of June 2018 (Post meeting note: this will now be in July). The Inspectorate advised that the GIS shapefile should be submitted at least 10 working days beforehand. The shapefile should be in a polygon format, with no geometry errors. The Inspectorate requested that two hard copies be submitted and that the date of receipt of these, rather than any electronic copy, marks the start of the Inspectorate's time period to process the scoping opinion request.

The Applicant advised that due to the length of the proposed development, together with the proposed route through the South Downs National Park and into the Greater London Authority area, this could result in the identification of neighbouring planning authorities for consultation that are many miles away from the proposed development. The Inspectorate advised that the identification of consultation bodies is determined through legislation. Therefore, the Inspectorate would be required to consult such consultation bodies, where they are identified through the application of the legislation.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Framework Directive Assessment**

The Applicant explained that they intend to submit a preliminary Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment and Water Framework Directive (WFD) screening assessment as appendices to their scoping report. The final information to inform the HRA report will be submitted with the application. The Applicant advised that they have started their ecological surveys and are taking a pragmatic approach to these. The Inspectorate advised that the scoping opinion will provide comment on the scope of the ES and the co-ordination with HRA matters.

### **Approach to drawings**

The Applicant explained that due to the linear nature of the scheme, if plans are submitted at a scale of 1:2500 there are likely to be over 5000 plans included with the scoping report. The Inspectorate explained that in respect of a scoping opinion request, the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 require the Applicant to provide 'a plan sufficient to identify the land' with the scoping request. If additional plans are submitted with the scoping opinion request to assist understanding of the proposed development and any aspect/matters to be scoped in/out of the ES then that would be helpful, and these can be submitted at a scale considered most suitable by the Applicant.

The Inspectorate explained that the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 require plans, drawings or sections to be provided at a scale not smaller than 1:2500. However, the Inspectorate advised that they would take a pragmatic approach towards the scale of plans in this particular instance. However, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider whether using a

smaller scale will hinder landowners in seeing how the proposed development affects their land.

The Applicant advised that they will not be using a centre line in their drawings. They will use an indicative line, and where the new line is in close proximity to the existing one will be looking to maintain a 3 metre separation distance between the existing oil pipeline and the new oil pipeline.

## **Section 132**

The Applicant advised that the proposed development is likely to interact with special category land and therefore s132 of PA2008 is likely to be engaged. The Applicant explained that s132(3) applies to this proposal, and that their initial view is that the land when burdened with the order right, will be no less advantageous. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant of the updates to s132 of the Planning Act 2008 in accordance with the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013; therefore, there is no longer a requirement for a certificate. However, the relevant matters will be assessed as part of the Examination and decision stages.

## **Compulsory Acquisition**

The Applicant advised that they will be seeking to acquire land by negotiation, but that the relevant powers will be sought in case negotiation fails. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to keep records of this as the Examining Authority is likely to want evidence of this in the Examination.

## **Draft documents**

Discussion turned to how much information was necessary in the Funding Statement. The Inspectorate advised as much information be included as possible and a draft can be sent for review ahead of submission of the application. The Inspectorate advised that drafts of the Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum, plans, Book of Reference, Consultation Report and Statement of Reasons can also be reviewed, together with the draft HRA report. The Inspectorate does not review draft Environmental Statements (ES) due to the size of such documents, but can comment on the approach and methodology to the ES.

## **AoB**

The Inspectorate advised that its advice notes are currently being updated in light of the General Data Protection Regulations. Applicants should ensure they advise people what they will be doing with their data and do not send the Inspectorate any unnecessary data.

It was proposed that the next meeting would be held mid-August 2018.