

Ashford

Background

Since the existing pipeline was built, the areas it crosses have changed dramatically. Communities, new homes and businesses have been created and roads such as the M25 have been opened. This means that in some places it is not possible to install the replacement pipeline alongside the existing ones, and new challenges (such as new services put in the ground near to the existing pipeline) have meant we have had to consider alternative routes.

At our design refinements consultation in early 2019 we set out an alternative route for the pipeline which went along Ashford Road. This alternative was proposed after feedback from the preferred route consultation in autumn 2018 highlighted issues about installing the pipeline along the narrow residential roads in Laleham and raised concerns about the reservoir and existing utilities from an engineering and logistics perspective. The alternative route was suggested by several respondents to the preferred route consultation. A construction compound off Ashford Road and adjacent to New Farm Close was also added.

Within our refined order limits presented in early 2019, we also included the existing access gate into Fordbridge Park on the western end of Celia Crescent. This would only be used to access the north west corner of Fordbridge Park, which we would use as a working area for a trenchless crossing. This crossing enables us to install the pipeline underneath the Staines Bypass, River Ash and Woodthorpe Road and would avoid the need to disrupt traffic on either of those roads, or impact flow of the river.

Our selection

For our application for development consent we have selected the route we presented at the design refinements consultation. We recognise the use of Ashford Road may cause some disruption to residents and road users however it is less likely to impact on nearby homes and residents when compared to our previous options and will remove the risks involved in installing alongside the reservoir. We will not work in the pavement on Ashford Road, so there should not be any impact to pedestrians. We will work closely with impacted residents to reduce disruption where we can.

However, we have removed the compound on Ashford Road from the final route. This was in response to concerns about its potential impact on nearby residential properties.

Access

We will work closely with residents to reduce disruption. As our project develops we will be able to provide more information on how long we are likely to be working in your area, and during installation our teams will work with you to understand any particular access issues for your property.

Noise and working hours

As our project develops we will clearly set out our working methods and how we will reduce potential installation impacts. We will prepare a Code of Construction Practice, as per the standard industry approach used by utility companies to disruption, and a Construction Environmental Management Plan, which will set out our commitment to communities along the route.

The Code of Construction Practice and the Construction Environmental Management Plan will describe methods to reduce impacts on people and the environment. This may include measures such as minimising evening and weekend working hours and noise levels, including using low-noise equipment, carefully managing traffic to reduce disruption and delays and outlining how we will manage footpath closures and diversions.



Once installed, the replacement pipeline will be buried and a quiet neighbour.



The access point to the park from Celia Crescent remains within the order limits (the outer limits for the project, including the route and any temporary working areas that would be required to install the pipeline). We believe this is the most appropriate way to access Fordbridge Park and have carefully considered the balance between reducing the impact on Celia Crescent and keeping the installation time and impacts to a minimum within Fordbridge Park. By using the existing road and gate for access, we can avoid significant tree removal within the park, which would be required were we to access the north west corner of the park from the eastern part, adjacent to the A308. We are aware that Celia Crescent is a narrow, residential road and would plan to keep large vehicle movements to a minimum.

Timescales

We expect it will take three to six months to install the pipeline along Ashford Road, with our work to carry out a trenchless crossing into Fordbridge Park meaning we are working at the top of Ashford Road for a further three months. The work to install the pipeline along the road would move along in small sections and would not require a complete road closure. We would keep the installation area to a minimum to make sure that there will always be at least one lane open.

We expect to use the access on Celia Crescent for several months.

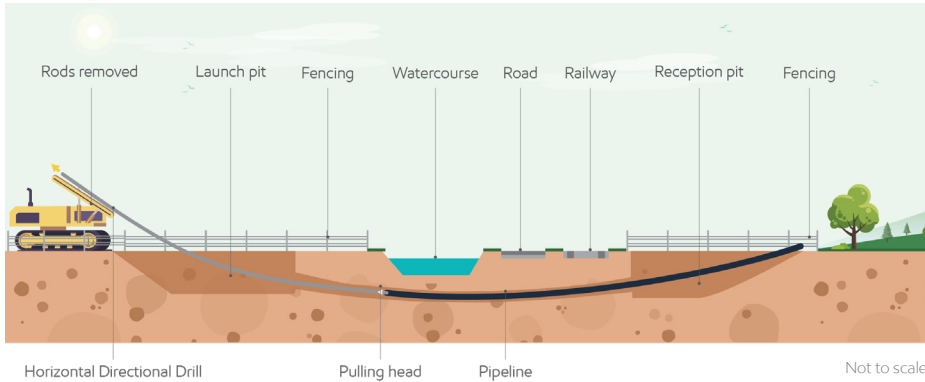
Safety

For Esso, safety is paramount. Fuel pipelines are a safe, secure and low-impact method of moving fuel over long distances. We safely operate more than 700km (435 miles) of pipelines in the UK.

Esso has an excellent safety record and has invested in advanced systems needed to monitor our pipelines. We are confident the systems, controls, processes and materials used in development and installation will enable safe installation and operation of the replacement pipeline.

Pipelines are a safe, secure and low impact method of transporting fuel to some of the UK's busiest airports.

Trenchless technique



Open-cut trench technique

