

Queen Elizabeth Park, Farnborough

This information sheet sets out our proposals for the replacement underground pipeline route through Queen Elizabeth Park in Farnborough. This is part of our application for development consent for the full 97km of replacement pipeline, which is currently (October 2019) being examined by the Planning Inspectorate.

Why are we replacing the pipeline?

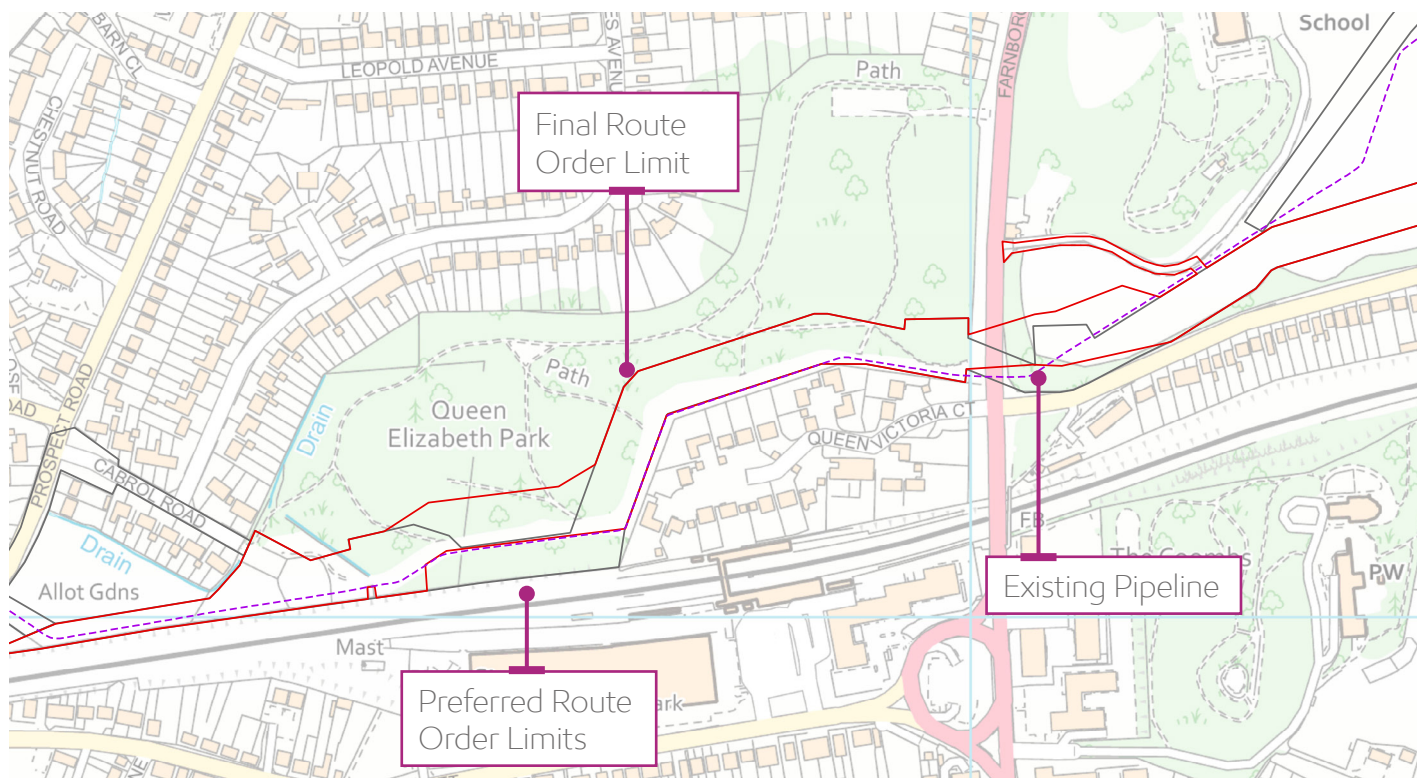
The existing pipeline was built between 1969 and 1972, and currently runs through the park. It is working adequately, but the need for inspections and maintenance is increasing. It is just like your car: you reach a point where it makes more sense to replace it.

Route development

Farnborough is one of the most complex areas on our route. In developing the route, we have considered many factors such as public open spaces, wildlife and habitats, protected sites, private property, railways, and roads. Following extensive public consultation, we have selected a route that balances the environmental and community aspects in this residential area.

At the Preferred Route Consultation in September/October 2018, we consulted on a route which broadly follows the existing pipeline and footpath – travelling along the southern edge of Queen Elizabeth Park.

Consultation feedback highlighted the importance of the trees within the park. In response, we made a project commitment to narrow working through the park. This means we would only use a maximum of 15 metres width within the 30 metre Order Limits (Order Limits are the outer limits for the project and define the area we are seeking permission to use). The final route in our application is mostly the same as at statutory consultation, except for a very minor tweak at the south west boundary, which enabled us to make a commitment to narrow working.

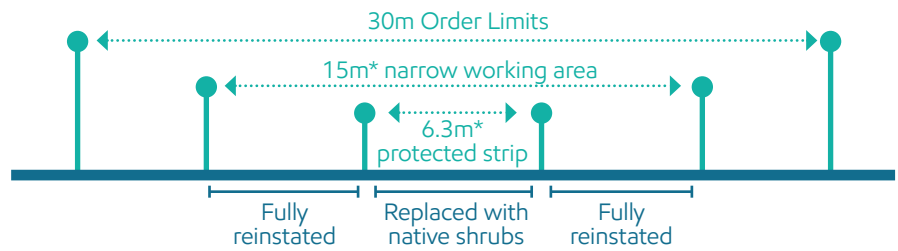


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Installing through the park

We plan to use a trenchless technique, such as a directional drill, to install from Stake Lane to the western end of Queen Elizabeth Park, as this would enable us to maintain the flow of traffic along Prospect Road during installation and avoid the allotments.



* The 15m working area and 6.3m protected strip may be placed anywhere within the 30m Order Limits and is dependent on local features.

The drill pit would be tucked in the corner of the park, with a construction compound placed behind the car park to keep materials and equipment safe. The works in this area would require the temporary suspension of the car park and the temporary removal of the children's play area to create a safe working area and support installation through the park.

From this south west corner we would use open-cut trench techniques to install the pipeline along the southern boundary of the park, with the aim of installing near to the existing pipeline and near to the path.

As the route meets the south east corner of the park, there would be a drill pit to enable trenchless installation under the A325 to reach the grounds of Farnborough Hill School, reducing the impact of installation on the wider community. We would maintain safe pedestrian and cycle access from Cabrol Road to the A325 by providing a diverted path to the north of the route.

Our application – what we've asked for

We are seeking permission to install a 30cm steel pipeline within an area defined by our Order Limits. This area is typically 30 metres wide for the project. However, to reduce the impact on trees we have committed to only using a maximum 15-metre-wide working area for the open-cut installation within the park.

- To reduce impacts on trees we would try to install near the path, which broadly follows the existing pipelines.
- We are committed to full reinstatement following installation, with native shrubs being planted within the six-metre-wide protective strip over the pipeline. The reinstatement of the car park would include resurfacing.
- We are committed to replacing the children's play area and, with the agreement of the Council, providing a temporary play area during installation.
- We intend to maintain access for pedestrians and cyclists through the park by facilitating a path through the northern section of the park.
- We have committed to trenchless installation under the A325 and Prospect Road.
- We have included a temporary compound in the park to facilitate installation within the park.
- We would communicate works in advance to the community and park users, and this would be part of our community liaison plan commitment.

How long will it take?

Open-cut installation is less complicated than trenchless and so installation through the park would take less time than the trenchless installation techniques taking place in both the south west and south east corner of the park, as these areas are more challenging.

Our current estimate is that we may be working within the park for up to 12 months. However, this would not necessarily be continuous due to the different techniques we would be using, which require separate machinery and would have variable periods for installation.

After installation

We would only fence off areas within the park while they are needed for installation. After this, we would start to return the area to a suitable park environment. A new playground would be installed, the path reinstated and native trees planted to replace those we have removed, where possible.

In the six-metre-wide protected strip of land above the pipeline, we would plant smaller native shrubs. We do this to restrict what can take place within the strip of land that lies over the pipeline, in order to prevent damage to the pipeline once it has been laid.

Once the pipeline has been installed, people would be able to use the park as before with no impact from the pipeline's day-to-day operation.

Trees

We have committed to using a maximum working width of 15 metres in Queen Elizabeth Park to reduce impacts on the park and trees. This commitment can be found in Chapter 16 of our Environmental Statement submitted as part of our application for development consent.

Our aim is to avoid removing trees where possible. We cannot yet confirm the exact number of trees we may need to remove because the detailed construction design takes place after our application has been submitted and much nearer the start of installation – which we expect to start in 2021.

Environmental Investment Programme

We are working with Rushmoor Borough Council to agree on a number of voluntary environmental investment activities, over and above the reinstatement that we have already committed to do. We have discussed with the Council a proposal to improve the woodland trail within the park by planting wildflowers along the six-metre-wide protected strip.


Next steps

The application process is now being managed by the Planning Inspectorate and the latest updates about our application can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/southampton-to-london-pipeline-project/>

You can view our interactive map of the route at: www.slpproject.co.uk

We are still on hand to answer your queries about the project and you can get in touch with us on the below details.

 info@slpproject.co.uk

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