

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Information Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Regulatory Committee
<b>Date:</b>	12 February 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in Hampshire
<b>Report From:</b>	Head of Strategic Planning

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#### **Purpose of this Report**

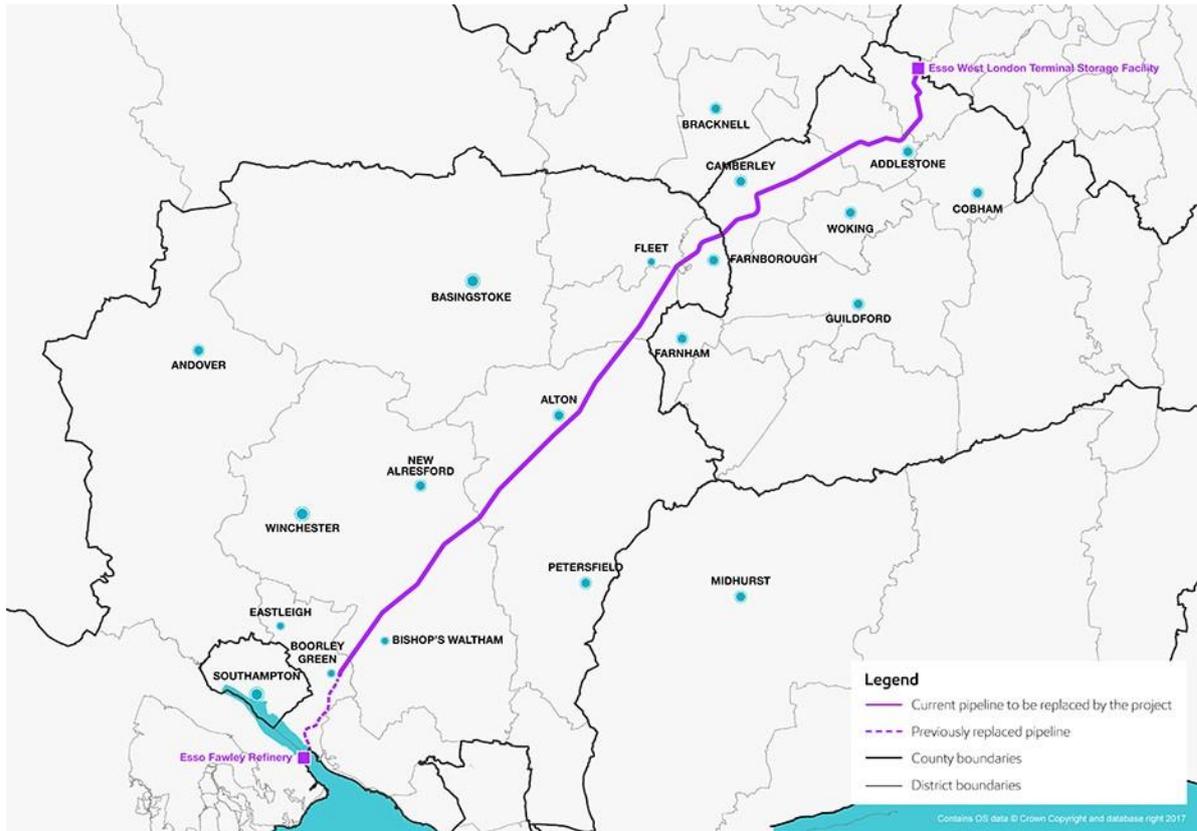
1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the committee on the current Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects that are planned within Hampshire.

#### **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in Hampshire**

2. There are four projects currently registered as NSIPs that are located within Hampshire:
  - Southampton to London aviation fuel Pipeline;
  - AQUIND Interconnector linking the National Grid with France;
  - M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme; and
  - Wheelabrator Harewood Waste-to-Energy Facility.

#### Southampton to London Pipeline

3. Esso is looking to replace 90km (56 miles) of its existing 105km (65 miles) aviation fuel pipeline that runs from Fawley Refinery in the New Forest to the West London Terminal storage facility in Hounslow.
4. 10km of the pipeline between Hamble and Boorley Green, in Eastleigh Borough, has been replaced and so this proposal involves the pipeline between Boorley Green and Hounslow. A new facility will be required close to Boorley Green to enable inspection of the replacement pipeline and previously replaced pipeline between Hamble and Boorley Green.

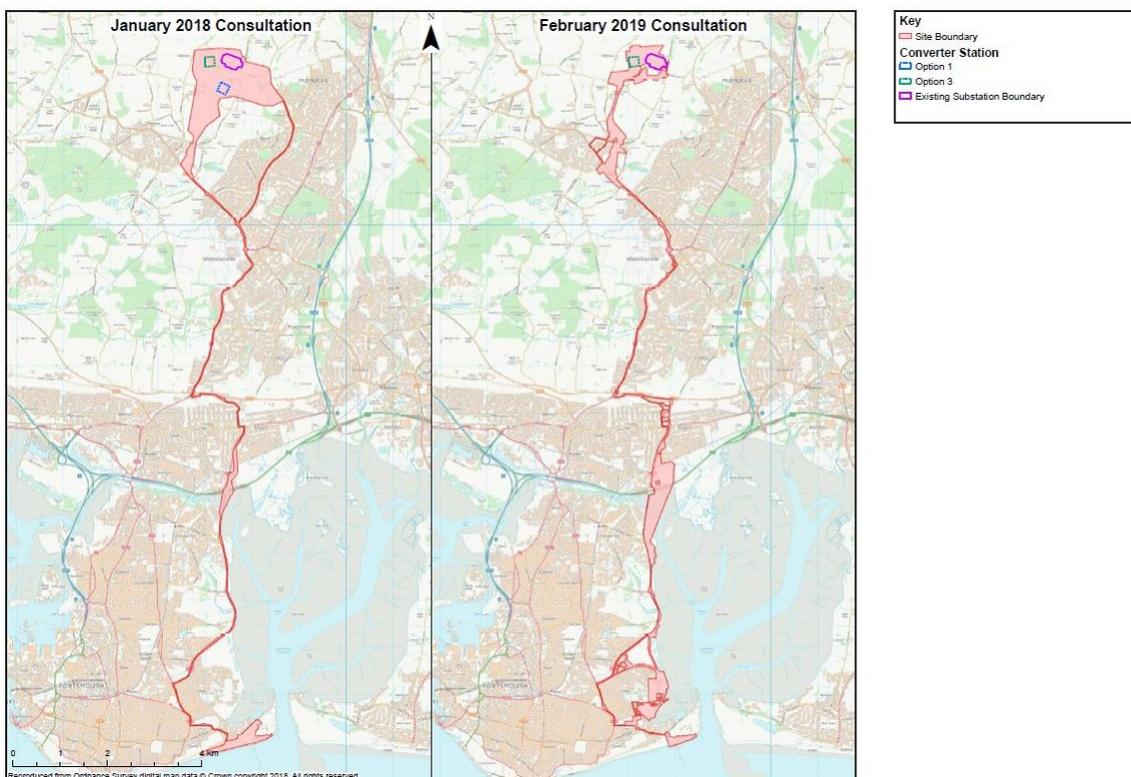


5. The application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 14 May 2019 and was accepted on 11 June 2019. The Examination began on 9 October 2019 and will close on 9 April 2020.
6. The County Council has attended a number of the hearings to make representations primarily relating to traffic management of the works, and the impact of the works upon public rights of way and surface water drainage. The main concerns identified to date have been relating to the wording of the Development Consent Order and ensuring that it makes provisions for the applicant to comply with necessary procedures and processes in relation to undertaking works on the highway and in relation to ordinary water courses. Surrey County Council has also made representations on these issues and between the two authorities good progress has been made in agreeing a way forward with the applicant.
7. A Statement of Common Ground is currently being negotiated with the applicant to set out areas where agreement has been reached. The deadline for submission of the completed statement is 5 March 2020. If there is a need for any of the County Council's requirements to be secured by way of a planning obligation, these must be agreed and signed by 2 April 2020.
8. Once the examination has closed the Planning Inspectorate has three months within which to prepare a report and a recommendation for the Secretary of

State to consider. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make a decision as to whether to approve or refuse the application. A decision should therefore be made by 9 October 2020.

### AQUIND Interconnector

9. AQUIND Ltd is proposing to construct and operate an electricity interconnector between France and the UK, with a new High Voltage Direct Current cable landing at Eastney Portsmouth and a new converter station in Lovedean, north of Waterlooville.



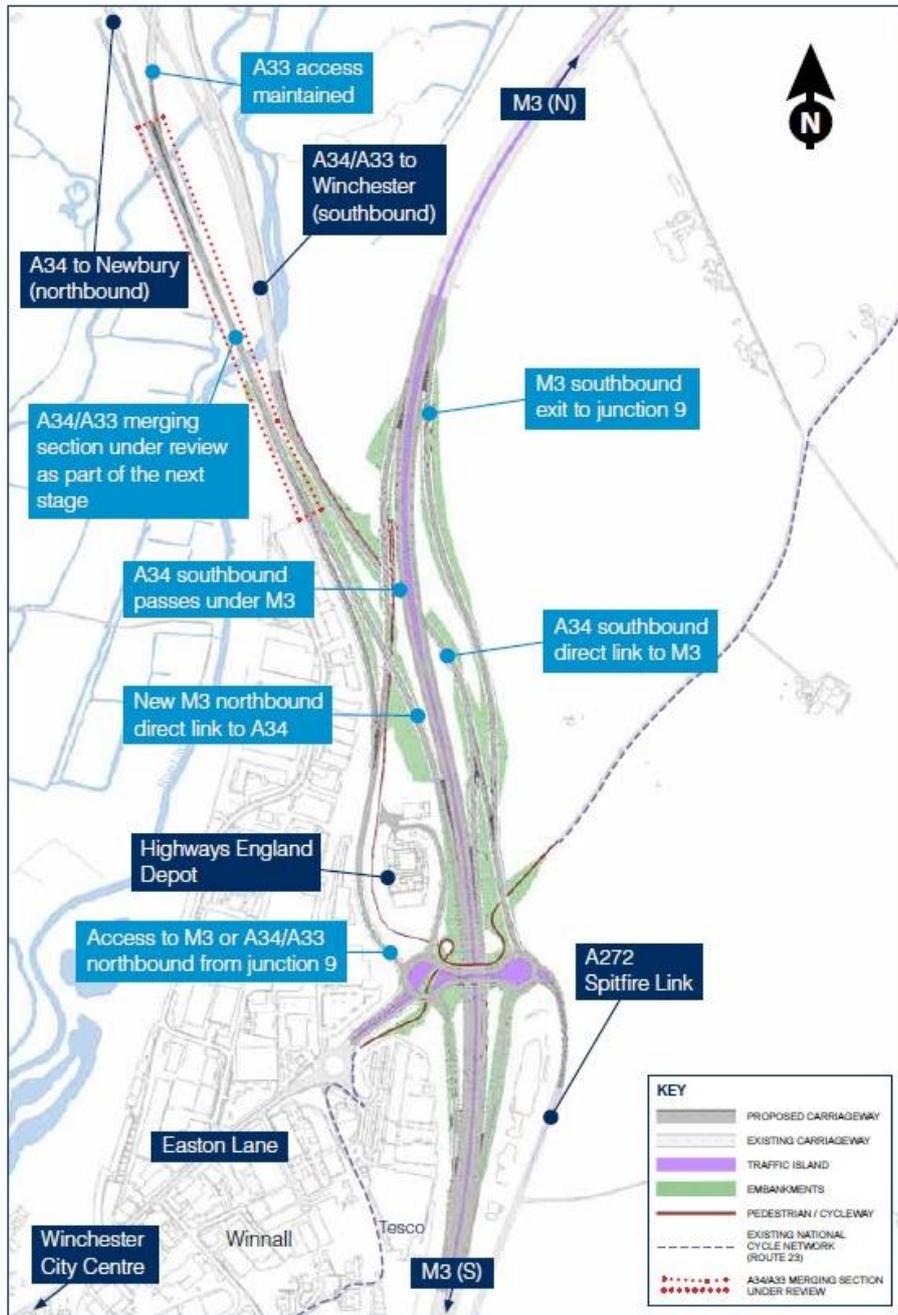
10. The application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 14 November 2019 and was accepted on 12 December 2019. The deadline for submitting relevant representations is 19 February 2020 and so officers of the County Council are currently assessing the application in order to be able to identify the key issues for the Examining Authority by that date.
11. Meetings have been held with the applicant and their consultants to discuss the initial issues identified; these are primarily relating to the impact of the works on the operation of the highway network and public transport, public rights of way and surface water drainage. The local planning authorities and South Downs National Park have raised concern about the scale of the

converter station at Lovedean and the impact that this will have on the landscape character of the area.

12. The County Council has been meeting regularly with the other local planning authorities involved with this application (East Hampshire District Council, Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park and Winchester City Council) to discuss common issues. It is hoped that joint topic-based Statements of Common Ground can be prepared so that the local authorities can minimise duplication of work and make best use of resources during this process.
13. It is expected that the Examination will commence by May 2020, with a decision expected in May 2021.

### M3 Junction 9

14. Highways England is proposing to substantially improve the junction of the M3 with the A34 (Junction 9 at Winnall, Winchester) in order to increase capacity, enhance journey time reliability and enable the development proposed within Local Plans.
15. The scheme would see the existing roundabout replaced with a dumbbell roundabout, conversion of the M3 south of Junction 9 to a dual three lane motorway, and realignment of slip roads. This will provide a grade-separated free-flow route for traffic travelling from the M3 to the A34 northbound, and vice versa for vehicles traveling from the A34 to the M3 southbound.
16. The applicant carried out a statutory public pre-application consultation from 2 July 2019 to 27 August 2019. The consultation was on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which set out the information that the applicant had compiled to date on the environmental impacts of the proposed development. The report was not a full Environmental Statement, it highlighted areas where more work or specific studies would be required but did include details of the junction design, facilities for walking and cycling, landscaping and ecology.
17. The [County Council's response](#) provided detailed comments to the applicant on the content of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, and is available to view via the planning pages on Hantsweb.



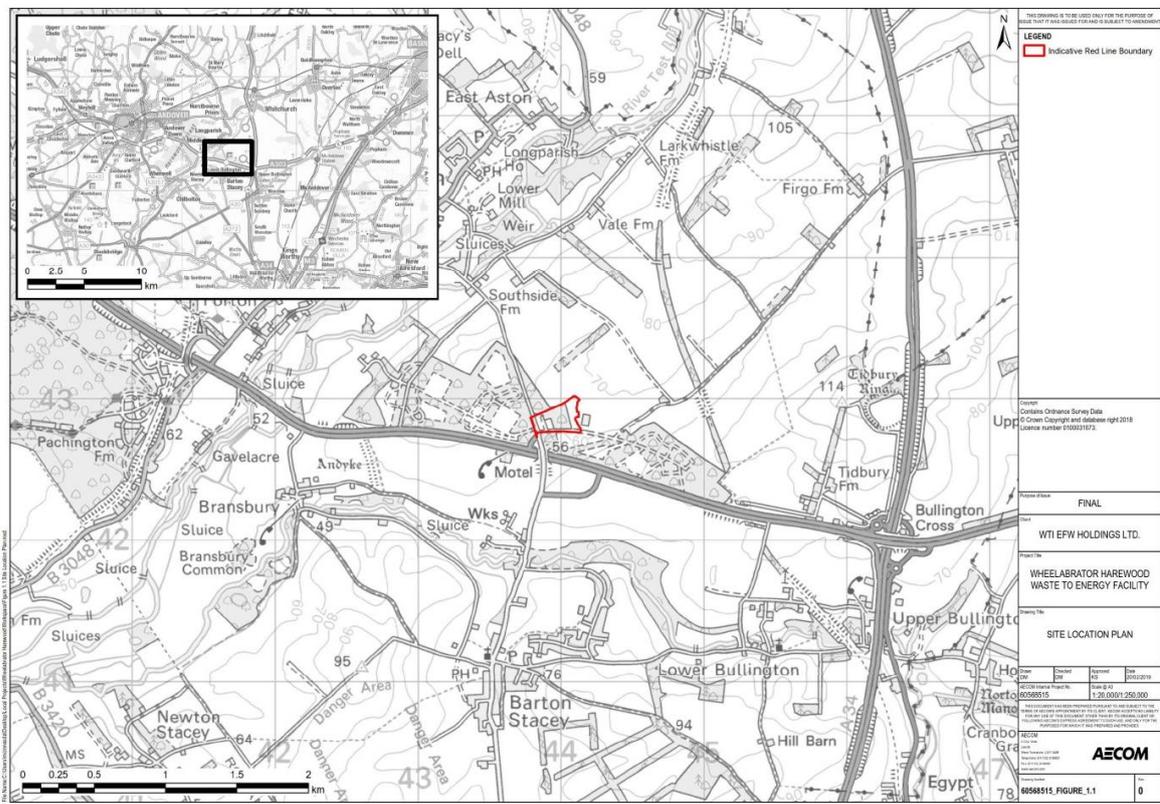
18. Overall, the County Council was supportive of the improvement scheme which will seek to address the existing issues of congestion, noise and air quality impacts associated with Junction 9. However, it was noted that there are some detailed points which will need addressing as the Development Consent Order application is progressed.
  
19. The County Council has requested a meeting with Highways England to discuss the junction design and some of the issues raised in the consultation. Highways England has indicated that it is working through the comments

raised during the consultation and amending the scheme accordingly so will be in a position to meet once this work has been completed.

20. It was expected that an application would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate before the end of March, however this is now looking unlikely.

### Wheelabrator Harewood Waste to Energy Facility

21. Wheelabrator Harewood is proposing a new Waste to Energy Facility adjacent to the A303 Enviropark north of Barton Stacey in Test Valley Borough. The facility will generate up to 65 Megawatts gross electrical output through the treatment of waste and waste derived fuels from various sources. The maximum capacity of the facility is 500,000 tonnes of waste per annum.



22. The applicant carried out a statutory public pre-application consultation from 1 November to 12 December 2019. The consultation was on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which set out the information that the applicant had compiled to date on the environmental impacts of the proposed development. The report was not a full Environmental Statement, it highlighted areas where more work or specific studies would be required but did include some details about design of the building, traffic, ecology, landscape, archaeology and rights of way.

23. The [County Council's response](#) provided detailed comments to the applicant on the content of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, and is available to view via the planning pages of Hantsweb.
24. The response summarised that the County Council considers the proposal to be contrary to Policies 5 (Protection of the countryside) and 29 (Locations and sites for waste management) of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013), and it also considers that the landscape and visual impacts of the scheme cannot be appropriately mitigated and therefore the location of the facility in the open countryside is not appropriate.
25. The applicant is currently working through the comments received during the consultation and is expected to submit an application in March 2020.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None