

**Report on the Impacts on Access from the proposed Esso Pipeline Southampton to Heathrow**

- 1.0. The proposed routes shown on the confidential map will impact on numerous rights of way including several long distance promoted routes and the South Downs Way.
- 2.0. South of Kilmeston village is the area of most impact on rights of way where the Wayfarers Walk and the Monarchs Way are not just crossed by the pipeline route but the route follows the line of these paths for some distance. I would expect HCC to be giving clear guidance on how they would want any closures and diversions to be managed and what mitigation and enhancements they would be seeking. They may wish to secure funds for upgrading of paths and delivery of any relevant schemes in their RoWIP. This would be additional to reinstatement of disturbed paths which would be required as a minimum.
- 3.0. Pasted below is a link to the Rampion Off Shore Wind Farm website pages which cover the management of rights of way closures during the construction period. This level of information which is available to the public seems to have worked well alongside detailed on site notices.
- 4.0. During construction the timetable should take account of any major events planned for the National Trail or on other rights of way ensuring any diversions (where unavoidable) are able to accommodate event numbers and are well signed.  
  
<https://www.rampionoffshore.com/wind-farm/construction-progress/onshore-progress/>
- 5.0. Open Access Land affected is just the Stephen's Castle Down site as far as I can tell at this stage. There are no special requirements/permissions associated with utilities closing parts of Open Access Land. Natural England have previously confirmed that statutory undertakers are able to close access land temporarily. They are however obliged to inform the public of any closure via signage at the access points. We would expect to be informed of any such closure so that we could manage any queries from the public and direct them to the scheme contractors website.

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