

Chalk Slurry Pipeline Environmental Impact Assessment Rugby Cement

Rugby Cement's existing 92 km pipeline for transporting chalk slurry from its quarry in the Chilterns to its processing plant in Rugby needed replacement due to an increase in demand as it approached the end of its reliable life. Entec's detailed knowledge of the planning process enabled its consultants to confirm that the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment was not mandatory, however Entec identified a range of cost and project management benefits that a comprehensive EIA would provide for Rugby Cement.

Rugby Cement and their project management sub-consultants wanted to minimise costs and possible delays caused by potential environmental constraints along the route. Entec assembled a team of in-house specialists to undertake a comprehensive 'scoping' report to identify the principal potential constraints with regard to impacts upon flora and fauna, landscape, contaminated land, road crossings, groundwater and surface water resources, cultural heritage sites and temporary disruption of farming activities and public rights of way. Where potential issues were identified, Entec worked in close co-operation with the client and its project management sub-consultants to develop effective mitigation measures. These were concisely set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) and dealt with issues such as the preferred access routes for contractors, location of compounds and minor re-alignments to prevent damage to statutorily protected badger setts. The ES was then issued as a contract document to the tenderers to ensure that the successful contractor made suitable provision for the potential environmental costs in their tender.

The non-technical summary of the ES was issued to all site foremen. Following liaison with Rugby Cement and the contractor's environmental manager, the information gathered during the surveys was analysed to provide further operational savings during the construction period. This was achieved by the production of environmental summary



Preparation of EIA and ongoing construction environmental monitoring for 92km pipeline

maps for the contractor's use in the field and hedgerow replacement maps. As ecology and cultural heritage were identified as the key potential environmental issues that could delay the replacement contract, Entec designated a project ecologist and a project archaeologist for the construction periods. They liaised closely with the contractor to pre-empt potential problems and liaised with the relevant statutory authorities where environmental issues arose e.g. accidental spillage of materials. This ensured that there were no delays to the programme with no resultant costs to the client.

As the construction works were undertaken over three successive summers, Entec ensured that the information remained up to date by undertaking a review each spring prior to the re-commencement of site works. This allowed the identification of potential problems such as new badger setts or newly identified areas of contaminated land or designations. In this manner it was

discovered that a colony of Great Crested Newts were present in one area to be crossed by the pipeline. As Great Crested Newts are a legally protected species their presence had the potential to severely delay the pipeline works. Entec was able to use the experience of its ecologists to develop a remediation strategy with English Nature and the (then) DETR. Detailed negotiations led to the issue of a licence to allow the implementation of a large-scale trapping and removal programme ensuring there were no unnecessary delays and that Rugby Cement avoided the risk of heavy fines that would have been imposed had any damage been inflicted upon the newts.

Entec's inputs during the planning and implementation of this complex, large-scale project enabled Rugby Cement to efficiently undertake the pipeline replacement that was a key milestone in the modernisation of its entire operations at its Rugby site.

