

**TOP SECRET WW2 FUEL PIPELINES IN BRITAIN ARE STILL CLASSIFIED AS TOP SECRET TODAY  
EVEN THOUGH SOME SECTIONS ARE VISIBLE ABOVE GROUND**

**479**



**SINCE IT IS STILL CLASSIFIED AS TOP SECRET THERE IS NO PUBLIC MAP THAT SHOWS WHERE  
THE 1500 MILES OF PIPELINE GOES. – SOME ABOVE AND SOME BELOW THE GROUND**



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*An extensive network of WW2 pipeline systems covers more than 1,500 miles and spans all of the United Kingdom has been highlighted in recent years.*

The pipeline that spans the entire United Kingdom was, and still is, *treated as Top Secret as it carries fuel from refineries to airports.*

It was built just before World War II and has been expanded and maintained as it is still in use today.

The military authorities were aware that air superiority would be vital during World War II, and building, maintaining, and supporting the RAF was given high priority in planning.

One of the logistical problems faced by the Air Ministry was the supply of enough fuel to support the various air bases around the United Kingdom.

In 1936, the idea that a pipeline is commissioned was mooted as the Air Ministry found it would be logically impossible to distribute fuel to all the RAF airbases.

The RAF only had reserves of 8,000 tons of fuel, enough to provide for 10 days of flight operations.



This led to instructions being given to building storage depots across the country. These depots would have partially buried tanks to protect against attack from the air. They would collectively store 800,000 tons of fuel.



*Pre-WW2 white marker, with post-WW2 yellow/black post.*

The creation of these depots was a step in the right direction. However, there was still the issue of getting the fuel from the refinery to the depots and from the depots to the airfields.

Transporting the fuel above ground was too dangerous and exposed the tankers and the road network to aerial attack.

In response to this, the Government Pipelines and Storage System (GPSS) was commissioned, with the sole purpose of distributing aviation fuel and petrol from Petroleum Storage Depots to airports across the United Kingdom.



*WW2 Pipelines. GPSS marker plate, near Heydon, Cambridgeshire, Great Britain. The marker text: S/SW shows marker is on the Sandy-Saffron Walden link.*

Tom Scott found a part of the network in Gloucestershire in 2015. He was fascinated by what he saw and started to research the system and its history.

In researching the history of the pipeline, he found some fascinating facts. One such point was that the pipe was built mainly at night, so enemy reconnaissance aircraft could not photograph the construction work.

After the war, the usefulness of the network did not diminish. It was maintained and expanded to the current 1,500 miles of pipes, pumping stations, and storage facilities that connect fuel refineries to seaports and the refineries to airports and RAF bases across the United Kingdom.

The pipeline is vital for all airports and RAF bases. All planes being refueled within the United Kingdom, both civilian and military, are serviced from the pipeline.

So important was this network that until it was privatized and taken over by Company Logistica de Hidrocarburos (CLH), the RAF regularly flew sorties over the length of the lines to ensure that there were no problems.

He discovered that the strategic network of pipelines was classified as Top Secret during the war years. That classification still exists today, and the question that is being asked is; how do you balance the need for secrecy as this is a strategic resource and the safety of the public as the pipeline may well travel under residential areas. Mr. Scott says, in his YouTube video, that the British government refuses to discuss the pipeline, and there is no public map of exactly where the pipeline runs. (See video at end of article)

In 2010 a request was made to the British government under the Freedom of Information Act to try and establish exactly where the pipeline runs. This request was turned down, for national security and defense reasons, so the actual layout remains a mystery.



*The former Berwick Wood Petroleum Supply Depot (PSD), located in Berwick, Gloucestershire, was one of the original additional storage facilities built to connect to the GPSS*

Other researchers have attempted to map the system, but there are few places where the pipeline emerges from underground, so it is difficult to know where it runs.

There are markers above ground, but these are small, and it is unlikely that everyone knows what they mean. These little signs may say something to a professional surveyor.

Still, to the average man in the street, they would not be so obvious, and no one would think to examine the ground under their feet before starting to dig.

The danger that this poses is easy to understand. If people do not know where this pipeline is, what is to stop an unsuspecting contractor from digging through the line and spilling thousands of gallons of volatile fuel?

Not only would this endanger the surrounding community, but it could bring a major airport to a standstill.



If the government insists that this remain a secret, it must also assume responsibility for any damage caused by the pipeline.

**THE VIDEO MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE**

**TO VIEW THE BELOW VIDEO COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0kfbPposAg>

**BELOW IS THE COMMENTARY POSTED WITH THE VIDEO**

**(BASICALLY THE SAME AS THE ARTICLE)**

One of the great British engineering projects of the 20th Century is completely hidden from view, traversing hundreds of miles across the country. There's no trace of it except for a series of small holes on the tarmacs of the UK's major airports, including London Heathrow.

What lies beneath is a fuel network of colossal scale – one which carries aviation fuel from the refineries where it's unloaded straight to the aircraft waiting to be topped up. This is how it was during WW2 and to stop the enemy from bombing our fuel reserves the government decided to bury our fuel tanks and pipes underground. It was created not with flights to far-flung destinations in mind, but for the very survival of the UK. And the exact location of the network is still not publicly known.

The origins of this underground network date back to before World War Two. A secret pipeline was built between Liverpool's Stanlow Refinery to Bristol's Avonmouth Docks and then fed into the national road and rail distribution networks. In September 1939, war broke out, and the need for a protected network became more pressing. As the war progressed and Germany occupied Holland, Belgium, and France, Britain became more vulnerable to enemy bombers. There was also the need to send fuel from the western ports through to the airfields in the east of the UK. But sending it via the roads and rail made the precious fuel far too vulnerable to aerial attack. The solution was to bury a pipeline – safe from enemy bombers. The project – the Government Pipelines and Storage System (GPSS) – was carried out with the utmost secrecy; the pipeline channels were even dug at night so that enemy reconnaissance aircraft couldn't see any interesting activity. The network ended up being able to supply fuel to all the airfields used by British and American bombers that carried out raids over Germany and occupied Europe, and was also used by the Allied armies that landed in France in June 1944, which was called Pluto (Pipeline Under The Ocean).

Officially, this network is still a state secret. That's even though in 2015 the GPSS was sold to a Spanish company and is now known as the CLH Pipeline System. An approximate map of the

pipeline can be seen in Scott's video and on the CLH website, but the exact position has not been made public.