

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project Consultation Report

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Executive Summary

1. Southern Water Services Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') is developing plans for new, essential ways of sourcing, treating and supplying water across its region. These plans are being undertaken by the Applicant to address the sustainability objectives of reduced abstractions on Hampshire's two main rivers, the Test and Itchen, and ensuring a resilient water supply for the Applicant's customers, especially during times of drought. One such new source is the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (the Project). This Consultation Report sets out the way consultation has been planned and undertaken, in full compliance with the relevant legislative requirements and guidance about pre-application procedure, as the Project has been developed.
2. The Project involves using advanced treatment techniques to turn treated wastewater into purified recycled water, which would then be pumped into Havant Thicket Reservoir before being transferred to Otterbourne Water Supply Works (WSW), where it would be treated to drinking water standards and sent into supply. The Project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of a Water Recycling Plant (WRP) and associated pumping stations, together with a network of pipelines, largely underground, linking Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works to the WRP, the WRP to Bedhampton Springs (connecting into pipelines being delivered by Portsmouth Water between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir), and the WRP to Otterbourne WSW. The Project also includes Above Ground Plant (AGP) in the form of Intermediate Pumping Stations and Break Pressure Tanks located along the Pipeline routes between the WRP and Otterbourne WSW.
3. The Applicant's emerging Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP24) continues to identify the Project as an urgent and essential part of the infrastructure solution required to meet Hampshire's water resources deficit, by enabling the transfer of approximately 90 megalitres per day of new water resources from Havant Thicket Reservoir to Otterbourne WSW. This is consistent with the selection of the Project as part of the Water Resources South East (WRSE) Regional Plan which is a strategic regional water resources planning alliance covering the south-east of England. It brings together water companies and regulators to plan long-term water supply and demand at a regional scale. The Project will address a critical and urgent need to plan and develop new resilient and sustainable water resources for the Hampshire area in order to maintain supplies to customers and protect the environment. The Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) directed on 31 May 2022 under Section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) that the Project is to be treated as a project of national significance for which development consent is required. This direction was varied by the Secretary of State on 18 November 2024.
4. The Consultation Report sets out the pre-application consultation activities undertaken for the Project, comprising both non-statutory and statutory consultation, and is submitted in support of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Statutory consultation was undertaken through multiple consultation stages (Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring

2026 Consultations) in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Applicant has also had regard to relevant government guidance, and advice by the Planning Inspectorate relevant to pre-application consultation. Earlier non-statutory consultations (Public Consultation 2021 and Summer 2022 Consultation) were also informed by the principles underpinning this legislative framework, guidance and advice.

5. All consultation was undertaken through a combination of public consultation events, digital and printed consultation materials, stakeholder engagement working groups, and statutory consultation with prescribed bodies, local authorities, persons with an interest in land, local interest groups, and local communities. This structured and iterative approach enabled stakeholders to understand the Project, consider preliminary environmental information, provide informed feedback, and engage with the Applicant as the proposals developed. In developing the Project, the Applicant has had regard to all consultation responses received, in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. Each response received at each consultation stage was carefully collated, analysed, and triaged by technical experts to enable the Applicant to have regard to all feedback received.
6. Feedback and engagement outcomes have been carefully reviewed and, where appropriate, informed changes to the Project's design, construction approach, and mitigation measures. The consultation process has therefore played a key role in shaping the Project, helping to refine proposals, address local concerns, and improve environmental and community outcomes.
7. Alongside activities undertaken for non-statutory and statutory consultations, the Applicant maintained ongoing engagement with stakeholders throughout the development of the Project up to the DCO application, extending beyond the non-statutory, statutory, and targeted consultation periods. The Applicant has documented engagement with stakeholder groups throughout the Project lifecycle. Detailed information about engagement is provided within the Statement of Engagement submitted with the DCO application. To keep key stakeholders updated on Project progress, support the evolving design, and facilitate timely discussions around emerging opportunities and concerns, this ongoing engagement was carried out through a range of channels. This included bespoke briefings and established stakeholder working groups. The Consultation Report also summarises the ongoing engagement being undertaken with landowners throughout the DCO pre-application process. This wider engagement is distinct from the statutory consultation undertaken under the PA 2008 and does not form part of the consultation compliance relied upon for the purposes of the Consultation Report.
8. The chapters in the Consultation Report describe the consultation undertaken for the Project across its development. The report explains the legal and policy context and the overall consultation strategy. It also summarises the consultation activity carried out at different stages, the feedback received from stakeholders and communities, and how that feedback has informed the evolution of the Project. It demonstrates how consultation has been conducted in line with statutory requirements, pre-application guidance, advice and best practice.

9. Following the non-statutory Public Consultation 2021, feedback and an extensive options appraisal determined that the initial desalination proposal was the least preferred option, and the current combination of water transfer and water recycling was identified as the new preferred solution. This represents a key example of how consultation feedback contributed to the Project's strategic direction. Feedback from the non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation helped to refine the proposed Pipeline routes and design of the Project.
10. In response to feedback from the statutory Summer 2024 Consultation and following further Project development, updated environmental water quality information and refinements to the design of the Project were shared at the statutory Spring 2025 Consultation. Feedback from this consultation was then considered in the further development of the Project design, assessments and mitigation. This informed the Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation, which focused on a number of minor design refinements to further improve the Project prior to DCO application submission. These refinements were localised in nature and affected only specific parties, which is why a proportionate, targeted consultation approach was both appropriate and legally robust.
11. Further review of the Project's design led to two additional refinements in 2026. These were localised and only impacted specific parties, leading to targeted consultations in Spring 2026 (the Spring 2026 Consultations). Between the Autumn 2025 Consultation and the Spring 2026 Consultations, the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025) received Royal Assent and includes provisions to remove the requirement for statutory pre-application consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). In the absence of published guidance setting out how consultation should be undertaken in accordance with the PIA 2025, the Spring 2026 Consultations were undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008.
12. Details on how the Applicant has had regard to this feedback and how it influenced the Project's design can be found in Appendices F.29, G.25, H.9 and I.13.

DECEMBER 2019

WRMP19 published, identifying the need for a strategic water resource option within the Western (Hampshire) supply area.

See Chapter 1 for more detail

8 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 16 APRIL 2021

Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021

Desalination and alternatives

See Chapter 5 for more detail

01

5 JULY 2022 TO 16 AUGUST 2022

Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Emerging proposals

See Chapter 6 for more detail

02

29 MAY 2024 TO 23 JULY 2024

Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Proposed Project

See Chapters 8 and 9 for more detail

03

5 MARCH 2025 TO 4 APRIL 2025

Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Updated environmental water quality information and 25 design refinements

See Chapter 10 for more detail

04

10 SEPTEMBER 2025 TO 8 OCTOBER 2025

Statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Eight further design refinements

See Chapter 11 for more detail

05

17 MARCH 2026 TO 17 APRIL 2026

Statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Two additional design refinements

See Chapter 12 for more detail

06

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1 The Consultation Report provides an overview of all consultation activities undertaken by Southern Water Services Limited (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’), in relation to the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’). It sets out how the Applicant has engaged and consulted with statutory bodies, local authorities, landowners, communities, and other stakeholders during the pre-application stage, and how feedback has informed the development of the Project. In addition, it demonstrates how consultation feedback has been considered and has influenced the development of the Project, in accordance with the requirements of Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 This Consultation Report has been prepared to accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and to explain how pre-application consultation has been undertaken. Additionally, it explains how feedback has informed the development of the Project. The Consultation Report demonstrates compliance with the Applicant’s statutory duties under Sections 37(3)(c) and 37(7), and Sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008. It also reflects relevant government guidance on pre-application consultation issued under Section 50 of the PA 2008. These provisions require the Applicant to consult prior to submitting a DCO application and to explain how regard has been had to consultation responses.
- 1.1.3 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025) received Royal Assent in December 2025 and includes provisions to remove the requirement for statutory pre-application consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The majority of pre-application consultation (Summer 2024, Spring 2025, and Autumn 2025) for the Project was undertaken prior to December 2025. Additional targeted consultation was undertaken in Spring 2026. In the absence of published guidance setting out how consultation should be undertaken under the new legislative framework, this further consultation was undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008 and the 2024 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a private utility company responsible for providing water and wastewater services. The Applicant’s operations cover the counties of Hampshire, Kent, the Isle of Wight, and East and West Sussex, traversing over 700 miles of coastline, National Parks, forests and National Landscapes (previously Areas of Outstanding National Beauty).

1.3 The Project

- 1.3.1 The Project is part of the Water for Life – Hampshire programme being undertaken by the Applicant to address the sustainability objectives of reduced abstractions on Hampshire’s two main rivers, the River Test and River Itchen. In addition to the reduced abstractions, pressures from climate change and population growth mean

a significant water supply shortfall in Hampshire. The Project would provide a new, sustainable source of water ensuring a resilient water supply for the Applicant's customers, especially during times of drought.

1.3.2 The approach to developing the Project is underpinned by the Applicant's overarching Project Vision which emphasises its fundamental role and purpose:

"We're transforming the way we source, treat and supply water across Hampshire. Creating a new, resilient and sustainable water supply will protect and enhance the county's rare and sensitive chalk streams, while maintaining supplies for our communities and the local economy".

1.3.3 The Applicant's existing Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP19), which forecasts how much water is needed in future and provides options to ensure taps and rivers keep flowing, identifies the need for a strategic water resource option within its Western (Hampshire) supply area. WRMP19 forecast an overall water resource deficit in the Hampshire supply area of around 192 megalitres per day (Ml/d) during a 1-in-200-year drought up to 2029–30. The Applicant signed an agreement with the Environment Agency (EA), made under Section 20 of the Water Resources Act 1991, that enables the Applicant to use drought processes (i.e. through Drought Permits and Drought Orders) in a specified sequence to address its supply deficit and maintain customer supplies, and protect the most sensitive habitats. The agreement also included commitments to secure the delivery of sustainable alternative water resources for the long term. The Project has been determined as the preferred solution to meet this need.

1.3.4 The Project comprises the construction, operation and maintenance of the following components:

- Water Recycling Plant (WRP) and associated pumping stations.
- Pipelines between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW) and the WRP site.
- Pipelines between the WRP site and Bedhampton Springs, connecting into pipelines being delivered by Portsmouth Water between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir.
- Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne Water Supply Works.
- Above Ground Plant (AGP) comprising Intermediate Pumping Stations and Break Pressure Tanks located along the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW.

1.3.5 The Project would also comprise the use of the following infrastructure:

- Havant Thicket Reservoir (which has been consented separately by Portsmouth Water and is currently under construction) for the storage of recycled water.
- The existing Eastney Long Sea Outfall, Eastney Pumping Station, and associated Eastney Transfer Tunnel for the release of reject water from the WRP site.
- Pipelines and other related works (which have been consented separately by Portsmouth Water) for the transfer of recycled water and source water between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir.

- 1.3.6 The construction and operation of the Project would be supported by other temporary and permanent works.
- 1.3.7 The Project will require the demolition, disassembly and/or temporary relocation of a number of small structures.
- 1.3.8 A detailed description of the Project can be found in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). The Application Glossary (Document reference 1.7, DCO Volume 1) sets out the abbreviations and definitions used in the DCO application for the Project.

2 About the Consultation Report

2.1 Background to the Consultation Report

- 2.1.1 The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs directed on 31 May 2022 under Section 35(1) of the PA 2008 that the Project is to be treated as a project of national significance for which development consent is required. This direction was varied by the Secretary of State on 18 November 2024. Please see Appendices A and B of the Planning Policy Statement (Document reference 5.5, DCO Volume 5) for copies of these directions.
- 2.1.2 As the Project was directed by the Secretary of State under Section 35(1) of the PA 2008 to be treated as development for which development consent is required, the Applicant was required to undertake statutory pre-application consultation in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 and to prepare this Consultation Report as set out by Section 37(3)(c) in support of the DCO application.

2.2 Purpose of the Consultation Report

- 2.2.1 This Consultation Report is the Applicant's account of all pre-application consultation for the Project, including both statutory consultation and non-statutory consultation to accompany a DCO application for the Project. In addition to documenting the consultation undertaken, the Consultation Report explains how feedback received has informed and influenced the evolution of the Project's design, approach, and mitigation.
- 2.2.2 The requirement to submit a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application is set out in Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008. The Applicant confirms that the Consultation Report is a report in accordance with Section 37(7), and provides details of:
- Early non-statutory consultations, the Public Consultation 2021 and the Summer 2022 Consultation, on the Project.
 - The preparation, consultation process, consideration of consultation responses, and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), undertaken in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, which set out how statutory consultation on the Project would be carried out.
 - Four stages of consultation with statutory elements, the Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations. Responses to each statutory consultation stage informed both the development of the Project and future consultations (where relevant).
 - The engagement undertaken with stakeholders outside of consultation (both statutory and non-statutory) stages to help inform the development of the Project. Technical engagement with statutory consultees, local authorities and other stakeholders is reported in the Statement of Engagement.
 - How the Applicant has carried out consultation in compliance with statutory requirements, namely Sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.

- Any relevant responses within the meaning of Section 49(3) of the PA 2008.
- How any relevant responses were considered, in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008.
- How the Applicant has had regard to the Government’s pre-application guidance under Section 50 of the PA 2008; and
 How the Applicant has had regard to the advice for potential applicants and others under Section 51 of the PA 2008.

2.2.3 In preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has also had regard to advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate, in particular the Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, which sets out expectations for structure, content, and proportionality. Please refer to Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) for detail about how the Applicant has had regard to this advice. Accordingly, the Consultation Report demonstrates that the Applicant has complied with the statutory requirements and explains how relevant responses received were taken account of prior to the DCO application being submitted.

2.3 Structure of the Consultation Report

2.3.1 Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 present the structure of the chapters and appendices of this Consultation Report. This Consultation Report has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities, including the preparation and publication of the SoCC, and the relevant legislation, guidance and advice. This is set out in full at Chapter 3. This approach demonstrates how consultation has evolved over time and, importantly, to support the Examining Authority and Secretary of State in considering compliance with the statutory consultation stages and duties. The chronological layout therefore reinforces transparency and enables straightforward assessment of how legislative requirements have been addressed at each stage of the process.

2.3.2 While the early chapters of the Consultation Report focus on the narrative description of the consultation strategy, approach and process, Chapters 5 onwards move from this high-level overview into detailed evidence of consultation activity and responses. These later chapters provide a structured audit trail of how consultation was undertaken, who was consulted, the feedback received, and how that feedback has been considered.

Table 2-1 Structure and explanation of Consultation Report chapters

Chapter	Description
Chapter 1 - Introduction	Provides a short description of the Project and a brief overview of the Applicant.
Chapter 2 - About the Consultation Report	Introduces the Consultation Report and its structure.

Chapter	Description
Chapter 3 - Legislation, guidance, and advice	Provides a summary of the legislation, guidance, and advice which provide the statutory requirements for the pre-application consultation on the Project.
Chapter 4 – Approach to consultation	Provides a summary of the Applicant’s approach to pre-application consultation and an overview of non-statutory and statutory consultation for the Project, including how the Applicant has complied with statutory requirements and other guidance and advice.
Chapter 5 – Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021	Provides an overview of the non-statutory Public Consultation held in 2021 which consulted on a proposed desalination plant at Fawley as the strategic preferred strategy and on alternative solutions which included water transfer and water recycling options should the desalination be undeliverable.
Chapter 6 – Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation	Provides an account of the non-statutory consultation held between 5 July 2022 and 16 August 2022 detailing consultation activities undertaken and representations received.
Chapter 7 – Consultation under EIA Regulations	Provides an overview of the consultation which was held as part of the EIA scoping exercise.
Chapter 8 – 2024 Statement of Community Consultation	Provides an overview of activities undertaken in advance of and to support the statutory Summer 2024 Consultation, including the development of and consultation on the 2024 Statement of Community Consultation.
Chapter 9 – Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation	Provides an overview of the statutory Summer 2024 Consultation held between 29 May 2024 and 23 July 2024, including compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
Chapter 10 – Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation	Provides an overview of the statutory Spring 2025 Consultation held between 5 March 2025 and 4 April 2025, including compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
Chapter 11 – Statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation	Provides an overview of the statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation held between 10 September 2025 and 8 October 2025

Chapter	Description
	including compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
Chapter 12 – Statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations	Provides an overview of the statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations held between 17 March 2026 and 17 April 2026 including compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
Chapter 13 – Conclusion	Sets out the conclusions of the Consultation Report.

Table 2-2 Structure and explanation of Consultation Report appendices

Appendix	Description
Annex 1 – Consultation compliance checklist	A compliance checklist demonstrating how the Applicant has met all compliance requirements at the statutory consultations.
Appendix A - Legislation, guidance, and advice	Evidence to support Chapter 3 - Legislation, guidance, and advice
Appendix B – Public Consultation 2021	Evidence to accompany Chapter 5 - Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021
Appendix C – Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation	Evidence to accompany Chapter 6 - Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation.
Appendix D – Consultation under EIA Regulations	Evidence to accompany Chapter 7 - Consultation under EIA Regulations.
Appendix E – 2024 Statement of Community Consultation	Evidence to accompany Chapter 8 - 2024 Statement of Community Consultation.
Appendix F – Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation	Evidence to accompany Chapter 9 - Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation. Evidence includes summaries of consultation feedback in the form of issue statements with responses to feedback from the Applicant.
Appendix G – Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation	Evidence to accompany Chapter 10 - Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation. Evidence includes summaries of consultation feedback in the form of issue statements with responses to feedback from the Applicant.

Appendix	Description
Appendix H – Statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation	Evidence to accompany Chapter 11 - Statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation. Evidence includes feedback as received and the Applicant’s response.
Appendix I – Statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations	Evidence to accompany Chapter 12 – Statutory Spring 2026 Consultations. Evidence includes feedback as received and the Applicant’s response.

2.4 Data protection

- 2.4.1 The Applicant is aware that the Consultation Report will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. The Applicant must ensure it complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, which provides a comprehensive framework for data protection in the UK in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679). Personal details in the Consultation Report have been handled responsibly and where necessary redacted to ensure that the Applicant complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 in production and publication of the Consultation Report.
- 2.4.2 A data protection statement was produced for the Summer 2024 Consultation and repurposed for the Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation, and Spring 2026 Consultations. The data protection statement featured on both the digital and paper copy of the feedback form. It was also included within the automatic reply of the dedicated feedback inbox, FeedbackHWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk, so that respondents received both acknowledgement that their feedback had been received and the data protection statement.
- 2.4.3 Feedback has been analysed by the Applicant and its appointed agents. Copies of feedback may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities. Personal details will not be placed on public record and will be held securely by the Applicant and its appointed agents in accordance with the data protection law. In addition, personal details will be used solely in connection with the consenting and regulatory processes, and statistical and analytical purposes on an aggregated basis, or in accordance with any legal requirements or process. Personal details will not be passed to third parties. Notwithstanding the above, information relating to land and land interests is reported separately where required for the purposes of the DCO application, including within the Book of Reference (Document reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4) and associated application documents.

3 Legislation, guidance, and advice

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This chapter summarises the legislation and guidance which provide the statutory requirements for the pre-application consultation on the Project.
- 3.1.2 The pre-application consultation process and production of the Consultation Report have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the following primary and secondary legislation:
- The PA 2008
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations 2009')
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations')
- 3.1.3 The Applicant has also had regard to the Government's guidance about pre-application procedure, in accordance with Section 50 of the PA 2008. Further detail is set out in section 3.5 about how the Applicant has demonstrated compliance with pre-application guidance and advice.
- 3.1.4 This chapter signposts to relevant sections in the Consultation Report, that summarise the activities undertaken by the Applicant for statutory consultations, namely: Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation, and Spring 2026 Consultations.
- 3.1.5 Evidence of the Applicant's compliance with the relevant legislation is provided within the Consultation Report. A detailed compliance checklist setting out how the Applicant has complied with the applicable legislative requirements is provided in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- 3.1.6 The Applicant has also had regard to the relevant government advice, including advice received from the Planning Inspectorate and other statutory consultees acting on behalf of the Government. The Applicant has demonstrated how regard has been had to advice from the Planning Inspectorate in the form of the Advice Log, in Appendix A.1 (Regard to Section 51 advice).

3.2 The Planning Act 2008

- 3.2.1 The PA 2008 provides the primary legislative framework for the development and consent of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in England and Wales and establishes the DCO regime. A key requirement of the PA 2008 is the undertaking of robust and proportionate pre-application consultation with prescribed statutory bodies, local authorities, and affected communities, ensuring that stakeholder views are identified, considered, and, where appropriate, reflected in the final scheme design prior to submission of a DCO application.
- 3.2.2 The PIA 2025 received Royal Assent in December 2025. The majority of pre-application consultation (Summer 2024, Spring 2025, and Autumn 2025) for the Project was undertaken prior to December 2025. Further targeted consultation

was, however, undertaken in Spring 2026. In the absence of published guidance setting out how consultation should be undertaken under the new legislative framework, this further consultation was undertaken having regard to the requirements of the PA 2008.

3.2.3 The following provisions of the PA 2008 are relevant to the statutory consultation undertaken on the Project:

- Section 42: Duty to consult
- Section 43: Local authorities for purposes of Section 42(1)(b)
- Section 44: Categories for purposes of Section 42(1)(d)
- Section 45: Timetable for consultation under Section 42
- Section 46: Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application
- Section 47: Duty to consult local community
- Section 48: Duty to publicise
- Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity
- Section 50: Regard to government's pre-application guidance
- Section 51: Advice for potential applicants and others

3.2.4 The Applicant's compliance with the PA 2008 can be found in Table 1-1 of Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

3.3 The EIA Regulations

3.3.1 The Project falls within the thresholds set out in Schedule 2, paragraph 10(l) of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant considers that the Project has the potential to have likely significant effects on the environment by virtue of its scale and complexity and that it is therefore EIA development. The following provisions of the EIA Regulations are relevant to the pre-application consultation:

- Regulation 8: Procedure for establishing whether EIA is required
- Regulation 12: Consultation statement requirements
- Regulation 13: Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)

3.3.2 Chapter 7 summarises how the Applicant has satisfied the relevant consultation requirements of the EIA Regulations. The ES explains in further detail the EIA scoping process undertaken for the Project and how the ES accords with the EIA Scoping Opinion, which takes account of comments received from scoping statutory consultees consulted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

3.3.3 Table 1-2 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) provides an explanation of how the Applicant has complied with the EIA Regulations that are relevant to pre-application consultation.

3.4 The APFP Regulations 2009

- 3.4.1 The APFP Regulations 2009 have been amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024. The Applicant acknowledges these amendments and confirms that these have been complied with as part of the statutory consultations, Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation, and Spring 2026 Consultations, as they were undertaken after the 30 April 2024.
- 3.4.2 The following provisions of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended) are relevant to the statutory consultations undertaken on the Project:
- Regulation 3: Prescribed consultees
 - Regulation 4: Publicising a proposed application; and
 - Schedule 1: Circumstances when consultees must be consulted and notified about an application
- 3.4.3 Table 1-3 of Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) summarises how the Applicant has satisfied the relevant requirements of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended).

3.5 Pre-application guidance and advice

- 3.5.1 The Applicant has complied with the relevant legislative requirements when undertaking the pre-application consultation and compiling the Consultation Report. In doing so, the Applicant has also had regard to relevant statutory guidance in accordance with the PA 2008. Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) demonstrates compliance with the legislation and how regard has been had to the applicable guidance listed below:
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('Pre-application Guidance 2024'). The Applicant notes that the Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process was withdrawn on 30 April 2024 but was the relevant statutory guidance in effect when the Applicant initiated its 2024 SoCC preparation and early consultation activity. The Applicant's compliance with the Pre-application Guidance 2024 is demonstrated in Table 1-4 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2020) Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects. The Applicant's compliance with this guidance is demonstrated in Table 1-5 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- 3.5.2 The Applicant has also had regard to pre-application advice, including advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate, which is listed below:
- Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. The Applicant's regard to this advice is demonstrated in Table 1-6 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

- Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('Pre-application Prospectus 2024'). The Applicant's regard to this advice is demonstrated in Table 1-7 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation. The Applicant's regard to this advice is demonstrated in Table 1-8 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

3.5.3 Appendix A.1 (Regard to Section 51 advice) of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has had regard to further pre-application advice from the Planning Inspectorate in the form of the Advice Log, in accordance with Section 51 of the PA 2008.

3.6 The Gunning Principles

3.6.1 The Gunning Principles are a set of four principles, established in R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning (1985) to provide the foundation for consultations that are fair, lawful, and a worthwhile exercise. These principles have since been cited in various case law and have formed a guide from which the legitimacy of public consultations is considered.

3.6.2 The 2024 SoCC outlined how the Summer 2024 Consultation complied with the following commitments and shows how the Applicant has had regard to these principles.

3.6.3 The Applicant's regard to the Gunning Principles for the statutory consultations undertaken for the Project are outlined in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 The Applicant's regard to the Gunning Principles

Gunning Principle	The Applicant's regard to the principles
Principle 1: Consultation must be carried out when proposals are still at a formative stage	The Summer 2024 Consultation was held before the Project design and environmental assessments were finalised for the purposes of the DCO application. The feedback was reviewed following the consultation and any Project changes proposed as part of the feedback were taken into account as the Project evolved. This same approach was undertaken for Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and the Spring 2026 Consultations.
Principle 2: There is sufficient information given for the proposal to allow for consultees to	The Summer 2024 Consultation included material which described the design development process since the Summer 2022 Consultation. The Applicant also presented preliminary environmental information in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report at Summer 2024 Consultation. The Spring 2025 Consultation included updated environmental water quality information and information about 25 design refinements. The Autumn 2025 Consultation

Gunning Principle	The Applicant's regard to the principles
<p>provide 'intelligent consideration'</p>	<p>described and consulted on eight design refinements and was targeted to specific landowners who may be impacted by the proposed refinements. The Spring 2026 Consultations included two design refinements and was also targeted.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 for detail about how sufficient information was provided for each of the statutory consultations to allow for intelligent consideration.</p> <p>The consultation materials presented at Summer 2024 Consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation brochure • Frequently Asked Questions • Feedback form • Book of Plans • 2024 Scheme Development Summary • PEI Report • PEI Report Non-Technical Summary • Draft Illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan • Draft Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan • Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan • Equality Impact Assessment • 2024 Statement of Community Consultation • Section 47 notice • Section 48 notice • Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback <p>The consultation materials presented at Spring 2025 Consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Information document • Environmental Water Quality Report • Feedback form • Approach to Consultation • Section 48 notice <p>The consultation materials presented at Autumn 2025 Consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Refinement Information sheets <p>The consultation materials presented at the Spring 2026 Consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters describing the design refinements and illustrative figures

Gunning Principle	The Applicant's regard to the principles
<p>Principle 3: There is adequate time for intelligent consideration and response</p>	<p>The Summer 2024 Consultation ran for 56 days, eight weeks, which was more than the 28 day, four-week, statutory requirement.</p> <p>The Spring 2025 Consultation ran for 32 days and the Autumn 2025 Consultation ran for 28 days. In total the Applicant delivered 60 days of public consultation in 2025. The Spring 2026 Consultations ran for 30 days.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured that consultees had adequate time to review the Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations documents and had the opportunity to submit feedback.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 for information about the statutory consultations undertaken.</p>
<p>Principle 4: 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made</p>	<p>The Applicant and its appointed agents collated and analysed feedback, and carefully considered all feedback received. The Applicant also had regard to any refinements that could be made to the Project as a result of feedback received.</p> <p>This review, consideration and refinement was also undertaken in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008, which is a duty for an Applicant to have regard to consultation responses and demonstrate how feedback has been taken into account.</p> <p>The Spring 2025 Consultation was held on updated water quality information and 25 design refinements. The dedicated consultation website hosted a map which clearly showed where each design refinement was proposed and an information sheet for each. An Environmental Water Quality Report was also made available. Please refer to Chapter 10 for more information.</p> <p>The Applicant also undertook a statutory targeted consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation, which consulted on eight additional localised design changes that largely related to reductions and amendments to the draft Order Limits, alongside some minor temporary highway works that were made in response to feedback and Project development from the Spring 2025 Consultation. Please refer to Chapter 11 for more information.</p> <p>In October 2025, the Applicant submitted an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to the Planning Inspectorate. The AoCM provided summaries of feedback themes and how these were shaping the Applicant's final proposals for the</p>

Gunning Principle	The Applicant's regard to the principles
	<p>Project. This demonstrated consideration of consultation feedback in advance of the DCO application. Please refer to Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) for more information.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook two, statutory, targeted consultations on the Project in Spring 2026 which included the 'Otterbourne WSW Consultation' and the 'Kiln Lane Consultation'. The consultations were undertaken on the extension of the draft Order Limits at Otterbourne WSW to allow for an additional water treatment plant and an included buffer tank and the extension of the draft Order Limits for the junction at Kiln Lane and Main Road in Otterbourne. Please refer to Chapter 12 for more information.</p> <p>Feedback from all statutory consultations has been summarised, and responses from the Applicant set out in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Appendix H.9 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback)

4 Approach to consultation

4.1 Approach

- 4.1.1 The Applicant has adopted an open, inclusive and proportionate approach to consultation, reflecting the statutory requirements set out in Sections 42 to 47 of the PA 2008. This ensures that the approach taken is fully aligned with the legal framework governing consultation for nationally significant infrastructure projects and the SoCC for the Project.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008, guidance and advice such as the Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report. Consultation has also been undertaken in accordance with the 2024 SoCC, which was itself subject to consultation and finalised having regard to the consultation responses received. The consultation programme has included both non-statutory and statutory consultations, structured to allow consultees to influence proposals as they evolved. This staged, iterative approach is designed not only to ensure formal compliance with consultation requirements, but also to demonstrate in practice, how the Applicant has had proper regard to the views received in line with Section 49 of the PA 2008.
- 4.1.3 At each consultation stage of the Project, the feedback received, alongside ongoing engagement with key stakeholders on the Project, has helped to inform and refine the design of the Project, including the proposed Pipeline routes, AGP locations and the siting of the WRP.
- 4.1.4 Consultation was undertaken at key stages to balance consulting early with providing sufficient detail for meaningful feedback, in order for the Applicant to consider this in the iterative design of the Project. Information was presented clearly, with accessible materials, response options and defined deadlines for feedback. As the design matured, the level of detail provided at each stage increased accordingly, providing a clear rationale for the progression from non-statutory to statutory consultation and ensuring that consultees were able to engage meaningfully throughout the process.

4.2 Summary of engagement

- 4.2.1 In addition to the statutory consultation undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008, the Applicant has maintained ongoing engagement with key stakeholders outside defined consultation stages. This has included dialogue with local authorities, statutory environmental bodies, parish councils, landowners, and community representatives.
- 4.2.2 The Applicant's appointed land agent supported ongoing meaningful engagement with landowners through non-statutory and statutory consultation, landowner meetings and site visits where required to gather feedback, which informed refinements to the Project design. The Applicant has been seeking to acquire the relevant freehold interests and other rights over land required by agreement -

please see the Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker for the status of such negotiations (Document reference 4.4, DCO Volume 4). The Applicant has followed Compulsory Acquisition guidance in that the minimum amount of land necessary to deliver the Project has been included within the Order Limits, whilst ensuring suitable flexibility is retained until the detailed design has been confirmed.

- 4.2.3 Overall, this engagement has supported the iterative development of the Project by allowing technical discussions, issue resolution, and the establishment of Statements of Common Ground.
- 4.2.4 The Applicant has reported statutory and non-statutory consultation activities within the Consultation Report and has produced the Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5) to support the DCO application, which sets out detailed engagement activities including its objectives, scope, and outcomes.

4.3 Overview of consultation process

- 4.3.1 This section provides an overview of the pre-application consultation activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Applicant.
- 4.3.2 The Applicant recognises that the planning regime established by the PA 2008 places substantial importance on pre-application consultation. The Applicant has therefore invested considerable time and resources to encourage meaningful involvement in the pre-application process with the local community, those with an interest in the land, local authorities, prescribed consultees and other non-prescribed stakeholders. Therefore, the Project has been developed in a consultative and iterative manner during successive stages of development.
- 4.3.3 In accordance with government guidance and Planning Inspectorate advice, early consultation has been undertaken on the initial strategic options in the form of two non-statutory consultations. These helped shape and inform the development of the approach to consultation and the 2024 SoCC as well as the statutory consultations that followed. The Applicant considers that its approach to pre-application consultation has been thorough, effective and proportionate, taking account of relevant legislative requirements and guidance.
- 4.3.4 The main stages of the Applicant's pre-application consultation are summarised in Table 4-1. The terms summarised in Table 4-1 are used throughout the Consultation Report to describe specific consultation stages. Table 4-1 acts as the framework against which compliance with Sections 42 to 48 and Section 49 of the PA 2008 is demonstrated and which later chapters follow when evidencing each requirement.

4.4 Consultation stages

Table 4-1 Summary of the pre-application consultation stages

Date	Consultation activity	Details
8 February to 16 April 2021	Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021	A non-statutory consultation held in early 2021 which presented plans for a desalination plant at Fawley, alongside alternative solutions, such as water recycling and water transfer, in case desalination proved undeliverable. Please refer to Chapter 5.
5 July to 16 August 2022	Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation	Another non-statutory consultation undertaken in the summer of 2022 which presented the use of water recycling and water transfer as a proposed solution to the shortfall in Hampshire. Early proposals were shared outlining potential locations for the WRP, proposed pipeline corridors, and zones for above ground infrastructure. This stage of consultation aimed to gather public and stakeholder feedback on the spatial aspects of the Project and assess local preferences and concerns. The proposals were designed to support transparency and encourage meaningful input on the siting and design of key project components whilst the Project was still at a formative stage. Please refer to Chapter 6.
July to August 2023	EIA Scoping 2023	The EIA scoping exercise was undertaken for the Project in 2023 after two non-statutory consultations. The EIA scoping exercise is a crucial early step in the EIA process. It involves an Applicant identifying the proposed scope for the EIA, i.e. topics proposed to be scoped in and out based on the potential for likely significant effects. This was set out in an EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate acting under delegation on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Date	Consultation activity	Details
		<p>Please refer to Chapter 7 for further details of consultation under the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted the relevant statutory consultees under the EIA Regulations and then having regard to consultation responses and the submitted EIA Scoping Report, prepared and issued an EIA Scoping Opinion for the Project setting out the required EIA scope. This exercise helped to shape and inform statutory consultation later undertaken by the Applicant.</p>
<p>16 February to 19 April 2024</p>	<p>Consultation on the 2024 SoCC</p>	<p>Consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC was undertaken by the Applicant in advance of finalising it.</p> <p>The pre-draft 2024 SoCC was issued to the relevant local authorities for advance engagement on 16 February 2024. The Applicant also presented the pre-draft 2024 SoCC at the Joint Officer Group meeting on 21 February 2024.</p> <p>Statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC commenced on 14 March 2024. On 21 March 2024, the Applicant contacted all local authorities to advise that refinements had been made to the description of ‘what we are consulting on’ within the draft 2024 SoCC. Notwithstanding these refinements, the Applicant restarted the consultation period from 22 March 2024, thereby ensuring that local authorities were afforded the full statutory 28-day consultation period.</p> <p>The final 2024 SoCC was published online on 29 May 2024 and had regard to the comments received from the local authorities and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).</p>

Date	Consultation activity	Details
		<p>Pursuant to Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant published notices confirming that the 2024 SoCC was available for inspection in three local newspapers. The notices were published on 27 and 30 May 2024. Please refer to Chapter 8.</p>
<p>29 May to 23 July 2024</p>	<p>Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation</p>	<p>A statutory consultation which presented the proposed pipeline routes, the proposed locations of the WRP and associated pumping stations, the proposed locations of AGP along the Pipeline route, the process undertaken to develop the Project up to this consultation, and preliminary environmental information as presented within the PEI Report.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 9.</p>
<p>5 March to 4 April 2025</p>	<p>Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation</p>	<p>A statutory consultation on updated environmental water quality information and 25 design refinements was held from 5 March to 4 April 2025. This consultation was publicised in accordance with statutory requirements to enable those with an interest in the Project to provide feedback, this included communities across Hampshire and the wider region. It provided an opportunity to share the latest technical updates and gather feedback on the refined proposals. The consultation focused on ensuring stakeholders were informed about changes to the design and environmental considerations to enable them to contribute views before the next stage of development.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 10.</p>
<p>29 October 2025</p>	<p>Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)</p>	<p>The AoCM (introduced the Pre-application Guidance 2024) is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant and minimise risk at the acceptance stage. The</p>

Date	Consultation activity	Details
		<p>Applicant engaged early with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure its requirements had been met.</p> <p>On 29 October 2025, the Applicant submitted an AoCM submission which was subsequently published on the Planning Inspectorate’s ‘Find a National Infrastructure Project’ website. It summarised the pre-application consultation undertaken by the date the AoCM was submitted, how feedback was shaping the Project, how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance, and local authority views on adequacy of consultation. Please see Appendix A.3 (AoCM).</p> <p>Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) sets out information on how the Applicant has met the Section 50 duty to demonstrate regard to pre-application guidance and to Section 51 advice of the PA 2008.</p>
10 September to 8 October 2025	Statutory Autumn Targeted 2025 Consultation	<p>A statutory targeted consultation with directly affected consultees on a series of localised design refinements identified following the Spring 2025 Consultation was held from 10 September to 8 October 2025. The refinements primarily related to minor amendments and reductions to the draft Order Limits, minor temporary highway works that were made in response to feedback, and general Project development from the last consultation. The targeted approach ensured that only those directly affected by the proposed changes were consulted, in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.</p> <p>The consultation ran for 28 days, allowing affected parties to provide feedback via Freepost, email, or the dedicated consultation inbox.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 11.</p>
17 March to 17 April 2026	Statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations	Two statutory, targeted consultations were held with directly affected consultees on two additional localised design refinements. Both

Date	Consultation activity	Details
		<p>refinements involved extensions of the draft Order Limits. Due to the separate locations of the two refinements, the Applicant decided to undertake two separate statutory targeted consultations.</p> <p>The first refinement was an extension to the draft Order Limits at the Applicant's Otterbourne WSW. This consultation was held from the 17 March to 16 April 2026.</p> <p>The second refinement was an extension to the draft Order Limits at the junction between Kiln Lane and Main Road in Otterbourne. This consultation was held from the 18 March to 17 April 2026.</p> <p>The consultations ran for 30 days, allowing affected parties to provide feedback via Freepost, email, or the dedicated consultation inbox.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 12.</p>

Website updates

- 4.4.1 A dedicated consultation website was created for both Summer 2022 Consultation and Summer 2024 Consultation. On 16 May 2024 before the launch of Summer 2024 Consultation, a holding page was created so those who were interested could understand what to expect once the consultation launched.
- 4.4.2 The website was updated at the end of both Summer 2022 Consultation and Summer 2024 Consultation to mark the close of the consultations. A summary of feedback report was produced approximately three months after the end of each consultation and both made available on the dedicated consultation website as well as the Applicant's main website. Those who had signed up to the Project's 'Keep in Touch' also received an email with a direct link to the summary of feedback report at each stage.
- 4.4.3 The dedicated consultation website was restructured for the Spring 2025 Consultation. The new website layout incorporated a design where the Summer 2024 Consultation information could still be viewed. A separate section was dedicated to the Spring 2025 Consultation along with a new map, which presented all 25 design refinements. An Environmental Water Quality Report was also produced and made available within a new library which also included all other Spring 2025 Consultation materials.
- 4.4.4 After the Spring 2025 Consultation, the dedicated consultation website was updated with a new 'Latest News' tab. This enabled the Applicant to provide Project updates to those who visited the website in the form of short articles. These articles included an update about the Portsmouth Water pipeline approval, Autumn 2025 Consultation and the publishing of the Applicant's AoCM (see Appendix A.3).

5 Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 To support the development of the Project, the Applicant undertook a phased consultation process aligned with the requirements of the DCO regime. As part of this broader consultation process, the Applicant carried out a non-statutory consultation in 2021, referred to as 'Public Consultation 2021' hereafter. This early engagement helped inform the refinement and selection of options prior to the identification of a preferred scheme for the DCO.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant's published WRMP19 identified desalination, the process used to turn seawater into drinking water, as the preferred solution to addressing a large proportion of Hampshire's water shortfall. In accordance with the requirements of the Regulators Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) gated process and the Applicant's WRMP, the Applicant continued to assess alternative options, should desalination prove not to be deliverable.
- 5.1.3 Public Consultation 2021 focussed on the desalination proposal, as presented in the WRMP19 Preferred Strategy, and the alternative options under consideration. The consultation was undertaken prior to any decision to not progress the preferred desalination scheme.
- 5.1.4 This chapter explains how the Applicant undertook Public Consultation 2021, which formed part of the wider evidence base supporting early options appraisal, alongside technical assessment, environmental considerations, and engagement with regulators.

5.2 Approach to the Public Consultation 2021

- 5.2.1 The Applicant recognised the importance of early pre-application consultation to support the development for the solution to the water shortfall in Hampshire. Therefore, Public Consultation 2021 was undertaken using best practice and at an early stage of project development.
- 5.2.2 The consultation sought feedback from stakeholders and members of the public regarding:
- A desalination proposal, presented as the 'base case' and the preferred option to address water supply shortages. This was a 75 Ml/d desalination plant at Fawley, inputting via a proposed underground pipeline into the Applicant's water supply network at Testwood Water Supply Works.
 - Eight alternatives the Applicant was investigating as backup solutions should the 'base case' not be delivered. The backup solutions presented for consultation comprised of smaller capacity desalination alternatives, alongside water recycling and water transfer options. The solutions were presented as eight configurations.
- 5.2.3 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings and Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 were in force at the time of Public Consultation

2021, therefore the Applicant had regard to this when undertaking the consultation. Although some COVID-19 restrictions were lifted on 8 March 2021, in-person events did not take place and a digital first approach was adopted.

5.2.4 Public Consultation 2021 was launched on 8 February 2021 and was scheduled to close on 23 March 2021. Even though this was a non-statutory consultation, this period exceeded the statutory minimum requirement of 28 days. However, feedback was received from some residents in Fawley who said they had not been contacted directly or had not seen the consultation promotion. The Applicant responded by distributing notification letters and extending the consultation, from the original 42 days, to close on 16 April 2021.

5.2.5 The extension of the consultation resulted in it coinciding with the pre-election period for local elections. The pre-election period ran from the 25 March 2021 to 6 May 2021, during which time local members, being elected officials at government level, such as councillors, will generally refrain from making public announcements. As the Applicant had already provided six weeks in advance of the pre-election period commencing for public bodies and local authorities to respond, the extension was not considered to impact upon or to have been influenced by the pre-election period.

Identifying the consultees

5.2.6 Public Consultation 2021 was designed to enable those with an interest in the Project to provide feedback, the local community, local businesses, and landowners relevant to the base case. A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken which identified statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and consultees relevant to the base case and backup solutions. Additionally, the Applicant asked local authorities to provide details of hard-to-reach groups to enable the Applicant to contact these groups to advise them of the consultation. The stakeholder list can be found in Appendix B.1 (Stakeholder list).

Advertising and publicity

5.2.7 The Applicant undertook several activities to promote the Public Consultation 2021.

Emails and letters

5.2.8 The Applicant undertook Public Consultation 2021 in line with the provisions of the PA 2008 and associated secondary legislation, given it was likely that would be the relevant consenting regime for the solutions being consulted upon (although it was not a statutory consultation). As such, the Applicant issued early notification emails on 4 February 2021 and on the day the consultation launched on 8 February 2021 to all statutory consultees and landowners identified under the relevant legislation. Relevant statutory consultees, which included prescribed consultees and landowners, non-statutory stakeholders and individuals were also consulted to support comprehensive communication. A copy of the emails can be found in Appendix B.2 (Notification email).

5.2.9 Copies of letters sent to landowners identified by the Applicant can be found in Appendix B.3 (Letters).

Newspaper press and media activity

- 5.2.10 A consultation press release was issued to local publications, radio and trade press on 8 February 2021, this is included in Appendix B.4 (Press release).
- 5.2.11 An advert was placed in local papers, please see Appendix B.5 (Advertorial).

Social media

- 5.2.12 Throughout February and March 2021, the Applicant promoted the consultation on social media using the Applicant’s social media pages as well as paid adverts. This included posts on LinkedIn, Instagram, X, and Facebook, with adverts used on Facebook. These social media posts included details on how to access consultation information and provide feedback.

Consultation documents

- 5.2.13 To support the delivery of Public Consultation 2021, the Applicant produced consultation documents to explain what was being consulted on, the methods via which people could respond and the date by which responses needed to be provided.
- 5.2.14 The consultation documents that were available to view are set out in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Consultation documents

Document	Description
Consultation brochure	An overview of the proposals, the various components and where to find more detailed information and provide feedback. The document was written in non-technical language. Appendix B.6 (Brochure)
Feedback form	The Feedback form had both open and closed questions to gain feedback about different elements of the proposals. Appendix B.7 (Feedback form)

Virtual room

- 5.2.15 A virtual room was developed so members of the public and stakeholders could access consultation materials while adhering to restrictions at the time.
- 5.2.16 Images from the virtual room can be found in Appendix B.8 (Virtual room).
- 5.2.17 The virtual room attracted 3,224 visitors and included digital pop-up banners and videos, the consultation material, and an online feedback form to give feedback. Consultees could also submit feedback by email, the address of which could be found within the consultation material, on the advertorial and on the dedicated consultation website. A summary of the consultation feedback can be found in section 5.3.

5.3 Consultation feedback received

5.3.1 A consultation response database was developed to log all responses to the consultation. The database enabled categorisation of responses, identification of recurring issues, and tracked consultation responses and feedback to consultation responses. An initial high-level review of consultation responses was undertaken to determine 'topics' and 'issues' for categorising responses. Consultation responses were broken down into individual elements, which were first assigned to relevant topics based on the structure of the feedback form. Each element was then categorised into an 'issue,' with issues primarily reflecting themes previously identified by the Applicant. Where new recurring issues emerged, these were added accordingly. These topics were derived from questions asked on the feedback form.

Number and format of feedback received

5.3.2 The Applicant received 180 responses to Public Consultation 2021. The feedback mechanism and number of responses received is listed in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2 Feedback received

Feedback mechanism	Number
Online feedback form	143
Emails and letters	37

Breakdown of sentiment

5.3.3 The majority of respondents (51%) strongly disagreed that the Base Case would be an acceptable solution to the water resource challenges in Hampshire. Of these, 58% were located in the immediate Fawley area and 16% were in the surrounding New Forest area. Just over 25% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the Base Case would be an acceptable solution. Of these respondents, only 10% were located in the immediate Fawley area and 64% of these respondents were located in the Portsmouth area and further afield.

5.4 Response to consultation feedback

5.4.1 The Applicant published an interim report in September 2021 setting out a summary of the consultation activity undertaken and highlighting the key themes that emerged from the feedback received. Please refer to Appendix B.9 (Consultation Feedback Report). At the subsequent Summer 2022 Consultation, the Applicant provided a further summary of the feedback received from the Public Consultation 2021 and its response. Table 5-3 provides a summary of the key issues raised and the Applicant's response to the issues at the time the interim report was published in September 2021 and the response to issues raised as part of the Summer 2022 Consultation.

Table 5-3 Summary of issues raised at Public Consultation 2021 and how the Applicant has responded

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
Feedback relevant to desalination option	
<p>Objection to location of the desalination plant due to potential impact on the environment and the New Forest National Park in particular.</p>	<p>Following the Public Consultation 2021, the Applicant reported that the options still under consideration were assessed as part of the options appraisal process which included assessment of a range of environmental criteria. Landscape and visual impact of the desalination plant on the New Forest National Park was one of the contributing factors for the decision not to progress the desalination option further. As a result, landscape and visual impacts are no longer of concern in this area but continue to be considered as part of the Project.</p>
<p>More information was requested to better understand any impacts the proposals would have on the environment.</p>	<p>The information and details presented on desalination options at the Public Consultation 2021 reflected the level of information the Applicant had available at that point in the scheme development process. Part of the aim of the Public Consultation 2021 was to gather feedback from stakeholders, landowners, communities and customers on the elements of the proposals at an early point in the process. The Applicant explained that this feedback would help inform the development and design of the Project. As desalination was no longer being progressed, the concerns raised around availability of environmental information for desalination are no longer relevant. However, the Applicant clarified that Project impacts on the environment would continue to be considered as part of the Project's development.</p>
<p>Concerns relating to the impact on water bodies where abstraction and release would take place.</p>	<p>With the preferred solution of desalination no longer being progressed, the potential impact of abstraction and release is not relevant. However, the Applicant explained that impacts on the water environment continued to be taken into consideration as a part of the Project.</p>
<p>Concern that local businesses would be affected by the proposals</p>	<p>The options appraisal process following the Public Consultation 2021 considered the socio-economic impacts of desalination. This included the potential for impact on marine recreation, commercial fisheries and marine licensing areas. With desalination no longer being progressed, socio-economic impacts relating to this solution were no longer relevant.</p>

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	However, the Applicant reported that socio-economic impacts were still being taken into consideration with the development of the Project.
Queries raised in relation to how much the desalination plant would cost and where the money would come from.	The Applicant stated that as desalination was not being progressed, concerns raised around the costs of the desalination plant, whilst acknowledged, were no longer relevant to the development of the Project. Funding for the Project is subject to approval by the water services regulation authority, Ofwat.
Feedback relevant to water transfer and recycling	
Queries regarding whether additional water resources are necessary as other measures such as fixing leaks could be used.	Due to the scale of the identified long-term deficit, and the timescales in which this needs to be resolved, the Applicant confirmed that a large new water source for the area was required, capable of delivering at the earliest opportunity in addition to a range of other measures including improved leakage targets.
Requests for further details on potential environmental impacts.	<p>As the Public Consultation 2021 was introduced at an early stage in the Project (to allow stakeholders and the public to inform the design of the Project), there were no materials presented that included any environmental assessment work of alternative water recycling options. Materials did not include any assessment work to confirm potential environmental impacts of the alternative water recycling options at that stage. The Applicant noted that since the Public Consultation 2021, assessments and engagement with landowners, as well as statutory and non-statutory bodies, to identify the potential environmental and other impacts of the Project were being undertaken.</p> <p>The Applicant explained that a PEI Report detailing the preliminary information about the environmental impacts of the Project would be published at the subsequent consultation which was the Summer 2024 Consultation. Additionally, an ES would be submitted to report on the findings of the EIA as part of the DCO application.</p>
Concerns about Option B.1 to release recycled water into the Lower Itchen and impact of abstraction on chalk rivers.	Option B.1 proposed a water recycling plant producing recycled water for release into the Lower Itchen. This was the alternative option to the desalination plant in Fawley that was included in the Applicant's WRMP19. However, this option was not progressed as a potential alternative to the

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	desalination plant, due to environmental concerns about the impact of the recycled water release on the integrity of the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation and the option's ability to meet the water resource deficit.
Concerns about whether water transfer offered a long-term solution during a drought.	The options appraisal process undertaken following the Public Consultation 2021 included an assessment of the resilience of the Applicant's proposals to meet long-term future needs. The Applicant stated that water transfer alternatives were considered, in relative terms, less capable on their own of meeting the water supply deficit than other options under consideration so are not being progressed at this time (other than in combination with water recycling).
Concerns in relation to the long-term sustainability of local rivers which supply the River Ems.	The Applicant explained that following the Public Consultation 2021 it would be undertaking an options appraisal. During this process, the Applicant would ensure all options were evaluated against criteria including the impacts of biodiversity, nature conservation and watercourses. Impacts on the water environment would continue to be taken into consideration throughout the development of the Project.
Concerns related to construction and operation of all proposals.	The Applicant outlined that following the Public Consultation 2021, an options appraisal would be undertaken. As part of this, the Applicant would consider the impact on communities including, impacts on the road network, community facilities, public rights of way (PRoW), noise, vibration and air quality. The Applicant explained that further work might then be required to understand, assess and mitigate against any impacts found as part of the Project development and that relevant management plans to manage and mitigate construction impacts and secure environmental controls would be submitted as part of the DCO application.
Concerns that all proposals would impact on carbon emissions and not align with national and regional targets.	The Applicant noted that, alongside water companies in the UK, it was committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. This promise was made under the industry body Water UK's Net Zero commitment and was part of the Applicant's planning and solution development for Water for Life - Hampshire.
Queries around whether water produced by	The Applicant stated that all statutory water undertakers are regulated to ensure that water from

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
desalination (as well as the alternatives) would be up to drinking water standards.	their supply works meets the required drinking water standards, and therefore, the Project will need to meet these standards.

5.5 Conclusion

- 5.5.1 Feedback received from Public Consultation 2021, Appendix B.9 (Consultation Feedback Report), was considered as part of the options appraisal process and informed the early development of the Project. This feedback was considered alongside further technical assessment, environmental considerations, and engagement with regulators.
- 5.5.2 Following this process, the decision was taken to progress a water recycling and water transfer solution rather than the desalination base case. Further detail on how consultation feedback has informed the development of the Project is set out in the subsequent chapters.

6 Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter outlines the non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation, referred to as 'Summer 2022 Consultation' hereafter. This consultation was a core component of the Project's iterative programme of engagement and design development.
- 6.1.2 Following the 2021 Public Consultation and the decision to proceed with the Project, as outlined in Chapter 5 of the Consultation Report, initial scheme development commenced. The Summer 2022 Consultation represented the first stage of consultation on the emerging proposals, providing an early opportunity to gather initial views from stakeholders and local communities. Feedback received during this consultation directly informed the next phase of design refinement and shaped the scope and focus of later consultation stages within the ongoing pre-application process.
- 6.1.3 The Summer 2022 Consultation provided information on and sought feedback regarding:
- The use of water recycling to provide a new sustainable water source for the Hampshire area.
 - The proposed location of the proposed WRP.
 - The preferred corridors for the Pipelines required to transfer water between Budds Farm WTW, the proposed WRP, Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne WSW.
 - The proposed zones for AGP required along the Pipeline route to Otterbourne WSW.
 - The decision-making processes the Applicant followed in each case to identify sites, zones and pipeline corridors.

6.2 Approach to the Summer 2022 Consultation

- 6.2.1 The Summer 2022 Consultation was held from 5 July to 16 August 2022 for a total of six weeks, which, even though non-statutory, exceeded the statutory 28-day requirement. The Applicant ensured early and consistent communication was provided at non-statutory consultation, using the PA 2008 as guidance at this stage of consultation. This included consulting statutory and non-statutory consultees informed by the approach taken under Section 42 of the PA 2008 (in accordance with the legislation at that time).
- 6.2.2 The strategy included using a hybrid approach to consultation with information available online on the dedicated consultation website for the Project, webinars, as well as in-person events. This format was selected to maximise accessibility, clarity and reach. Online channels allowed people to access information at a time and place convenient to them, supporting those with work, caring responsibilities, mobility constraints, or limited ability to travel. Webinars also provided clear, consistent information in formats that could be revisited or shared, helping

participants engage at their own pace. In-person events complemented this by offering face-to-face interaction for those who prefer direct discussion, may have limited digital access, or benefit from supported engagement. Alternative formats and support were made available on request (such as hard-copy materials or in large print) to ensure that individuals without reliable internet access or with specific accessibility needs could still fully participate. This approach strengthens the equality and inclusivity narrative by demonstrating deliberate efforts to provide multiple, flexible routes into the consultation, in line with good practice expectations.

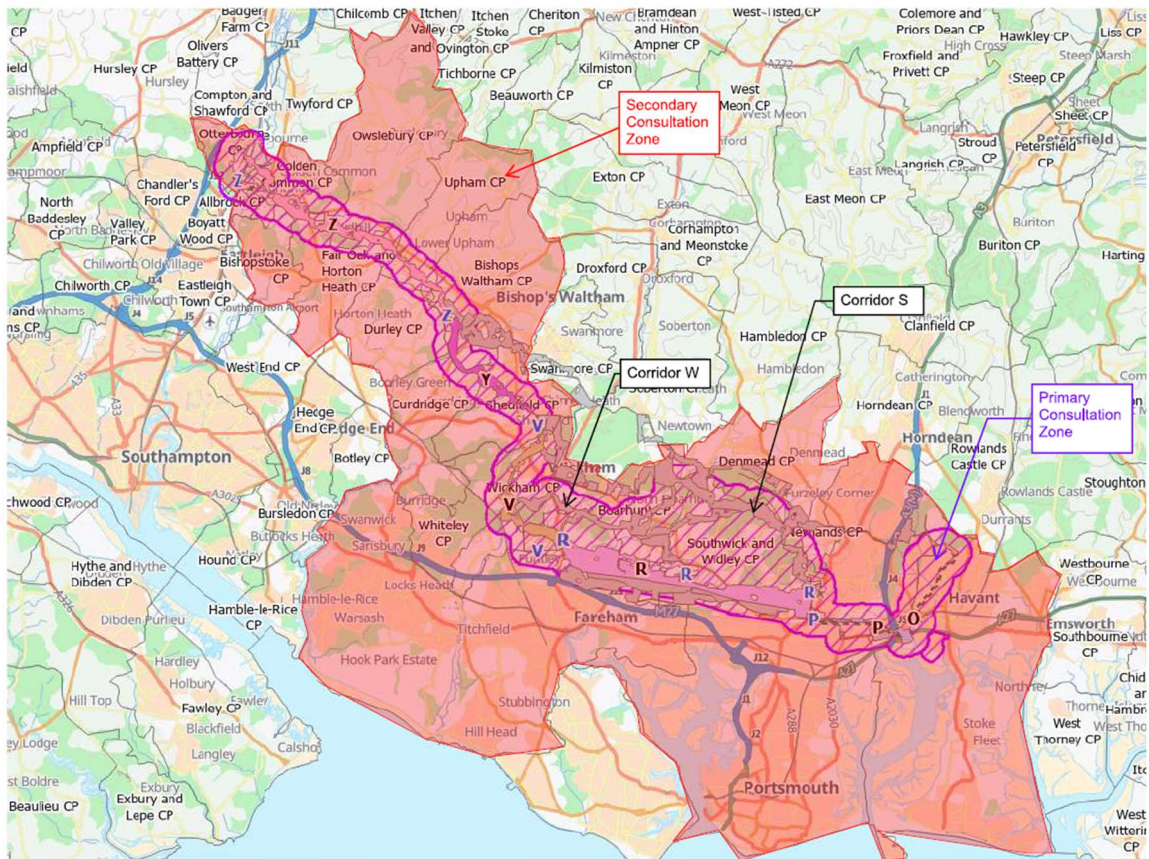
Identifying the consultees

- 6.2.3 Stakeholder mapping exercises were undertaken to identify key statutory and non-statutory consultees who may have an interest in the Project. Please see Appendix C.1 (Stakeholder list) for consultees identified for the Summer 2022 Consultation. This exercise involved reviewing the Applicant's existing records, cross-checking these against publicly available information, and working closely with relevant stakeholders and local authorities to fill gaps and ensure the information was correct and updated. This included relevant landowners identified by the Applicant.
- 6.2.4 Whilst open to all, certain groups were identified and contacted with an invitation to encourage participation because they either have a statutory role in the consenting process, are directly affected by the Project, or are likely to have specialist insights. These were identified as those within the defined Primary and Secondary Consultation Zones as shown in Graphic 6-1. These included:
- local residents and businesses within the vicinity of the Project (see Graphic 6-1)
 - MPs
 - statutory environmental bodies, including the EA, Natural England (NE) and Historic England
 - relevant local authorities within the vicinity of the Project (see Graphic 6-1)
 - landowners within the vicinity of the Project (see Graphic 6-1)
 - other relevant organisations such as local interest groups, local emergency services, and seldom heard groups
- 6.2.5 Seldom heard groups were identified by collaborating with local authorities with several authorities supplying further groups to enhance the information available to the Applicant. This enabled the Applicant to reach out to these groups and work with them to ensure that information could be provided in an appropriate and accessible manner. The criteria for identification included organisations representing protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, those advocating for accessibility, bodies with statutory or advisory roles in equality and inclusion, and groups supporting vulnerable or seldom-heard communities. The consultees listed below received a letter from the Applicant which notified them of the consultation:
- Riding for the Disabled Association
 - Hampshire Parent Carer Network

- Disabled Motoring UK
- Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission
- The Church of England
- The Muslim Council of Britain
- Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service
- Age UK
- The Royal National Institute for the Blind
- The Royal National Institute for Deaf People
- Parity: For People with Multiple Disabilities
- Disability Rights UK

Identifying the Consultation Zones

- 6.2.6 Prior to the Summer 2022 Consultation, the Applicant developed a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) and a Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ). These zones were geographical areas located within proximity of the Project. The PCZ comprised properties within 500 metres either side of the outer-most corridor sections which included an emerging preferred corridor as well as the corridor sections to the north, an approach that was deemed proportionate by the Applicant. Where the 500-metre boundary would otherwise have dissected a hamlet, street, or neighbourhood, the PCZ was extended to whole streets, hamlets or neighbourhoods to ensuring inclusivity and fairness for all residents within the community.
- 6.2.7 The zones provided a structured and proportionate way of identifying communities likely to have an interest in the Project based on geographic proximity. The zones were used alongside stakeholder mapping to enable the Applicant to engage with those most likely to be interested in, or affected by, the Project, while ensuring wider awareness beyond the immediate corridor. Graphic 6-1 shows the two consultation zones with labels.
- 6.2.8 The SCZ extended to the boundaries of parish councils that crossed the corridor sections within the PCZ, to reflect administrative boundaries and support clear, consistent engagement with affected communities.



Graphic 6-1 Primary and Secondary Consultation Zones

Summer 2022 Consultation documents

6.2.9 To support the delivery of Summer Consultation 2022, the Applicant produced consultation documents to explain what was being consulted on, the methods via which people could respond and the date by which responses needed to be provided. The consultation documents that were available to view, hosted on the digital engagement platform, Commonplace, are set out in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Consultation documents

Document	Description
Consultation Brochure	Provided an overview of the Project, setting out its aims, context and key aspects in accessible language. Appendix C.2 (Brochure)
Scheme Development Summary	Explained the work undertaken to date, the options considered, and how the preferred corridor had been identified. Appendix C.3 (2022 Scheme Development Summary)
Book of Maps	Illustrated the geographical scope of the proposals, enabling consultees to see how different areas might be affected. Appendix C.4 (Book of Maps)

Document	Description
Frequently Asked Questions	Addressed common queries and concerns, helping to clarify technical issues and reduce barriers to engagement. Appendix C.5 (Frequently Asked Questions)
Feedback Form	Enabled consultees to record their views in a structured way, while also providing the required data protection statement for compliance. Appendix C.6 (Feedback form)

Consultation activities

6.2.10 The Applicant undertook several activities to publicise the Summer 2022 Consultation across the identified consultation zones. The list below summarises the activities undertaken:

- Letters sent to those within the PCZ (addresses in the SCZ did not receive a direct letter through the post but were engaged via parish councils as conduits to disseminate local information)
- Advertisements placed in local newspapers
- Posters were distributed to key locations
- A dedicated consultation website was created on the platform Commonplace
- Six public exhibitions
- Stakeholder briefings were held on an invitation only basis
- Nine locations were identified as suitable deposit locations
- The Applicant hosted three webinars where those who were interested could register to attend

6.2.11 The range and scale of publicity methods were selected to ensure that communities had clear and accessible opportunities to participate in the consultation.

Notification letters

6.2.12 In total, 31,826 letters were sent to local homes, businesses, potentially impacted landowners, prescribed bodies, and non-prescribed consultees within the PCZ before the launch of the consultation period. The letters provided information on the Project, consultation events, webinar information and document deposit locations, as well as the means of providing feedback. Copies of these can be found in Appendix C.7 (Letters).

6.2.13 Potentially impacted landowners received a tailored letter to inform the below:

- Landowners whose land fell within a preferred corridor or whose land could be directly impacted by the WRP and associated tunnels
- Landowners whose land did not fall within the preferred pipeline corridor options but could still be impacted due to proximity to the PCZ.

- Landowners whole land was no longer impacted due to desalination not being considered further.

Newspaper advertisements

6.2.14 Newspaper advertisements were placed in local newspapers in vicinity of the Project to promote the consultation and to encourage members of the community to attend the in-person public events during the consultation period. These newspapers can be viewed in Appendix C.8 (Adverts) and were published as set out in Table 6-2.

Table 6-2 Adverts

Publication	Date of adverts
Southern Daily Echo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 June 2022 • 27 June 2022 • 4 July 2022
Portsmouth News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 June 2022 • 27 June 2022 • 4 July 2022
Hampshire Chronicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 June 2022 • 7 July 2022

Posters

6.2.15 Posters were placed on community noticeboards across the consultation zones; these locations were chosen to ensure that information was widely spread across the zones. Additional poster locations included:

- Post offices
- Religious places
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Leisure centres
- Shops

6.2.16 Posters can be viewed in Appendix C.9 (Posters) which also contains a 'Poster Map', a map showing poster locations within the PCZ and SCZ.

Website

6.2.17 A dedicated consultation website (please see Appendix C.10 Website) was launched that included a link to a virtual exhibition. More information on digital materials, including screen grabs from the virtual room are appended within Appendix C.11 (Virtual room). There were 9,169 visitors to the dedicated consultation website throughout the period of consultation. This was hosted on

Commonplace and included an interactive map for consultees to see the emerging proposals for the Project in more detail. Additionally, there were 205 visitors to the virtual exhibition room.

Public exhibitions

- 6.2.18 Six public exhibitions were held to support the Summer 2022 Consultation. Venues were selected to ensure coverage across the consultation zones, both PCZ and SCZ, and to ensure accessibility for residents. The Applicant presented proposed public exhibition locations at a Joint Officer Group (JOG), a coalition of Local Planning Authorities, meeting to co-ordinate the Project, on 28 April 2022. The proposed locations for the in-person events were discussed at this meeting with regard to their suitability prior to them being finalised. The Applicant undertook site visits beforehand to check suitability and conduct a health and safety assessment for each venue. Additionally, the Applicant was briefed in advance of the events, and a rota was created to ensure that different workstreams of the project had a suitable representative at the events.
- 6.2.19 The Applicant was available to answer questions, and information was provided on the Project in the form of display materials (see Appendix C.12 (Public exhibition boards)), these included:
- Eight pop-up banners that included information about different aspects of the Project
 - Five A1 display boards showing the preferred pipeline corridor sections.
- 6.2.20 In total, 878 people attended the six events. The events ran for six hours to enable as many people to participate as possible. Two events were held on a Saturday to enable time constrained people to participate. Colouring sheets were also provided for children, to enable parents to participate in the events more easily.
- 6.2.21 Table 6-3 outlines the dates, times, locations and number of attendees of each of the different consultation events.

Table 6-3 Event information

Date	Time	Venue	Number of attendees
Wednesday 6 July 2022	2pm – 8pm	Leigh Park Community Centre, Dunsbury Way, Havant, PO9 5BG	83
Saturday 9 July 2022	10am – 4pm	Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1ED	81
Friday 15 July 2022	2pm – 8pm	Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, PO17 5AL	148
Saturday 16 July 2022	10am – 4pm	Meridian Shopping Centre, Elm Lane, Havant, PO9 1UN	337

Date	Time	Venue	Number of attendees
Thursday 21 July 2022	2pm – 8pm	Southwick D-Day Memorial Hall, Priors Road, Southwick, PO17 6ED	50
Friday 22 July 2022	2pm – 8pm	Colden Common Community Centre, St Vigor Way, Colden Common, SO21 1UU	179

Stakeholder briefings

- 6.2.22 The Applicant proactively engaged with stakeholders throughout the pre-application phase of the Project. Further detail about the Applicant’s approach to stakeholder engagement can be found in the Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5).
- 6.2.23 The Applicant hosted a series of stakeholder briefings during the consultation period. The briefings provided an overview of the Project development up to that stage and outlined the scope of the consultation.
- 6.2.24 Table 6-4 details the stakeholder briefings held to provide further information on the Project as a whole and to provide information about Summer 2022 Consultation.

Table 6-4 Stakeholder briefings

Stakeholder	Date
EA and NE	Wednesday 6 July 2022
East Hampshire District Council (EHDC)	Tuesday 12 July 2022
Wildlife and Water Interest Group	Monday 18 July 2022
Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC)	Thursday 21 July 2022
Fareham Borough Council (FBC)	Tuesday 26 July 2022
Havant Borough Council (HBC)	Tuesday 26 July 2022
Winchester City Council (WCC)	Tuesday 2 August 2022
Joint Officer Group*	Tuesday 9 August 2022

*The Joint Officer Group is a coalition of Local Planning Authorities who have responsibilities within the jurisdiction of the Project.

Deposit locations

- 6.2.25 Consultation materials, listed out in Table 6-1, were made available to view at the following deposit locations across the area of the Project throughout the consultation period. Deposit locations were selected with assistance from local authorities, and the Applicant selected the locations listed in Table 6-5.

Table 6-5 Deposit locations

Location	Address
Bishop's Waltham Library	Free Street, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton, SO32 1EE
Chandler's Ford Library	Oakmount Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, S053 2LH
Eastleigh Library	1 Swan Centre, Eastleigh, SO50 5SF
Fair Oak Community Library	Campbell Way, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7AX
HBC	Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX
Leigh Park Library	50 Park Parade, Leigh Park, Havant, PO9 1UN
Paulsgrove Library	Paulsgrove Youth Community Centre, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB
Portchester Hub	38 West Street, Porchester, PO16 9UY
Portchester Library	70 West Street, Portchester, PO16 9TX

- 6.2.26 Please see Appendix C.13 (Deposit locations) for a map of the deposit locations across the consultation zones. The locations are indicated with an orange star.

Webinars

- 6.2.27 Three webinar events were held to support the Summer 2022 Consultation. Each webinar featured a presentation from the Applicant, an animation, and finished with a Question-and-Answer session. Attendees could submit questions in advance of the webinar and questions which could not be answered at the presentation were answered by email. Appendix C.14 (Webinar Presentation) shows the presentation given on 11 August 2022. It should be noted that the same presentation was given across all three webinar dates. Table 6-6 outlines when the webinars were held, duration, and attendees. In total, there were 69 attendees.

Table 6-6 Webinar attendance

Webinar	Attendees
26 July 2022 (19:00-20:30)	28
3 August 2022 (19:00-20:30)	21
11 August 2022 (19:00-20:30)	20

Feedback mechanisms

- 6.2.28 The following response methods were available for people to provide feedback during the consultation:
- An online feedback form available via the website
 - Hard-copy feedback form Appendix C.6 (Feedback form)
 - A freepost address (FREEPOST HAMPSHIRE WTWRP CONSULTATION) was set up so respondents could send the printed feedback form and/or other feedback to the Project; and
 - Feedback could be emailed to the dedicated email address for the Project: FeedbackHWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk

6.3 Response to consultation feedback

Number and format of feedback received

- 6.3.1 The Applicant received 571 responses to Summer 2022 Consultation. The format and number of responses received is listed below in Table 6-7.

Table 6-7 Feedback received

Feedback mechanism	Number
Online feedback form	449
Hard-copy feedback forms	69
Emails	53

- 6.3.2 All feedback, regardless of origin, was reviewed and assigned a code or codes. Following the coding exercise, all coding was reviewed to ensure that codes had been applied in a consistent manner. The sentiment of the comment was then added (either positive, negative, neutral or a suggestion) and whether the comment could be considered a suggestion.
- 6.3.3 The Applicant published an interim report in January 2023 setting out a summary of the consultation activity undertaken and highlighting the key themes that emerged from the feedback received. The report was intended to communicate

the feedback to all parties and provide reassurance that their input is being actively considered in shaping the project ahead of the consultation stage. Please refer to Appendix C.15 (Summer 2022 Consultation Summary of Feedback Report).

6.3.4 In May 2024, the Applicant published an interim report detailing its response to the Summer 2022 Consultation feedback. For more details, please refer to Appendix C.16 (Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback). This document formed part of the consultation materials for the subsequent Summer 2024 Consultation. Table 6-8 provides a summary of the key issues raised during the Summer 2022 Consultation and the Applicant’s responses at the time the interim report was published at the Summer 2024 Consultation.

Table 6-8 Summary of issues raised at the Summer 2022 Consultation and how the Applicant has responded

Issue raised	The Applicant’s response
Concerns about the quality of drinking water and potential changes to its taste and smell.	The Applicant explained that while there may be a potential change in taste to the water supplied to customers as it would come from a blend of sources, including water from Havant Thicket Reservoir, all water sent into supply would continue to meet strict regulatory standards for taste and odour for drinking water quality, overseen by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). A communications plan will be put in place by the Applicant to keep customers informed when a change in water source takes effect.
Concerns around the potential environmental impacts of recycled water on biodiversity, wildlife and ecology.	The Applicant noted that initial environmental assessments to consider impacts and mitigation to ensure the local environment and marine life is protected during the delivery of the Project had been undertaken and were set out in the PEI Report and related consultation documents. It was explained that assessments were ongoing, alongside further surveys, engagement and project development, and that full assessments and mitigation would be set out in the ES, as part of the Applicant’s DCO submission.
Feedback on the location selected for the WRP called site 72.	Following the feedback received at the Summer 2022 Consultation, the Applicant undertook a further review of the site selection process and reconsidered a variety of potential sites. This review was presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation which reconfirmed that site 72 is the preferred site for the WRP.
Concerns around the sustainability of the water recycling process and the energy and	The Applicant’s highlighted that its consideration of alternatives had resulted in the selection of water recycling and transfer as the most sustainable solution and that consideration of energy and carbon will help

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
<p>maintenance to build and operate the WRP.</p>	<p>reduce emissions during the construction and operation phases.</p> <p>The Applicant noted that it was committed to working towards net zero carbon emissions as per its Net Zero Plan, which had been developed in line with the Government's commitments. The Applicant reported that carbon emissions associated with the consumption of electricity would be assessed as part of the EIA.</p>
<p>Concerns around the potential for disrupting areas of natural beauty, as well as potential visual impacts on the local landscape.</p>	<p>The Applicant committed to ongoing studies of the features and characteristics of the landscape. Consideration of landscape and potential visual impacts informed the development of the pipeline routes and compound locations presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation. The siting of AGP was chosen to maximise visual screening and landscape integration to minimise impact on the local community and views. The Applicant also explained that landscape considerations had resulted in narrowed working widths and trenchless techniques to avoid woodland.</p> <p>The Applicant stated that the ES would set out details of the proposed mitigation and protection measures to support the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and wider Environmental Net Gain opportunities.</p>
<p>Concerns around the construction impacts on communities relating to vibration from tunnelling and potential property effects, particularly in Havant.</p>	<p>The Applicant explained at the Summer 2024 Consultation that the Project design had been refined to locate tunnelling away from residential properties where practicable and to use trenchless methods to reduce surface impacts.</p> <p>It noted that the tunnel between the WRP and Portsdown Hill would be constructed at a depth of approximately 60m, and therefore any disturbance during either construction or operation is considered highly unlikely. The potential noise and vibration effects of the tunnelling on nearby properties, such as residential properties, have been assessed and found to be not significant.</p>
<p>Negative feedback was received about the pipeline corridors.</p>	<p>The Applicant explained that pipeline corridors and route options were developed through an iterative appraisal process considering environmental, engineering and cost factors. Consultation feedback informed refinements to corridor sections and route options, including preferences for tunnelled routes where these reduced impacts on residential areas,</p>

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	groundwater sources and sensitive environments. The Applicant consulted on refined pipeline sections A through to M from the WRP to Otterbourne WSW at the subsequent Summer 2024 Consultation.

6.4 Conclusion

- 6.4.1 The Summer 2022 Consultation provided early feedback from stakeholders and communities on the emerging proposals.
- 6.4.2 The Applicant had regard to the feedback received by reviewing, analysing, and responding to all themes raised in the Summer 2022 Consultation, and by publishing its response to the Summer 2022 Consultation Report to show how comments directly shaped the ongoing development of the Project. This feedback formed part of the evidence base for ongoing scheme development and informed subsequent statutory consultations, assessments and engagement.

7 Consultation under EIA Regulations

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter outlines how the Applicant has satisfied the relevant requirements of the EIA Regulations as part of its consultation processes, including EIA Scoping, publicity of the PEI Report and environmental topic-specific engagement.
- 7.1.2 Consultation is a prescribed and important part of the EIA process, giving stakeholders, relevant statutory consultees and environmental organisations the opportunity to review and comment on the Project and its potential likely significant environmental effects by providing the information reasonably required to develop an informed view.
- 7.1.3 Projects within the DCO regime are subject to the EIA Regulations, where they constitute an 'EIA' development. As the Project falls within Schedule 2 paragraph 10(l) of the EIA Regulations and has the potential for likely significant effects on the environment by virtue of its scale and complexity, it is considered an EIA development.

7.2 2023 EIA scoping exercise

- 7.2.1 Early in the Project development process, a series of option appraisals and initial environmental and engineering studies were undertaken to inform the emerging design of the Project and to identify key technical and environmental considerations and constraints. These studies informed the Project presented in the 2023 EIA Scoping Report (see Appendix D.1 (Scoping Report)), the purpose of which was to establish the scope, content and extent of matters to be addressed in the ES.

EIA Scoping Opinion

- 7.2.2 In accordance with Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations, an EIA Scoping Report (see Appendix D.1 (Scoping Report)) was submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate on 21 July 2023, along with a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion. A copy of the cover letter that accompanied the Scoping Opinion request and provided notification under Regulation 8(1)(a) is enclosed in Appendix D.2 (Cover letter).
- 7.2.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 31 August 2023. The EIA Scoping Opinion sets out the Planning Inspectorate's comments, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on the EIA approach and topic areas to be assessed and reported on.
- 7.2.4 The EIA Scoping Opinion also included a list of all prescribed consultation bodies consulted by the Planning Inspectorate (in accordance with Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations) on the EIA scope, approach and topic areas, including confirmation of topics/issues that could be scoped out on the basis that there is no potential for likely significant environmental effects. The consultation bodies included bodies prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(aa) of the PA 2008 and listed in column 1 of the table set out in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations

2009 (as amended), and relevant local authorities within Section 43 of the PA 2008. One non-prescribed consultation body, the RNLI, was identified in the Regulation 11 list pursuant to Regulation 11(1)(c). In total, the Planning Inspectorate received 26 responses from the EIA Scoping Opinion consultation.

Summary of EIA Scoping Opinion consultation responses

- 7.2.5 Consultation responses received as part of the EIA scoping process by the Planning Inspectorate, including those received after the statutory deadline, were had regard to and appended to the EIA Scoping Opinion.
- 7.2.6 The issued Scoping Opinion and each scoping consultation response appended to the Scoping Opinion has been reviewed by the relevant environmental topic lead for the Project to determine how it should be addressed through the EIA, including confirmation of assessment scope, methodology, and assessment required. The responses received and the response from the Applicant was presented in tabular format in the PEI Report Appendix 5.1 Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II accompanying the Summer 2024 Consultation information. ES Appendix 5.3 Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) is an updated version of Appendix 5.1 of the PEI Report and is submitted as part of the ES. The Applicant is therefore able to demonstrate how it has had regard to the Scoping Opinion and feedback it received and how it was used to inform iterative design development and the preparation of the ES.
- 7.2.7 Wider pre-application engagement undertaken with statutory consultees and local authorities has been undertaken through EIA Working Groups, JOG, and bi-lateral meetings. EIA Working Groups are described in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) and in the Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5).
- 7.2.8 For further information, please refer to the following documents:
- ES Chapter 5 EIA Approach and methodology, Volume I (Document Reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) for further detail on the EIA approach and methodology which includes information about the approach to consultation and engagement; and
 - ES Appendix 5.3 Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document Reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) for information about how the Applicant had regard to EIA Scoping Opinion comments and the Applicant's responses
- 7.2.9 Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) of the Consultation Report explains how the Applicant has met the requirements of Regulation 12 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. Regulation 12 requires that the Applicant's SoCC must state whether a project constitutes EIA development and, if it does, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information. Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations requires that any notice that is published under Section 48 of the PA 2008, must also be issued to all the consultation bodies under the EIA Regulations, as listed in the EIA Scoping Opinion, and any person identified in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

- 7.2.10 A PEI Report was prepared to provide the information that is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development. This was done in accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, Section 47 of the PA 2008 and as set out in National Infrastructure Planning Advice Note Seven, Section 8.3. The PEI Report was published and consulted on as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation. Details on how the Applicant undertook its statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report.

8 2024 Statement of Community Consultation

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The preparation of a SoCC represents the next step in the wider pre-application consultation programme, following the initial consultations undertaken in the Public Consultation 2021 and the Summer 2022 Consultation. The Applicant has developed the SoCC ensuring it reflected the views and themes identified in the feedback gathered during the earlier consultations.
- 8.1.2 This chapter provides details of how the 2024 SoCC was prepared, consulted on, and published in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008 prior to commencing the Summer 2024 Consultation.

8.2 2024 SoCC rationale

- 8.2.1 Section 47 of the PA 2008 requires applicants to prepare a SoCC, consult each relevant local authority identified under Section 43, and have regard to any responses received when finalising the SoCC.
- 8.2.2 The purpose of the 2024 SoCC was to explain how the Applicant would consult local residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Project, in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008. It provided details of when the consultation would be held, the information that would be included, who would be consulted and the approach and tools that would be used. The rationale for the 2024 SoCC was to ensure that consultation was proportionate, accessible, and appropriate to the local context, reflecting the scale and nature of the Project and that people who may be affected by the Project had an opportunity to understand, comment on and inform the proposals.
- 8.2.3 The 2024 SoCC explains why the chosen consultation methodology was appropriate, identifies zones for engaging with affected local communities and outlines the communication channels to be used. It was centred on providing a transparent, inclusive and robust framework that met statutory duties and pre-application guidance, ensuring stakeholders could meaningfully participate in providing feedback on the Project prior to the submission of the DCO application.
- 8.2.4 Section 47(2) of the PA 2008 that states, *‘Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement’*. The Applicant undertook an initial advance and statutory consultation with local authorities on the draft versions of the 2024 SoCC.
- 8.2.5 For the Project, the relevant Section 43(1) local authorities (hereafter referred to as ‘the local authorities’ in the Consultation Report) are those whose administrative areas contain land within, or adjoining, the draft Order Limits. The local authorities are:
- EHDC
 - EBC
 - FBC

- Hampshire County Council (HCC)
- HBC
- Portsmouth City Council (PCC)
- WCC

8.2.6 South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) was consulted on a non-prescribed basis as part of the 2024 SoCC process. The rationale for this was that the SDNPA had been consulted as a local authority at the Summer 2022 Consultation. As the Project evolved, SDNPA was no longer considered a local authority, due to the Project being removed from the geographic designated and administrative area of the National Park. However, the SDNPA remained a prescribed consultee and continued to be a member of the Joint Officer Group (JOG) and therefore played a key role in discussions regarding the development of the Project.

8.2.7 At the time the draft 2024 SoCC was prepared, the Government's new pre-application guidance had not yet been issued. This new guidance, Pre-application Guidance 2024, introduced updated expectations around the involvement of neighbouring authorities and wider engagement. These updated requirements were applied for the Spring 2025 Consultation but were not yet in force during preparation of the 2024 SoCC in March and early April 2024.

8.3 Initial advanced consultation on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC

8.3.1 Before carrying out the statutory 28-day consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC, the Applicant undertook a preliminary period of initial advance consultation with the local authorities. This allowed local authorities to provide early comments at a formative stage.

8.3.2 The pre-draft 2024 SoCC was issued for initial advance consultation on 16 February 2024 to the local authorities with the exception of EHDC who was omitted in error. This was subsequently rectified as described in paragraph 8.4.4. A copy of the correspondence issued to local authorities is included in Appendix E.1 (Email to local authorities for initial advance consultation). A copy of the pre-draft 2024 SoCC sent to local authorities for comment can be viewed in Appendix E.2 (Pre-draft 2024 SoCC). The feedback period for initial comments was between 16 February and 1 March 2024.

8.3.3 The Applicant held a JOG meeting with local authorities and SDNPA on 21 February 2024 to present a summary of the pre-draft 2024 SoCC and seek initial comments. Please see Appendix E.3 (JOG meeting presentation). The Applicant presented the following aspects:

- What is a SoCC?
- The 2024 SoCC timeline
- Structure
- Who the Applicant intended to consult
- How the Applicant intended to consult
- How the community can provide comments

- 8.3.4 The deadline for comments was 1 March 2024. The local authorities that responded were EBC, FBC, HCC, HBC, PCC, and SDNPA.
- 8.3.5 The comments received focused on improving the clarity, transparency and accessibility of the proposed consultation process. Key themes included requests for clearer definitions and explanations of consultation zones and who would be consulted, greater detail on consultation methods and accessibility arrangements, and clearer information on public consultation events, venues and deposit locations. Local authorities also sought improved explanations of the planning and DCO process, confirmation of how consultation principles would be met, and clarity on what aspects of the Project were open to influence. Additional comments related to engagement with councillors and community groups, alignment with local Statements of Community Involvement (SCI), document availability and charges, and minor presentational improvements to figures, headings and terminology.
- 8.3.6 The Applicant carefully considered all comments and responded in a proportionate manner, making a range of amendments to improve clarity, transparency and understanding where this would add value for consultees. Updates were made to consultation zone definitions, consultation methods, public consultation event details, accessibility information, document wording and structure, and explanations of consultation principles and reporting. Where suggestions were not taken forward, the Applicant provided clear reasoning, explaining that existing measures were sufficient, the information was already adequately covered, or further detail would not meaningfully improve community understanding.
- 8.3.7 Table E4-1 in Appendix E.4 (Regard to initial advance consultation comments on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC) contains summarised initial comments received from the local authorities. It also shows the regard had by the Applicant and the amendments made to the draft 2024 SoCC following the initial advance consultation.

8.4 Statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC

- 8.4.1 The statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC was carried out in line with paragraphs 34 to 42 of the Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process. This guidance was superseded by the Pre-application Guidance 2024, paragraph 34, however the new guidance did not make any material changes to how consultation on the 2024 SoCC should have been carried out.
- 8.4.2 Statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC initially started on 13 March 2024. However, the Applicant then contacted all local authorities on 21 March 2024 and announced that the Applicant had made some refinements to the 'what we are consulting on' list in the draft 2024 SoCC. This was to take into account the progression of the emerging WRMP24, where the need for the Project was established and which was to be consulted on in July 2024. It was important that the two consultations were not seeking feedback on similar matters. A copy of this correspondence can be found in Appendix E.5 (Email to local authorities for statutory consultation).

- 8.4.3 An updated draft was shared with the local authorities, including the SDNPA on an informal basis, on 21 March 2024. A copy of the draft 2024 SoCC sent to local authorities for comment can be viewed in Appendix E.6 (Draft 2024 SoCC). Statutory consultation was restarted and parties were advised to submit comments by 19 April 2024, giving a 28-day response period from the day after receipt of the draft 2024 SoCC. This allowed the minimum period as required by Section 47(3) of the PA 2008.
- 8.4.4 EHDC was contacted on 16 April 2024 due to having been omitted in error from the initial distribution list for the statutory consultation. EHDC was invited to provide feedback as part of formal consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC with the statutory consultation period starting from 17 April 2024 and ending on 15 May 2024, therefore pursuant to Section 47(3) of the PA 2008 giving the full 28 days to make formal comment. A copy of this correspondence can be found in Appendix E.7 (Email to East Hampshire District Council for statutory consultation). Feedback from EHDC was received on 30 April 2024.
- 8.4.5 The Applicant received consultation responses from all local authorities, with FBC stating they had no comments.
- 8.4.6 The comments received primarily sought greater clarity and transparency around the scope, methods and audiences. Clearer definitions were requested of consultation zones, as well as clarification on how densely populated areas would be reached. There were requests for more detail on engagement with local organisations, councillors and statutory bodies, the scale and usability of consultation materials such as the Book of Plans, and the use of digital and accessible consultation tools. Additional comments focused on consultation event coverage, communications and publicity arrangements, explanations of exclusions within consultation zones, and confirmation of how construction impacts and future consultation stages would be addressed.
- 8.4.7 The Applicant carefully considered all comments and made targeted amendments where this improved clarity and understanding, particularly in relation to consultation zone definitions, engagement with local organisations, wording of explanatory footnotes, accessibility provisions, and document presentation. Where comments did not result in changes, the Applicant provided clear justification, typically concluding that the existing text already addressed the issue, that proposed methods were proportionate and effective based on previous consultation experience, or that further detail would be provided through consultation materials rather than the 2024 SoCC itself.
- 8.4.8 Table E8-1 in Appendix E.8 (Regard to statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC) provides a summary of the comments received from the local authorities, the Applicant's regard, in accordance with Section 47(5) of the PA 2008, and the amendments made to the final 2024 SoCC as a result of the statutory consultation. A number of themes raised during the initial advanced consultation stage were repeated during the statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC. The Applicant reconsidered these matters in light of the statutory consultation responses and confirms that its position remained unchanged for the reasons set out in Table E8-1 in Appendix E.8 (Regard to statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC).

8.5 Publication of the 2024 SoCC

2024 SoCC content

8.5.1 The published 2024 SoCC set out:

- Details about the Project
- Key consultation activities and dates
- How the Applicant was publishing preliminary environmental information
- How the Applicant was going to advertise the Summer 2024 Consultation
- How the Applicant was going to consult local people and communities about the Project and what activities would be undertaken to provide access to consultation information
- How people could provide feedback to the consultation activities and ensure that they are informed about the Project

Consultation Zones A, B, C, and D

8.5.2 The 2024 SoCC explained that the Applicant had developed four consultation zones consisting of Consultation Zones A, B, C and D for the purposes of engaging with the local community. The 2024 SoCC clearly outlined which methods of communication would be used for each of the consultation zones. Where communication methods applied to multiple zones, these were shown in a table. Section 7 of the Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC) provides a description of each of the consultation zones (also set out in Table 8-1) and shows the location of the zones on a map.

Table 8-1 Consultation Zone description

Consultation Zone	Description
Consultation Zone A	Comprises affected landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits.
Consultation Zone B	Comprises businesses and people living within 1km of the draft Order Limits. The 1km buffer does not include Eastney Long Sea Outfall as it is existing infrastructure and there will be no physical development that would affect local residents or require consultation.
Consultation Zone C	Comprises businesses and people living within 5km of the draft Order Limits.
Consultation Zone D	Includes Hampshire and the wider area.

Publicity under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

- 8.5.3 The final 2024 SoCC which took account of the comments received from the local authorities and SDNPA was published online on 29 May 2024. A copy of the final 2024 SoCC, as published, can be found in Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC).
- 8.5.4 Pursuant to Section 47(6)(za), the 2024 SoCC was made available for inspection by the public from 29 May 2024 and for the duration of the Summer 2024 Consultation via the Applicant’s dedicated website for the Project. It remained available for viewing throughout further consultation stages. Additionally, the 2024 SoCC was available at deposit locations during the consultation period from the 29 May to the 23 July 2024. These locations are set out in Table 8-2. Publishing the 2024 SoCC on the Project website and at deposit locations ensured the 2024 SoCC could be inspected by the people living in the vicinity of the land in-person and online.

Table 8-2 Deposit locations

Location	Address
Bishop’s Waltham Library	Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham, Southampton, SO32 1EE
Cosham Library	Spur Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3EB
Eastleigh Library	1 Swan Centre, Eastleigh, SO50 5SF
Fair Oak Community Library	Campbell Way, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7AX
Fareham Library	Osborn Road, Fareham, PO16 7EN
Havant Library	Havant Meridian Centre, Havant, PO9 1UN
Leigh Park Library	50 Park Parade, Leigh Park, Havant, PO9 5AB
Paulsgrove Library	Paulsgrove Youth Community Centre, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB
Waterlooville Library	The Precinct, Waterlooville, PO7 7DT

- 8.5.5 Pursuant to Section 47(6)(a) of the PA 2008, a notice relating to where and when the 2024 SoCC was available to be viewed (Appendix E.10 (Section 47 notice)) was published in three local newspapers, as set out in Table 8-3. A copy of the 2024 SoCC notices as published in The News (Portsmouth), Southern Daily Echo, and Hampshire Chronicle can be found in Appendix E.11 (Section 47 published notices). The notice included a description of the Project proposals, how to view the 2024 SoCC, how to respond to the Summer 2024 Consultation, and information about how to contact the Applicant.

Table 8-3 Published 2024 SoCC notices

Publication	Date of Notice
The News (Portsmouth)	27 May 2024
Southern Daily Echo	27 May 2024
Hampshire Chronicle	30 May 2024

Summary

8.5.6 The overarching timetable for the preparation of the 2024 SoCC is summarised in Table 8-4.

Table 8-4 Preparation of the 2024 SoCC

Description	Date	Detail
Start of initial advance consultation on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC	17 February 2024	Pre-draft 2024 SoCC issued to local authorities for initial advance comment.
End of initial advance consultation on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC	1 March 2024	Feedback from the initial advance consultation incorporated into the draft 2024 SoCC.
Start of statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC	14 March 2024	Statutory consultation with local authorities starts on the draft 2024 SoCC.
Re-start of statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC	22 March 2024	Statutory consultation restarted due to the Applicant making amends to the draft 2024 SoCC regarding what the Applicant was consulting on. Local authorities were given at least 28 days to comment with a deadline of 19 April 2024.
EHDCs statutory consultation period	17 April 2024	EHDC had been omitted from the statutory consultation period in error. The Council was informed that it would have a full 28 days to provide feedback with a deadline of 15 May 2024.
End of statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC	19 April 2024	End of statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC for all local authorities (other than EHDC).
EHDC feedback provided	30 April 2024	EHDC provided its statutory consultation feedback on the draft 2024 SoCC.

Description	Date	Detail
End of statutory consultation for EHDC	15 May 2024	End of statutory consultation for EHDC.
Summary of the publication of the Section 47 notice in local newspapers	27 May and 30 May 2024	2024 SoCC Section 47 notice published in the below local newspapers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The News (Portsmouth) • Southern Daily Echo • Hampshire Chronicle
Final 2024 SoCC made available	29 May 2024	Final 2024 SoCC, incorporating feedback following statutory consultation, made available at deposit locations and the Project website.

8.5.7 The 2024 SoCC stated, *'If we deem a significant change is made to the Project as a whole, or new statutory consultees are affected, we will consider further targeted and proportionate consultation beyond what is specified in this document, to help inform the final design of the Project. If further consultation is carried out, we will provide appropriate notification to relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the change(s) in question.'* Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Consultation Report provide details of how the Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations respectively were undertaken in line with the published 2024 SoCC, in accordance with the requirements of Section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

8.6 Conclusion

8.6.1 The preparation, consultation and publication of the 2024 SoCC formed a key statutory step in the Project's wider pre-application programme under the PA 2008.

8.6.2 In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook both an initial advance consultation and a full statutory consultation with the relevant Section 43(1) local authorities, alongside engagement with the SDNPA. These stages enabled local authorities to comment at a formative stage, provide formal feedback, and influence the development of the final 2024 SoCC. All comments were reviewed, and amendments were made where appropriate before finalising the document (see Table E4-1 in Appendix E.4 (Regard to initial advance consultation comments on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC) and Table E8-1 in Appendix E.8 (Regard to statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC)).

8.6.3 The resulting 2024 SoCC set out a transparent and proportionate framework for how the Applicant would consult local communities during the Summer 2024 Consultation. The 2024 SoCC was published online and made available at deposit locations, with formal notices advertised in accordance with statutory requirements.

- 8.6.4 Chapter 9 describes how the Summer 2024 Consultation was delivered in accordance with the 2024 SoCC and includes a compliance table (Table 9-6) demonstrating how every element of the 2024 SoCC was met. The Applicant also undertook the further consultations, the Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations, in accordance with the 2024 SoCC, which stated, *'If we deem a significant change is made to the Project as a whole, or new statutory consultees are affected, we will consider further targeted and proportionate consultation beyond what is specified in this document, to help inform the final design of the Project. If further consultation is carried out, we will provide appropriate notification to relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the change(s) in question.'*

9 Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Following the Summer 2022 Consultation, the Applicant had regard to the feedback which had been received in selecting the proposed pipeline routes and locations for the AGP and develop the Project further.
- 9.1.2 This chapter explains how the Applicant undertook statutory consultation on the Project, which was in line with Sections 42, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. The consultation, referred to as the 'Summer 2024 Consultation' hereafter, took place between 29 May 2024 and 23 July 2024. All responses had to be received before 11:59pm on the closing date (note: there were some exceptions to this, as late responses were agreed with several parties (see section 9.3)). The purpose of the Summer 2024 Consultation was to seek the views of the communities, landowners, prescribed bodies and other local stakeholders on the Project which had been further developed following Summer 2022 Consultation. Please refer to Chapter 6 for more information on the Summer 2022 Consultation.

9.2 Approach to the Summer 2024 Consultation

- 9.2.1 The Applicant sought views and feedback on all aspects of the Project, including:
- The Project overall
 - The proposed pipeline routes
 - The proposed WRP and associated pumping stations
 - The proposed AGP along the Pipeline route
 - The process undertaken to develop the Project up to the statutory consultation; and
 - The preliminary environmental and other impacts of the Project and initial proposals to mitigation
- 9.2.2 The Summer 2024 Consultation was undertaken to enable those with an interest in the Project to provide feedback. The Applicant consulted with the local community, including local residents, local businesses, community representatives and community groups in accordance with the 2024 SoCC (please see section 8.5).
- 9.2.3 Four consultation zones were developed to assist engagement with the local community. This was an increase from two consultation zones applied at the Summer 2022 Consultation, to create a new zone within 1km of the draft Order Limits. The Applicant considered this decision as appropriate by having regard to other NSIPs which undertook a similar approach. A new 5km buffer was also mapped out to include those who may be affected by landscape or other wider effects. The consultation zones were therefore as follows:
- Zone A comprised affected landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits.

- Zone B comprised businesses and people living within 1km of the draft Order Limits.
- Zone C comprised businesses and people living within 5km of the draft Order Limits; and
- Zone D comprised Hampshire and the wider area.

9.2.4 In addition to consulting the above, Members of Parliament representing areas within and adjacent to the four zones and affected local interest groups such as residents’ associations, community groups, and non-prescribed environmental organisations outside of those consultation bodies prescribed under the EIA Regulations were also engaged. These groups either represented those located within the consultation zones or had been previously consulted during the Summer 2022 consultation.

9.2.5 In addition to the local community, the Applicant also consulted with prescribed consultees (Section 42(1)(a)), as presented in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), relevant local authorities (Section 42(1)(b)) and persons with an interest with the land (PILs) (Section 42(1)(d)). Further details are provided in following sections.

Summer 2024 Consultation documents

9.2.6 To support the delivery of Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant produced a variety of consultation documents to explain the proposals and what was being consulted on, and to publicise the consultation, the methods via which people could respond and the date by which responses needed to be provided. While the Section 42 consultation documents specifically included formal notifications such as the covering letter and Section 48 notice, the broader suite of documents described in this section was made widely available to all consultees to ensure accessibility and engagement across all audiences. The Applicant ensured information was available by:

- Uploading all consultation documents to a dedicated online document library accessible through the Project website, screenshots of the document library can be found in Appendix F.1 (Website).
- Depositing key consultation documents at easily accessible deposit locations as set out in Table 9-2.
- Organising consultation events as set out in Table 9-3 to give local people an opportunity to view project documents and ask questions; and
- Making documents available in paper copy and in alternative formats on request.

9.2.7 The consultation documents that were available to view are set out in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 Consultation documents

Document	Description
Consultation Brochure	An overview of the Project, its various components and where to find more detailed

Document	Description
	information and provide feedback. The document was written in non-technical language. Appendix F.2 (Brochure)
Frequently Asked Questions	A list of commonly asked questions and answers. Appendix F.3 (Frequently Asked Questions)
Feedback Form	The Feedback Form had both open and closed questions to gain feedback about different elements of the Project. Appendix F.4 (Feedback form)
Book of Plans	A comprehensive collection of drawings and maps that illustrate the scope of works within the Project. Appendix F.5 (Book of Plans)
2024 Scheme Development Summary	A report outlining the development of the Project and the rationale behind each component. Appendix F.6 (2024 Scheme Development Summary)
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report)	A report providing preliminary information about the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Project.
PEI Report Non-Technical Summary	A non-technical summary of the PEI Report. Appendix F.7 (Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary)
Draft Illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan	A masterplan that provides a preliminary, illustrative design framework for managing and enhancing the environmental aspects of the Project. Appendix F.8 (Draft Illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan)
Draft Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan	A plan that outlines, in draft, the strategies and measures for managing construction traffic. Appendix F.9 (Draft Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan)
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	A plan that provides a preliminary approach for managing and mitigating environmental impacts during the construction phase of the Project. Appendix F.10 (Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan)

Document	Description
Equality Impact Assessment	A report that assesses the potential effects of the Project on people who share protected characteristics. Appendix F.11 (Equality Impact Assessment)
Statement of Community Consultation	An overview that outlines the approach to engagement and consultation. Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC)
Section 47 Notice	A notice publicising the Statement of Community Consultation. Appendix E.10 (Section 47 notice).
Section 48 Notice	A notice publicising the proposed application for a Development Consent Order. Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice)
Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback	A report that provides a response to feedback received from the Summer 2022 Consultation on the Project. Appendix C.16 (Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback Report)

9.2.8 Presented as part of the consultation documents, the PEI Report outlined the initial assessment of the Project's preliminary likely significant environmental effects of the Project and early assessment outcomes known at this stage of the Project. Potential mitigation measures were detailed within the PEI Report.

9.2.9 During the Summer 2024 Consultation, a draft Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was shared, which set out additional construction-related mitigation measures. This draft Outline CEMP was cross-referenced with the PEI Report to ensure comprehensive coverage of mitigation strategies.

Updates and amendments

9.2.10 After the launch of Summer 2024 Consultation, it was brought to the attention of the Applicant that inaccurate opening times for the deposit locations had been listed in the Consultation Brochure. In response to this, the Applicant checked deposit location opening times and amendments were made to the brochure and updated online on 13 June 2024.

9.2.11 It was also brought to the Applicant's attention that Appendix 11.2 (Geo-Environmental Interpretative Report), Appendix 11.1 (Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Desk Study (Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, and Part 4)) and Appendix 7.1 (Historic environment baseline study (Part 1 and Part 2)) to the PEI Report were not included in the initial print run. In response, these updated documents were delivered to the deposit locations on 18 June 2024, giving over the 28-day statutory timescales for review.

- 9.2.12 Additionally, the Applicant was made aware that the appendices for Chapter 20 of the PEI Report had been incorrectly uploaded to the consultation website. These were Appendix 20.1 (Longlist and shortlist of other developments) and Appendix 20.2 (Cumulative effects assessment). They were uploaded correctly on 10 June 2024 to the consultation website and rectified at deposit locations on 18 June and 19 June 2024.
- 9.2.13 On 26 June 2024, the Applicant made further updates to its consultation brochure after it had been brought to its attention that environmental regulators stated that the published wording around the Section 20 agreement was misleading. The Applicant quickly took steps to rectify the error by including a 'clarification' in the Summer 2024 Consultation brochure, on the website, and updated FAQs both in print and digitally to reflect the amended wording of the text. The brochure clarification can be viewed in Appendix F.13 (Brochure Clarification).

Dedicated consultation website

- 9.2.14 The Applicant hosted a dedicated consultation website for the Project which attracted 4,040 visitors over the Summer 2024 Consultation period. All of the consultation materials, bar the appendices to the PEI Report outlined in 9.5.7, were available from 29 May 2024 on the dedicated consultation website.
- 9.2.15 The dedicated consultation website included the following tabs to display different information about the Project and Summer 2024 Consultation.
- Need for the Project
 - About the Project
 - Project Impacts
 - Protecting the Environment
 - Legacy and Benefits
 - This Consultation
- 9.2.16 Screenshots of the dedicated consultation website pages can be found in Appendix F.1 (Website) as presented at Summer 2024 Consultation.

Deposit locations

- 9.2.17 The documents as set out in Table 9-1 were also made available at nine deposit locations.
- 9.2.18 The deposit locations could be used to access the consultation information. These locations were promoted in printed Section 48 notices as set out in the Section 48 notice in Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice). The locations were chosen to service communities within the vicinity of the project. The deposit locations were initially based on the locations used at the Summer 2022 Consultation; however, the following changes were made:
- Waterlooville Library was added following comments from the Summer 2022 Consultation.
 - Fareham Library was added as a central location for the Project.

- Chandler’s Ford Library was removed in favour of locations closer to the Project.
- Portchester Community Hub was removed to enable a wider spread of locations as Paulsgrove Library already covered a similar area.
- HBC declined to host materials in council offices; therefore, HBC was removed, and Havant Library was added.

9.2.19 Deposit locations were also outlined in the 2024 SoCC that was shared with local authorities as part of the consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC.

9.2.20 In addition, it was made clear in the Consultation brochure that hard copies of the consultation materials could be requested directly from the Applicant (please see Appendix F.2 Brochure). Hard copies could also be requested in another language, large print, audio or braille format. As per the Section 48 notice (Appendix F.12 Section 48 notice), people were advised that there may be fees associated with requested material.

9.2.21 The Summer 2024 Consultation documents were available for inspection, with some materials available to take away, such as feedback forms at the following deposit locations detailed in Table 9-2, from 29 May 2024 to 23 July 2024.

Table 9-2 Deposit locations

Location	Address
Bishop’s Waltham Library	Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham, Southampton, SO32 1EE
Cosham Library	Spur Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3EB
Eastleigh Library	1 Swan Centre, Eastleigh, SO50 5SF
Fair Oak Community Library	Campbell Way, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7AX
Fareham Library	Osborn Road, Fareham, PO16 7EN
Havant Library	Havant Meridian Centre, Havant, PO9 1UN
Leigh Park Library	50 Park Parade, Leigh Park, Havant, PO9 5AB
Paulsgrove Library	Paulsgrove Youth Community Centre, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB
Waterlooville Library	The Precinct, Waterlooville, PO7 7DT

Consultation events

9.2.22 Six in-person consultation events were held to support the Summer 2024 Consultation, to ensure consistency with the Summer 2022 Consultation which also had six events. Venues for these consultation events were selected to ensure

coverage across the consultation zones to ensure accessibility for residents and consulted on with local authorities as part of the consultation on the 2024 SoCC. Please refer to Chapter 8 for more information.

- 9.2.23 Each potential site was visited beforehand to check suitability and conduct a health and safety assessment for each venue. Additionally, the Applicant was briefed on the events, and a rota was created to ensure that different workstreams of the Project had a suitable representative at the events.
- 9.2.24 The Applicant was available to answer questions, and all consultation documents as detailed in Table 9-1 were available to view, and feedback forms, the PEI Report Non-Technical Summary and the Consultation Brochure were available to take away. Additionally, information was provided on the Project in the form of display materials which can be found in Appendix F.15 (Public Exhibition Boards). These included:
- Pop-up banners that included information about different elements of the Project, such as proposed locations for an AGP; and
 - Display boards showing the preferred proposed pipeline route sections.
- 9.2.25 Across the six in-person consultation events there were 769 attendees. The events each ran for six hours to enable as many people to participate as possible.
- 9.2.26 The attendance figures presented in Table 9-3 are provided to the best of the Project's available information and efforts to ensure accuracy. A designated individual was stationed at the entrance with a clicker to count attendees; however, despite all reasonable precautions taken to ensure precise recording, the figures cannot be guaranteed to be entirely exact.

Table 9-3 Consultation events

Date	Time	Venue	Number of attendees
Monday 10 June 2024	2pm – 8pm	Havant Rugby Football Club, Hooks Lane Ground, Fraser Road, Havant, PO9 3EJ	110
Saturday 15 June 2024	10am – 4pm	Meridian Shopping Centre, Elm Lane, Havant. PO9 1UN	285
Thursday 20 June 2024	2pm – 8pm	Southwick D-Day Memorial Hall, Priory Road, Southwick. PO17 6ED	42
Saturday 22 June 2024	10am – 4pm	Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1ED	80
Thursday 27 June 2024	2pm – 8pm	Colden Common Community Centre, Saint Vigor Way, Colden Common. SO21 1UU	138
Friday 28 June 2024	2pm – 8pm	Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham. PO17 5AL	114

Engaging seldom heard groups

- 9.2.27 The Applicant contacted seldom heard groups by post and by email on a non-prescribed basis. Seldom heard groups were identified following the criteria of protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, those advocating for accessibility, bodies with statutory or advisory roles in equality and inclusion, and groups supporting vulnerable or seldom-heard communities. The Applicant used Joint Officer Group meetings with local authorities, as well as the 2024 SoCC process to confirm the approach to seldom heard groups. Please refer to Chapter 8 for comments provided by local authorities on making information available and the Applicant's response.
- 9.2.28 The following organisations were contacted:
- St. Matthew's Church
 - Holy Cross R C Church
 - Trinity Church Centre
 - Methodist Church Colden Common
 - Baps Shri Swaninarayan Mandir
 - Portsmouth Jami Mosque and Islamic Centre
 - Portsmouth Central Mosque
 - Masjid Al Noor Portsmouth
 - Al Mahdi Centre
 - St Pauls Church
 - Bishopstoke Evangelical Church
 - Eastleigh Baptist Church
 - St Andrew's Church
 - St. Peter's Church
 - St. Barnabas Church
 - St. James Parish Church (Widley)
 - St. Nicholas Church (North Boarhunt)
 - Portsmouth Association for the Blind
 - Open Sight Hampshire Information Hub (Fareham)
 - Lip Reading Support - See2Hear
 - Eastleigh Hard of Hearing Club
 - Fareham Deaf Club
 - Portsmouth Deaf Sports and Social Club
 - Enable Ability
 - Portsmouth Women Alliance (PWA)
 - Women's Wellbeing Club
 - Trinity Winchester Women's Services

- Ethiopian Women’s Empowerment Group
- Energy Youth Centre
- Portsmouth Scouts
- Allsorts
- Y services
- Fareham LGBT+ Youth Support Project
- Hampshire LGBT+ Alliance
- Society For Neurodiversity (S4Nd)
- Room One
- Purple Lantern Society
- Autism Hampshire
- Tim Kiver Foundation

9.2.29 To ensure accessibility of consultation materials, the Applicant made a commitment in its 2024 SoCC that, on request, it would be able to translate, make available in large print, produce audio versions, braille, and in digital data format any of the consultation documents. The Applicant contacted a supplier prior to the consultation launch to ensure that these requests could be met. The Applicant can confirm that it received no requests for alternative formats during the Summer 2024 Consultation.

9.2.30 The venues in which the consultation events were held were also assessed for accessibility. The Applicant ensured that venues had adequate disabled parking bays as well as access to disabled toilets. The Consultation Brochure also outlined accessibility features for each of the consultation venues so the wider community could pick a venue which met their accessibility requirements.

Advertising and publicity

Newspaper advertisements

9.2.31 In addition to Section 48 notices (see paragraph 9.6.1), the Applicant also published advertisements within local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Project would be situated. Copies can be found in Appendix F.24 (Advertisements). Table 9-4 outlines the publication that displayed adverts of the consultation and the dates of which they were published.

Table 9-4 Advertisements

Publication	Date of Notice
Portsmouth News	5 June 2024 and 11 June 2024
Southern Daily Echo	5 June 2024 and 11 June 2024
Hampshire Chronicle	6 June 2024 and 12 June 2024

Leaflets and posters

- 9.2.32 To complement the letter drop for Section 42 and 47 consultees, leaflets (see Appendix (F.25 Leaflet)) were distributed to all addresses in Consultation Zones A and B on 20 May 2024. The leaflets aimed to provide accessible information about the consultation, including how to participate and where to find further details.
- 9.2.33 Posters were displayed across Consultation Zones A, B and C to further raise awareness of the consultation. These posters included key information on how to respond and details of consultation events. Locations for poster placement were identified using online mapping tools alongside the draft Order Limits, ensuring coverage of communities likely to be affected by the Project. A map of confirmed poster locations and the poster content can be found in Appendix F.16 (Poster).
- 9.2.34 As part of the zone-wide poster campaign, posters were displayed at a variety of venues to maximise visibility. A breakdown of these locations is presented in Table 9-5.

Table 9-5 Poster locations

Location group	Number of posters
Community halls	2
GP clinics	5
Post Offices	4
Public facilities	3
Deposit locations	4
In-person consultation event locations	4
Large parks	2
Libraries	6
Corner shops	2
Parish council offices	38
Supermarkets	29
Havant Thicket Reservoir	6
Religious places	1
Social/Sports clubs	5

Location group	Number of posters
Train stations	2
Bus stops	24

Social media

9.2.35 The Applicant publicised details of the Summer 2024 Consultation, including reminders of the timing of the consultation, via the Applicant’s Facebook and Instagram accounts. The adverts provided a link to the dedicated consultation website. Copies of the Facebook and Instagram posts are enclosed within Appendix F.14 (Social media).

9.3 Section 42 consultation

9.3.1 This section provides an overview of the Summer 2024 Consultation undertaken by the Applicant in compliance with Section 42 of the PA 2008 conducted between 29 May 2024 and 23 July 2024.

Section 42(1)(a): identification of prescribed bodies

9.3.2 Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult with “*such persons as may be prescribed*”. Those persons are prescribed in the APFP Regulations 2009. The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 came into force on 30 April 2024, which amended the APFP Regulations 2009. As this was prior to the Summer 2024 Consultation period commencing, the Applicant was required to identify and consult Section 42 consultees as per the amended APFP Regulations 2009 to ensure adequate consultation was undertaken.

9.3.3 The Applicant compiled a list of prescribed bodies, which was derived from the prescribed bodies listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended). The Applicant determined whether a consultee was relevant to the Project in line with columns 2 and 3 of the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), as well as using the definition of ‘relevant’ in the notes to that table.

9.3.4 Furthermore, the Applicant considered Annex 1 of Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation to determine whether a consultee was ‘relevant’ by applying the advice in section A1 of Annex 1. A precautionary and inclusive approach was undertaken to identify relevant consultees, this included neighbouring consultees where appropriate and proportionate.

9.3.5 This list of consultees was then combined with any additional bodies who were notified of the proposed application by the Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. The Planning Inspectorate identified the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) as an additional consultation body under Regulation

11(1)(c), therefore, the Applicant also consulted this body in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

9.3.6 The prescribed bodies consulted on the Project under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, as part of Summer 2024 Consultation, are listed in Table F17-1 of Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). This table confirms the relevance of the consultees to the Project.

9.3.7 Telecommunications providers or distributors and petroleum interests are not listed as prescribed consultees under Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended). However, certain parties were included within the statutory consultation process as part of a proportionate and precautionary consultation strategy. This approach was adopted to minimise the risk of inadvertent omission of stakeholders who could potentially be affected by the Project, including through the presence of existing or future infrastructure, operational interests, or statutory protection regimes. The Applicant considered that early engagement with such operators represented good practice for NSIPs and supported the objectives of the PA 2008 by promoting transparency, reducing the risk of late representations, and facilitating constructive engagement. Consulting these parties did not prejudice the consultation process and ensured that any potential interests could be identified and addressed at an early stage. The stakeholders consulted on a precautionary basis were as follows:

- Vodafone Ltd
- Virgin Media
- Openreach
- British Telecom
- Neos Networks
- Mobile Broadband Network Limited
- COLT Technology Services
- CityFibre Ltd
- Sky Group Ltd
- Verizon UK Ltd
- Petroleum Company Limited
- Esso SLP
- Exolum Pipeline System

9.3.8 It should be noted that ahead of the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant identified a relevant fire and rescue authority, a relevant police authority, relevant ambulance services and relevant Statutory Undertakers under Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended) that had been omitted from the Summer 2024 Consultation. This omission was rectified at the Spring 2025 Consultation where these consultees were given an opportunity to respond to the Summer 2024 Consultation (as well as the Spring 2025 Consultation). Please see Chapter 10 for further details.

Section 42(1)(aa): consulting with the Marine Management Organisation

- 9.3.9 Section 42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the event that the Project, amongst other things, would affect, or would be likely to affect, impacts waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea. As the Project could be said to impact affect these waters, the Applicant consulted with the MMO.

Section 42(1)(b): identification of the relevant local authorities

- 9.3.10 Pursuant to Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the Applicant has a duty to consult the local authorities identified within Section 43 of the PA 2008. These authorities are categorised as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Section 42(1) requires that each local authority within Section 43 must be consulted. Section 43 of the PA 2008 states:

'(1) a local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.

(2) a local authority ("A") is within this section if: (a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"), (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; and

(2A) If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if: (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.'

- 9.3.11 In preparation for the Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant reviewed the consultees from the Summer 2022 Consultation stakeholder list. The Applicant considered any changes which could have resulted in a local authority no longer being relevant to the Project, and therefore no longer falling within Section 43 of the PA 2008, or if there were new local authorities requiring consultation under the PA 2008. The local authorities identified and consulted on the proposed Project under Section 42(1)(b) are listed in table F17-2 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). Table F17-2 identifies the local authorities based on Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 and Annex 1 of Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation.
- 9.3.12 No new local authorities were identified by the Applicant following the Summer 2022 Consultation. The following local authorities were consulted as part of the Summer 2022 Consultation and were not included in the Summer 2024 Consultation as they no longer fell within the categories identified under Section 43 of the PA 2008:
- Waverley Borough Council
 - Isle of Wight Council
 - West Berkshire Council
 - Wokingham Borough Council
 - Bracknell Forest Council; and
 - Hart District Council.

Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority

- 9.3.13 Section 42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority if the land to which the DCO application relates, where the Project is located, is in Greater

London. The Project is not within Greater London and therefore the Greater London Authority was not consulted.

Section 42(1)(d): identification of the relevant Section 44 Persons with an Interest in the Land

- 9.3.14 As set out in Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the Applicant must consult with Persons with an Interest in Land (PILs) as defined under Section 44 of the PA 2008. PILs are split into the following categories.
- Category 1 includes owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land within the Order Limits.
 - Category 2 includes parties that are interested in land or have the power to sell, convey or release land within the Order Limits.
 - Category 3 includes parties who the Applicant thinks would or might, if the Draft Order sought by the application were made and fully implemented, be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation under Section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and/or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 and/or Section 152(3) of the PA 2008.
- 9.3.15 The Applicant made contact with all potentially affected PILs in September 2023 to confirm a change in land agent on the Project. Following this, the Applicant negotiated access for non-intrusive and intrusive surveys and sought licence agreements to facilitate access with potentially impacted PILs throughout 2023 and 2024. Access for non-intrusive surveys was undertaken via voluntary licence agreement, informal agreement or where agreements could not be reached, the Applicant exercised its statutory powers under Section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to facilitate access.
- 9.3.16 During this process, and once ownership and occupation had been established, the Applicant contacted all potentially affected PILs again in November 2023 to offer introductory meetings with the newly appointed land agent. These introductory meetings were undertaken throughout autumn and winter of 2023, and spring 2024, prior to Summer 2024 Consultation and gave potentially affected PILs an opportunity to provide feedback on the Project and confirm details of landownership and land use. All engagement and meetings with landowners and/or appointed representatives were recorded by the Applicant.

Land referencing

Purpose

- 9.3.17 In accordance with the requirements of Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook "diligent inquiry" through a land referencing process to identify persons within categories 1, 2 and 3, as outlined above. The following processes were undertaken as part of the methodology to identify and consult with those with an interest in affected land to correctly consult with affected parties as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation.
- 9.3.18 A land referencing boundary in digital format was established to include all land that the Applicant understood could be potentially affected by the Project, whether this was directly, including category 1 and 2 PILs through the acquisition of land

or rights, or indirectly, affecting category 3 PILs through the ability to make a potential claim. Using this boundary, the Applicant requested the names and addresses of potentially affected PILs from HM Land Registry (HMLR). All freehold, leasehold, mortgage, beneficiary, charges, and restrictive covenant information pertaining to land within the land referencing boundary was extracted and stored in a land referencing database.

Data sources

- 9.3.19 Adopted highways plans were obtained from HBC, HCC and PCC. Information relating to land ownership, statutory status, use and relevant legal or legislative protections was also collected to identify land subject to enhanced statutory safeguards. Information on special category land which included open space, common land, fuel, and field garden allotments, and any extant planning permissions affecting the draft Order limits, was also reviewed to establish existing development rights.
- 9.3.20 Information was received in a variety of formats and, where appropriate, was collated and entered into the Project's Geographic Information System (GIS). Where necessary, further enquiries were undertaken to resolve any changes, anomalies or gaps identified in the information obtained by the Applicant.
- 9.3.21 Statutory undertakers that were understood by the Applicant to have a possible interest in the land whereby the Project would be developed within the draft Order Limits, were contacted to identify interests. Commentary received was processed by the Applicant and then entered into the GIS as appropriate and where necessary further enquiries were made to address changes, anomalies or gaps.
- 9.3.22 Any existing information or stakeholder data gained by the Applicant or another consultant as a result of prior lands and property negotiations or non-statutory consultation was incorporated accordingly.

Land Interest Questionnaires

- 9.3.23 Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) were issued to potentially impacted landowners within the Draft Order land ahead of Summer 2024 Consultation, and the information collected was used to inform both the land referencing process and the identification of PILs relevant to the Project. The LIQs were issued to those whom the Applicant considered likely to comprise Category 1 and Category 2 PILs and were designed to assist recipients in identifying themselves, confirming contact details, and clarifying land ownership, occupation, tenancy arrangements, and any other interests in land, including rights of way and option agreements. The LIQs also sought to confirm that land ownership and occupation boundaries were correctly identified. Recipients were able to notify the Applicant of any inaccuracies in the land plans provided alongside the LIQs, and where necessary the plans were amended accordingly. Any amendments were applied to the relevant land parcels and recorded within CONNECT and ESRI. All information obtained through the LIQs was checked and verified by the Applicant, then incorporated into the land referencing process and used to support the identification of PILs relevant to the Project. Where new land interests were identified through contact referencing, LIQ form completion and/or correspondence with PILs, additional LIQs were issued where appropriate.

- 9.3.24 Contact details for the land referencing team were provided on the letter which accompanied the LIQs, allowing parties to make contact if they sought further information on the proposals. Parties identified after the initial batch of LIQs, or whose initial LIQ was unsuccessfully delivered, were issued with LIQs at the earliest possible opportunity. Reminder letters, phone calls and some door knocking was undertaken with parties who had not returned an LIQ to complete the data set in order to complete the exercise in a diligent manner.
- 9.3.25 Where there was unregistered land within the Draft Order Land, site notices were affixed on, or adjacent to the land, in order to notify any unregistered interested parties of the proposals. These were maintained weekly for a period of 6 weeks whilst Summer 2024 Consultation was ongoing. Any parties that came forward were issued a LIQ and given the same engagement and due diligence process as mentioned above. Unregistered land interests were also identified through utilising public sources of information, site visits and discussions with adjoining land interests. This approach was carried forward for each statutory consultation. 171 unregistered site notices were displayed that comprised a copy of Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice) and an unregistered land site notice plan identifying the relevant unregistered parcel and the revised draft Order Limits in the locality. For a map of where these unregistered site notices were placed, please refer to Appendix F.18 (Unregistered site notice and Section 48 notice placement). The Applicant also placed 15 copies of the Section 48 notice, (Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice)), within 5km of each other along the route with the intention of being positioned within areas with the highest footfall.
- 9.3.26 Following completion of referencing activities, the Applicant refreshed HM Land Registry data to support the Summer 2024 Consultation. The Applicant compared the updated title information with existing land referencing records, ordered revised registers where necessary, and incorporated all changes into the maintained dataset. Company details were re-verified via UK and foreign Companies House websites to ensure registered addresses were current for statutory notices to be served. Some land interests were added or removed during the referencing process based on the information obtained.
- 9.3.27 A list of all PILs consulted under Section 42(1)(d) is included within Table 17-3 in Appendix F.17 (List of consultees). This list details the 935 active PILs who were notified at the start of the Summer 2024 Consultation. This list has been checked against the Book of Reference (Document reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4). It is noted that Table 17-3 in Appendix F.17 (List of consultees) reflects persons identified as having an interest in land at the time the Section 42 notification was issued for Summer 2024 Consultation. While land interests may change over time, the Applicant has retained a record of all persons consulted under section 42(1)(d) for the purposes of this DCO application.
- 9.3.28 PILs who were identified during, or subsequent to, the Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation or Spring 2026 Consultations were notified in accordance with the same procedures applied to all other consultees. Consultation windows for late reveal consultees were bespoke, as and when interests were identified.

Engagement undertaken by the Applicant

Conformity with the Book of Reference

- 9.3.29 In accordance with Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, the lists of Section 42(1)(d) consultees identified under section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 have been cross checked against the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4). Appendix F.17-3 (List of Consultees) identifies Section 42(1)(d) consultees and records, within the 'comments' column, whether each consultee:
- is included in the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4); or
 - was consulted under section 42(1)(d) but is not required to be included in the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4).
- 9.3.30 The Applicant confirms that it has consulted all persons with an interest in land, across all statutory consultations (Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations), and included these persons within the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4).

Section 42 consultation notification

- 9.3.31 The Applicant prepared and sent the following documents to all parties required to be consulted under Section 42 of the PA 2008, for the purposes of the Summer 2024 Consultation:
- A covering letter providing an overview of the Project and details of the consultation process. The letter also outlined that the PEI Report and other consultation documents could be inspected and downloaded on the dedicated consultation website and available in hard copy at deposit locations and public information events.
 - A notice prepared for the purposes of Section 48 of the PA 2008. Please refer to Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice).
- 9.3.32 Please note that Section 42(1)(d) consultees received all documents described in Section 9.3.29 and also received a plan showing the draft Order Limits.
- 9.3.33 As noted in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report, the Applicant was required by Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, to send a copy of the Section 48 notice to "the consultation bodies" (as defined in the EIA Regulations) and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).
- 9.3.34 Therefore, the Applicant issued the Section 42 notification, including the Section 48 notice, to the RNLI who was consulted as a non-prescribed consultee in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c). The Section 42 notification was sent by post on 23 May 2024 and the digital notification in the form of an email was sent on 28 May 2024.

Method of delivery – post

9.3.35 The Applicant issued the Section 42 notification, including the Section 48 notice, to Section 42(1) (a), (aa), (b) and (d) consultees via Royal Mail Tracked Delivery which enabled tracking of packages and proof of delivery. The letter contained the information listed in Section 9.3.30. The Applicant ascertained addresses and names using Companies House where relevant and used the headquarter address. Other names were taken from websites and double checked on Companies House or government websites. For letters addressed to Section 42 (1)(a), (aa) and (b) consultees, please refer to Appendix F.19 (Section 42 (1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter - prescribed bodies). For letters addressed to Section 42(1)(d) consultees, please refer to Appendix F.20 (Section 42(1)(d) cover letter – landowners).

Method of delivery – email

9.3.36 In addition to postal copies, the Applicant also issued the consultation documents electronically to the majority of consultees, where email addresses were available in the public domain. The emails were issued on 29 May 2024.

9.3.37 As standard, Section 42(1)(d) consultees were not sent the consultation documents via email, as email addresses are not provided through Land Registry records and it is considered preferable to avoid sending sensitive information such as land ownership records via email.

Method of delivery – backcheck

9.3.38 Backchecks, checking the reference number on the Royal Mail tracking service that letters were delivered, were undertaken following the initial despatch of letters to ensure that delivery was successful. This check was undertaken in early June 2024, to allow time for the letters to arrive. From these backchecks, it was identified that the following letters had not been confirmed as delivered by Royal Mail:

- The Ministry of Defence
- Westbourne Parish Council
- Stoughton Parish Council
- Droxford Parish Council
- Cheriton Parish Council
- Chilworth Parish Council
- Botley Parish Council
- Upham Parish Council
- Shedfield Parish Council
- Colden Common Parish Council
- Bishopstoke Parish Council
- Owlesbury Parish Council
- Durley Parish Council

- New Forest District Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Southampton City Council
- EHDC
- The Forestry Commission
- Solent NHS Trust
- Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust
- Royal Mail Group
- Vattenfall Networks Limited
- Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc
- Electricity North West Limited
- SSEN Distribution Limited
- Optimal Power Networks Limited
- Sky Group Limited
- Verizon UK Limited
- Wiltshire Ambulance Service
- Surrey Ambulance Services
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

9.3.39 Alternative addresses were identified for these consultees where possible, for example through web searches. Follow up letters were sent to the following and delivery was confirmed:

- The Ministry of Defence
- Cheriton Parish Council
- Chilworth Parish Council
- Upham Parish Council
- Bishopstoke Parish Council
- Owlesbury Parish Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Southampton City Council
- EHDC
- Royal Mail Group
- Sky Group Limited
- Verizon UK Limited
- Wiltshire Ambulance Service

- Surrey Ambulance Service
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

- 9.3.40 On 30 May 2024, it was brought to the attention of the Applicant that it had written to Twyford Parish Council located in Berkshire. Twyford Parish Council also informed Twyford Parish Council (Hampshire) by email that it had believed that the communication was intended for them. In response, the Applicant sent out a new letter on 31 May 2024 to Twyford Parish Council (Hampshire) and re-sent an email to the correct address, extending the consultation period adequately for their response. Delivery was subsequently confirmed to all alternative addresses on the 3 June 2024.
- 9.3.41 Where no alternative address was identified for consultees where delivery had been unsuccessful, all consultees were successfully contacted by email (with no delivery failures reported) (except Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust), meaning that consultees had been formally consulted. An alternative Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust contact was obtained from publicly available online sources and successfully notified via email on 11 July 2024.
- 9.3.42 Extensions were requested by the following stakeholders, due to their governance processes, and these were agreed with the Applicant in advance of the original consultation deadline:
- HCC – 26 July 2024
 - MMO – 26 July 2024; and
 - Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 26 July 2024
- 9.3.43 Each consultee provided sufficient notice with their extension request, and the Applicant could therefore accommodate the extension for each of the listed consultees.

Deadline for response – Section 45 of the PA 2008

- 9.3.44 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the covering letters stated that the consultation commenced on 29 May 2024 and that responses needed to be returned by 11:59pm on 23 July 2024, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.
- 9.3.45 The Applicant confirms that all persons consulted under Section 42 received the consultation documents with sufficient time to observe the minimum 28-day period, running from the day after receipt of the documents, prescribed by Section 45 of the PA 2008. This includes all persons that were consulted at later dates throughout the original consultation period due to unconfirmed delivery methods.

Conclusion

- 9.3.46 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements for consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 during the Summer 2024 Consultation. Further details of compliance are set out in the Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

9.4 Section 46 notification

- 9.4.1 The Applicant wrote to the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 24 May 2024 by letter and email, (please refer to Appendix F.22 (Section 46 notification)) in accordance with Section 46(1) of the PA 2008 setting out its intention to submit an application for development consent and notifying the Planning Inspectorate that the Applicant would be shortly undertaking a period of statutory consultation. This letter included the following:
- Template of letter to be sent to consultees set out in Section 42(1)(a) to (b) of the PA 2008 (including those prescribed in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended)) (see Appendix F.19 (Section 42 (1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter - prescribed bodies)).
 - Template of letter to be sent to Category 1, 2 and 3 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 as required by Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 (see Appendix F.20 (Section 42(1)(d) cover letter – landowners)).
 - Copy of Section 48 notice (see Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice)).
- 9.4.2 In accordance with Section 46(2) of the PA 2008, this letter was sent at the same time as issuing the consultation documents to Section 42 consultees, and prior to the commencement of the statutory Section 42 consultation on 29 May 2024.
- 9.4.3 A formal acknowledgement of the Section 46 notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 24 May 2024, please refer to Appendix F.23 (Acknowledgement of Section 46 notification) confirming receipt of the consultation documents.

Conclusion

- 9.4.4 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements to notify the Secretary of State under Section 46 of the PA 2008 during the Summer 2024 Consultation. Further details of compliance are set out in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

9.5 Section 47 consultation

- 9.5.1 The Applicant undertook consultation with the local community and key stakeholders in accordance with the published 2024 SoCC, under Section 47 of the PA 2008, please refer to Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC). Table 9-6 outlines the Applicant's conformity with the 2024 SoCC. This is a list of the commitments in the 2024 SoCC and how the Applicant has met the commitments through the delivery of the Summer 2024 Consultation.

Table 9-6 2024 SoCC compliance and Summer 2024 Consultation delivery

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
1 - Introduction	Paragraph 2	<i>'This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) describes how we intend to carry out our statutory consultation for the Project. The statutory consultation, to run from 29 May to 23 July 2024, is an important stage of the pre-application process providing an opportunity to raise further awareness and help shape the Project prior to the submission of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).'</i>	As per the requirements of the PA 2008, the Applicant confirms that it held a statutory public consultation on its proposals for the Project from 29 May to 23 July 2024. Please refer to Chapter 9 for further details.
	Paragraph 4	<i>'The Applicant has consulted with and had regard to comments from the following local authorities whilst developing the SoCC:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Winchester City Council</i> • <i>Eastleigh Borough Council</i> • <i>Fareham Borough Council</i> • <i>Portsmouth City Council</i> • <i>East Hampshire District Council</i> • <i>Hampshire County Council</i> • <i>Havant Borough Council.'</i> 	Please refer to Table 8-4. The Applicant provided local authorities with more than the statutory minimum of 28 days to comment on the draft 2024 SoCC, thereby exceeding the required consultation period.

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
3 - Planning process	Paragraph 2	<i>'The Project is currently at the pre-application stage of the DCO process where we have a duty to, and actively want to, consult on our proposals. After the consultation is completed and having taken into account the views raised during consultation, we will refine our proposals and submit our DCO application to the Secretary of State. When submitted, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State will decide if the Project can proceed to the examination.'</i>	The Applicant confirms that it has had regard to all feedback received at the Summer 2024 Consultation. The Applicant's response to issues raised can be found within Appendix F.29 The Applicant's response to feedback.
6 - What we will consult on	Paragraph 1	<p><i>'Following the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have had regard to the feedback received to select our proposed pipeline routes and locations for the above ground plant. We now want to know what stakeholders think about the following to enable the proposals to be further shaped and refined:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Project overall</i> • <i>The proposed pipeline routes</i> • <i>The proposed water recycling plant and associated pumping stations</i> 	<p>The Applicant confirms that the Summer 2024 Consultation feedback form sought views on all the topics identified in the 2024 SoCC.</p> <p>Additionally, the feedback form included free text areas for respondents to provide comments on any topics where a specific question was not asked.</p> <p>Free text responses to the Summer 2024 Consultation were also accepted via email and by post, providing a further opportunity for respondents to comment on all aspects of the Project.</p> <p>The Consultation brochure included a section titled "Why we need the Project" which</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proposed above ground plant along the pipeline route</i> • <i>The process undertaken to develop the Project up to this consultation</i> • <i>The preliminary environmental and other impacts of the Project and initial proposals for mitigation</i> <p><i>'We will also provide information that helps explain the need for the project and the use of water recycling in providing a new source of water.'</i></p>	<p>outlined the use of recycled water as a new source.</p>
7 - Who we will consult	Paragraph 1 and Figure 3 Consultation Zones	<p><i>'In consultation with the local authorities, and in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, we have developed the following consultation zones, shown in Figure 3 below, to engage with the local communities who may be affected by the Project.'</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that four consultation zones were developed for the statutory consultation stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Zone A: comprised of affected landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits • Consultation Zone B: comprised of businesses and people living within 1km of the draft Order Limits • Consultation Zone C: comprised of businesses and people living within 5km of the draft Order Limits • Consultation Zone D: included Hampshire and the wider area

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
	Paragraph 3	<i>'We will also consult with Statutory Consultees under the PA 2008 and relevant legislation and other relevant stakeholder groups.'</i>	<p>The Applicant has ensured that all required consultees were notified in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008 and a full account of statutory consultees under Section 42, consultees identified under the EIA Regulations, and other relevant groups consulted on a non-statutory basis is provided in Section 9.3, which sets out the approach to issuing consultation materials and verifying delivery. The Project is not within Greater London and therefore consultation with the Greater London Authority under Section 42(1)(c) was not required. The Applicant notes that some prescribed consultees listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 were omitted at the Summer 2024 Consultation; this was corrected during the statutory Spring 2025 Consultation.</p> <p>A full list of Section 42 consultees is provided in Appendix F.17 (List of consultees).</p>
8 - How we will consult	Table outlining the method, detail, and Consultation Zone	<i>'Letters will be sent to landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits, with information about the Project, the consultation, and how to find out more and provide feedback.'</i>	The Applicant confirms that letters with the prescribed information were sent to addresses which included residents, landowners, tenants, and businesses in Consultation Zone A on 23 May 2024 to provide information about the Project and the

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			consultation. These can be found in Appendix F.19 (Section 42 (1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter - prescribed bodies) and Appendix F.20 (Section 42(1)(d) cover letter - landowners).
	Table outlining the method, detail, and Consultation Zone	<i>'A leaflet summarising the Project, the consultation, and how to find out more and provide feedback will be sent.'</i>	The Applicant confirms that leaflets in the committed form (Appendix (F.25 Leaflet)) were distributed within the specified Consultation Zone A and Consultation Zone B.
	Table outlining the method, detail, and Consultation Zone	<i>'Posters will be distributed with details of the Project, the consultation events, and how to find out more and provide feedback.'</i>	Posters (Appendix F.16 (Poster)) with details of the Project and events, were displayed in Consultation Zones A, B and C to raise awareness of the consultation. Locations were identified using online mapping services in conjunction with the draft Order Limits, ensuring that posters would reach communities likely to be affected by the Project.
	Table outlining the method, detail, and Consultation Zone	<i>'Advertisements in the Hampshire Chronicle, Hampshire Independent, Portsmouth News, and Southern Daily Echo, to notify of the consultation and provide details of consultation events and how to find out more and provide feedback.'</i>	<p>Section 48 PA 2008 notices</p> <p>A Section 48 notice (Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices)) was published in four local newspapers for two consecutive weeks. These local newspapers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The News (Portsmouth) published on 22 May and 31 May 2024.

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Daily Echo published on 22 May and 31 May 2024. • Hampshire Chronicle published on 23 and 30 May 2024. • Hampshire Independent published on 24 and 31 May 2024. <p>Section 47 PA 2008 notices</p> <p>A notice (Appendix E.11 (Section 47 published notices)) relating to where and when the published 2024 SoCC was available to be viewed was published in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 27 May 2024 in The News (Portsmouth) • On 27 May 2024 in the Southern Daily Echo • On 30 May 2024 in the Hampshire Chronicle
	<p>Table outlining the method, detail, and Consultation Zone</p>	<p><i>'We will be using paid promotion and our own social media channels. Materials for social media will be produced and distributed to selected stakeholders who would be willing to help publicise the Project.'</i></p>	<p>The Applicant publicised details of the Summer 2024 Consultation, including reminders of the timing of the consultation, via the Applicant's Facebook and Instagram accounts (Appendix F.14 (Social media)). The Applicant also used targeted adverts (see Appendix F.24 (Advertisements)) within local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Project would be situated (Table 9-4 Advertisements). The adverts provided a link</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			to the dedicated consultation website. No stakeholders offered to post material on their social media.
	Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.	<i>'We will contribute to stakeholder briefings (including local authority and parish councils) held prior to the launch of the consultation to advise them of the consultation and how they can find out more and provide feedback. Stakeholders will also be advised of the Applicant's social media campaign and information on how to interact with its posts.'</i>	<p>The Applicant received the following requests from stakeholders to contribute to briefings about the consultation. The Applicant confirms that on 12 June 2024, the Applicant held an online stakeholder briefing with HBC.</p> <p>The Applicant also held an online stakeholder briefing with councillors from HBC to provide new councillors with an introduction to the Project and the consultation on the 17 June 2024. No further requests were received by the Applicant.</p>
	Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.	<i>'Notices will be posted on or near land that is identified as unknown owner.'</i>	Site notices were printed on waterproof paper and erected in publicly accessible areas nearest to the relevant unregistered land parcel to ensure the highest visibility to the public. These were erected, monitored and replaced bi-weekly over an 8-week period starting 28 May 2024 and ending 26 July 2024. The notices, placement shown by Appendix F.18 (Unregistered site notice and Section 48 placements), were sent alongside letters to consultees under Section 42(1)(d)

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>and 44 of the PA 2008 (Appendix F.20 Section 42(1)(d) cover letter - landowners).</p> <p>The same approach regarding site notices was taken for the statutory Spring 2025 Consultation (Appendix G.14 (Unregistered site notice and Section 48 placements)), the Autumn 2025 Consultation (Appendix H.2 (Unregistered site notice placement)) and the Spring 2026 Consultations (Appendix 1.6 ((Unregistered site notice)).</p>
	<p>Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.</p>	<p><i>‘We will send an email to all registered users of the Water for Life – Hampshire website and respondents to the previous consultation that wished to stay in touch. This will signpost to key information and will include a link to the consultation website, details of the consultation events, and how to find out more and provide feedback.’</i></p>	<p>An email was sent to members of the wider community who had previously provided email contact details and expressed an interest to be kept informed about updates regarding the Project. The email included details of the Summer 2024 Consultation, including a link to the consultation website, and how to take part. This email can be found in Appendix F.27 (Section 47 keep in touch email).</p>
	<p>Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.</p>	<p><i>‘A Project website will be the digital hub for the consultation and will include the consultation materials, options to feedback virtually and to request further information or accessible versions of consultation.’</i></p>	<p>The Applicant developed a dedicated consultation website (Appendix F.1 (Website)) which also hosted an interactive map. Users could search their postcode and view on the map where the Project may impact them. All consultation documents were available to view/download within the document library. The documents were in PDF format which</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>facilitated online viewing and downloads. The website also hosted an online feedback form which was situated on the home page for easy access.</p> <p>In addition, the dedicated consultation website had a side bar which adapted the website based on accessibility requirements.</p>
	<p>Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.</p>	<p><i>‘The consultation brochure, feedback form and technical information pack will be available for people to view at deposit locations in local and regional hubs.’</i></p>	<p>The Summer 2024 Consultation documents, including the consultation brochure, feedback form, and technical information pack, were available for inspection, with some materials available to take away, at the below locations, from 29 May to 23 July 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Waltham Library, Free Street, Bishop’s Waltham, Southampton, SO32 1EE • Cosham Library, Spur Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3EB • Eastleigh Library, 1 Swan Centre, Eastleigh, SO50 5SF • Fair Oak Community Library, Campbell Way, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7AX • Fareham Library, Osborn Road, Fareham, PO16 7EN • Havant Library, Havant Meridian Centre, Havant, PO9 1UN

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leigh Park Library, 50 Park Parade, Leigh Park, Havant, PO9 1UN Paulsgrove Library, Paulsgrove Youth Community Centre, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB Waterlooville Library, The Precinct, Waterlooville, PO7 7DT
	<p>Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.</p>	<p><i>'We will run a series of six public consultation events to provide information on the consultation and give people the opportunity to talk to the Project team. These will include exhibition boards describing the Project and members of the Project Team will be on-hand to answer questions. Visitors will be encouraged to ask questions to aid their understanding, complete/take away feedback forms and the consultation brochure.'</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that it held six consultation events to provide information on the consultation and give people an opportunity to talk to the Applicant. These events included the consultation brochure, feedback forms and exhibition boards and were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 2pm to 8pm on Monday 10 June 2024 at Havant Rugby Football Club, Hooks Lane Ground, Fraser Road, Havant, PO9 3EJ. 110 persons attended. From 10am to 4pm on Saturday 15 June 2024 at Meridian Shopping Centre, Elm Lane, Havant. PO9 1UN. 285 persons attended. From 2pm to 8pm on 20 June 2024 at Southwick D-Day Memorial Hall, Priors Road, Southwick. PO17 6ED. 42 persons attended.

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 10am to 4pm on 22 June 2024 at Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham. SO32 1ED. 80 persons attended. • From 2pm to 8pm on 27 June 2024 at Colden Common Community Centre, Saint Vigor Way, Colden Common. SO21 1UU. 138 persons attended. • From 2pm to 8pm on 28 June 2024 at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham. PO17 5AL. 114 persons attended.
	<p>Table outlining the method and detail to reach beyond the specific consultation zones.</p>	<p><i>‘Within the consultation period, we will offer to present at meetings where local organisations already meet and a request is made (for example but not limited to parish councils, community groups, education establishments, businesses, recreational groups, non-government organisations, seldom heard and hard to reach groups). Where required and feasible we may combine requests for briefings.</i></p> <p><i>For those that would like a session with us please email HampshireWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that it held an online stakeholder briefing with HBC on 12 June 2024. HBC were the only council that requested a briefing, despite all local authorities being offered.</p> <p>The Applicant also held an online stakeholder briefing with councillors from HBC to provide new councillors with an introduction to the Project and the consultation on 17 June 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that it offered (on the poster, the Section 47 and Section 42 letters, the 2024 SoCC and the Section 48 notice) to present at meetings but did not receive any</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
	<p>Consultation documents</p>	<p><i>'To ensure accessibility (including seldom heard and hard to reach groups), on request, documents can also be translated, made available in large print, audio versions, braille and in a digital data format. In addition, hard copies of consultation documents can be provided. Please see contact us section for our contact details to request these methods.'</i></p>	<p>requests for a briefing via the dedicated consultation inbox.</p> <p>Before the consultation launched, the Applicant consulted a supplier who could produce the consultation materials in an accessible format on request. For example, documents could be translated, made available in large print, audio version, and braille. The Applicant received no requests via its freephone or inboxes for alternative formats during the consultation but was prepared to do so, if any request had come in.</p> <p>A range of approaches and media to maximise awareness of the Project and the consultation were used. These were designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation in a way that was accessible and convenient for them.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant noted in its Consultation Brochure that those who required additional support to attend the public consultation events could contact the Applicant ahead of any of these events to make specific arrangements to attend or whilst they were in attendance at the events,</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
			<p>if required. The Applicant affirmed that while it would make every possible effort to accommodate additional support, it may not have been possible for all. However, no requests were made that the Applicant was not able to accommodate.</p> <p>The Consultation Brochure outlined accessibility features, also described in the Equality Impact Assessment submitted with the DCO application (Document reference 7.13, DCO Volume 7), for each of the consultation venues so the wider community could pick a venue which met their accessibility requirements.</p>
	<p>Consultation materials</p>	<p><i>'One copy of the consultation brochure and feedback form is free. We are keen to reduce the impact on the environment by reducing unnecessary printing and minimising paper use. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report is around 6,000 pages.'</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that copies of the feedback form, alongside other consultation materials, were available at consultation events and deposit locations to take away free of charge.</p> <p>The Applicant also noted in its Consultation Brochure that anyone could request a copy of the brochure, or any other consultation materials, in alternative formats, for accessibility, free of charge by contacting the Applicant directly.</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
	<p>Consultation documents</p>	<p><i>‘The following consultation documents (together with other supporting material) will be available for viewing online, at deposit locations and at the public consultation events free of charge during the consultation:</i></p> <p>Consultation brochure – a plain English and visually accessible booklet that provides the key information about the proposals, the consultation and how to get involved.</p> <p>Feedback form – a survey designed to collect feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>Frequently Asked Questions – a document answering a range of questions about the Project serving as a one-stop reference point for concerns and providing <i>signposts to further information should it be required.</i></p> <p>2024 SoCC – this document</p> <p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report – report to enable consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the Project that have been identified on a preliminary basis.</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that all consultation materials were produced with print copies available to view free of charge at deposit locations (which were checked periodically) and events throughout the consultation period. The consultation brochure and the feedback form could be taken away, or one copy could be sent per household in the post upon request. All materials were available online.</p> <p>During the consultation, the Applicant was made aware that the appendices for Chapter 20 of the PEI Report had been incorrectly uploaded to the dedicated consultation website. These were Appendix 20.1 (Longlist and shortlist of other developments) and Appendix 20.2 (Cumulative effects assessment). They were uploaded correctly on 10 June 2024 and rectified at deposit locations.</p> <p>The figures to Appendix 11.1 (Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Desk Study) of the PEI Report were missing from the dedicated consultation website. This appendix was uploaded on 18 June 2024 and corrected at deposit locations.</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
		<p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary – a summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report</p> <p>2024 Scheme Development Summary – a summary of how the Project has developed to date, including refinements made following the Summer 2022 Consultation</p> <p>Book of Plans – <i>plans of the proposed pipeline routes and above ground plant.</i></p>	<p>There was an update made to the consultation brochure and clarification made on the dedicated consultation website and at the deposit locations about EA Licensing. Question 3 in the Frequently Asked Questions document, about how long the applicant will continue to take water from Hampshire’s chalk stream rivers, was also updated.</p> <p>The opening hours for eight of the deposit locations were corrected in the 2024 SoCC, both on the online and hard copy versions held at the deposit locations on 13 June 2024.</p> <p>Even after the latest of these dates there remained more than the statutory 28-day consultation period before the consultation closed on 23 July 2024.</p>
10. How the community can provide comments	Second section	<p><i>‘The following official feedback mechanisms will be provided as part of the consultation:</i></p> <p><i>Online feedback form</i></p> <p><i>Email</i></p> <p><i>FREEPOST address</i></p> <p><i>QR code to website’</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that feedback was accepted via the channels outlined in the 2024 SoCC within the statutory consultation period.</p>
	Paragraph 1	<p><i>‘Once the consultation has closed, we will collate and analyse the responses received. We will carefully consider all issues raised</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that all consultation responses provided in the consultation period were collated and analysed. Consideration</p>

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
11. How we will respond to feedback		<i>and will have regard to this feedback when finalising the proposed application.'</i>	was then given to these responses and the Applicant has had regard to feedback as per Section 49 of the PA 2008 following the close of the statutory consultation (see Appendix F.29) (The Applicant's response to feedback)). As a result of this feedback, along with the results of technical and environmental assessments, and ongoing evolution of the Project, the Applicant subsequently made 25 design refinements. The Applicant held a further supplementary consultation with updated water quality information and the 25 design refinements.
	Paragraph 2	<i>'As part of the DCO application we will publish a Consultation Report, detailing how we have engaged and consulted on the Project, whilst adhering to legislation and guidance and reporting on the issues raised in the consultation and our response to them. In having regard to feedback and refining our proposals, it may be necessary to make further changes to the proposed Project following the statutory consultation process.'</i>	The Applicant confirms that the Consultation Report has been made available on the Planning Inspectorate's website with the application for development consent. The Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has had regard to feedback in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008.
	Paragraph 3	<i>'Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any of its appointed</i>	The Applicant confirms that feedback has been analysed and summarised in the form of

Section of 2024 SoCC	Paragraph of 2024 SoCC	Commitment as set out in the 2024 SoCC	How the Applicant has fulfilled the commitment
		<p><i>agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate, and other relevant statutory authorities so that your responses can be considered as part of the development of the Project.</i></p> <p><i>Your personal details will not be placed on public record except where this is required in accordance with legislation or legal duty such as land referencing but will be held securely by the Applicant and its appointed agents in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Planning Inspectorate’s Customer Privacy Notice 8 and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal details will be used solely in connection with the consenting and regulatory processes, except as noted above, or in accordance with any legal requirements or process, and will not be passed to third parties.’</i></p>	<p>issue statements where feedback has been paraphrased. It is also confirmed that no personal information has been included within the Consultation Report. The Applicant is compliant with guidance on data protection as listed in the 2024 SoCC.</p>

- 9.5.2 The Summer 2024 Consultation, Section 47 consultation phase commenced on 29 May 2024 and closed on 23 July 2024, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days. This consultation phase ran concurrently with the 2024 Section 42 consultation phase.
- 9.5.3 The 2024 SoCC was published in The News Portsmouth, the Southern Daily Echo, and the Hampshire Chronicle. This approach ensured comprehensive coverage across the consultation area, maximising public awareness and engagement with the consultation process. See section 8.5 for more information.

Notification of stakeholders under Section 47

- 9.5.4 Letters were sent to stakeholders in the local community on 24 May 2024 in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008. These letters formed part of the initial outreach strategy to ensure communities were informed of the upcoming consultation, as well as the likes of educational establishments, NGOs and recreational groups. Copies of the letters are provided in Appendix F.26 (Section 47 cover letter).
- 9.5.5 At Summer 2022 Consultation, the Applicant created 'keep in touch' cards for consultation events. These cards allowed stakeholders to give the Applicant their email addresses with the interest of receiving any Project updates. These addresses were stored in line with the GDPR commitments outlined previously in the Consultation Report. For Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant used the emails collected from the keep in touch cards to notify stakeholders on 24 May 2024 that the consultation would be open soon. This was done in the form of Appendix F.27 (Section 47 keep in touch email). The Applicant also continued the use of keep in touch cards at the Summer 2024 events, as well as building a 'register' button into the dedicated consultation website to provide the same opportunity for those visiting the consultation online.

Conclusion

- 9.5.6 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the commitments made in the 2024 SoCC issued in accordance with the Section 47 PA 2008 and publicised to the wider community during the Summer 2024 Consultation. Further details of compliance are set out in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).

9.6 Section 48 publicity

Notices publicising the Summer 2024 Consultation

- 9.6.1 As required by Section 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), a notice publicising the proposed application for development consent for the Project was published in the London Gazette, once in a national newspaper (The Times), and for two successive weeks in a local newspaper (the Applicant opted to publish the notice in three local newspapers: Portsmouth News, Southern Daily Echo, Hampshire Chronicle and Hampshire Independent). Details of publication, including date of publication, is contained within Table 9-7 below. These publications were chosen because they encompass

a diverse range of individuals within the consultation area. Copies of the notices, as published, are enclosed in Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices).

9.6.2 The Applicant has not published a Section 48 notice in Lloyd’s List or any other fishing journal under Section 48 of the PA 2008 as the Project does not constitute an offshore development. Although an existing outfall in the Solent is proposed to be used (the Eastney Long Sea Outfall (LSO)) there will be no physical change to the existing pipeline so no construction at the LSO is required as part of the Project. As such there was no requirement to publish a notice in the Lloyds List or within an appropriate fishing journal. There would be some changes to the connecting infrastructure and what is discharged from the pipeline which could impact inshore waters and therefore the MMO has been consulted.

9.6.3 Table 9-7 outlines when and in which publication the Section 48 notices were published.

Table 9-7 Section 48 notices

Publication	Date of notice	Rationale
The News (Portsmouth)	22 May 2024 and 31 May 2024	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
Southern Daily Echo	22 May 2024 and 31 May 2024	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
Hampshire Chronicle	23 May 2024 and 30 May 2024	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
Hampshire Independent	24 May 2024 and 31 May 2024	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
The London Gazette	29 May 2024	Published once in the London Gazette.
The Times	5 June 2024	Published once in a national newspaper.

9.6.4 The Applicant was made aware that on 29 May 2024, the incorrect notice was published in The News (Portsmouth). A Section 48 notice should have been published on 29 May 2024, but the Section 47 notice was published for a second time instead. Additionally, on 29 May 2024, Southern Daily echo published the Section 48 notice at the incorrect size. To rectify these errors, the Applicant published in both Southern Daily Echo and The News (Portsmouth) the correct Section 48 notice on 31 May 2024, therefore keeping within the statutory time period of 2 consecutive weeks.

Content of the Section 48 notice

9.6.5 As required by Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), the content of the notice included:

- The name and address of the Applicant.
- A statement that the Applicant intends to make a DCO application of development consent to the Secretary of State.
- A statement that the application is EIA development.
- A summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Project.
- A statement that the documents, plans and maps may be inspected free of charge on the dedicated consultation website (the deposit locations and opening times were also listed in the notice).
- The address of (and place on) the dedicated consultation website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected.
- The latest date on which the documents, plans and maps would be available for inspection on the dedicated consultation website.
- A telephone number (0800 254 5138) which could be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps.
- Whether a charge would be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge.
- Details of how to respond to the publicity.
- The deadline of 23 July 2024 for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice was last published (i.e. 5 June 2024).

Conclusion

- 9.6.6 The Applicant complied with the requirements of Section 48 of the PA 2008 by publishing the requisite notice in accordance with the prescribed regulations, ensuring that the consultation was properly publicised to the wider public. A total of 15 copies of the Section 48 Notice referred to as the Section 48 General Notice, were displayed along the proposed Pipeline route. These notices were positioned approximately 5km apart in locations of greatest likely footfall, to maximise public awareness of the consultation. Copies of this notice can be found in Appendix F.12 (Section 48 notice).

9.7 Consultation feedback analysis methodology

- 9.7.1 This section provides an overview of the framework and approach used to analyse Summer 2024 consultation feedback, in line with Section 49 of the PA 2008. For more information on this, please refer to Table 1-5 in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- 9.7.2 According to Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, the applicant should provide a clear, concise summary of individual feedback received, categorised appropriately. The summary must include evidence demonstrating that the applicant has considered all consultation responses. The summary of feedback should also clearly outline feedback of relevance (directly or indirectly) and how

this influenced the refined design of the Project during the pre-application stage. It is the duty of the Applicant to demonstrate regard to the issues raised at statutory consultation, as per Section 49 of the PA 2008. This is represented in Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback), which is detailed later in section 9.9.

- 9.7.3 When reporting on feedback to statutory consultation, it is considered appropriate to group responses under headline issues, providing care is taken to ensure that in doing so, feedback is not presented in a misleading way or missed. As outlined in the Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, below is a description of the methodology used to distil feedback from the consultation into key issue statements. This approach has been applied to summarise the feedback received during this consultation, as documented in the Consultation Report. This includes feedback provided by prescribed consultees under Section 42 of the PA 2008, local communities consulted under Section 47 and the wider public under Section 48.
- 9.7.4 Table 9-8 outlines which statutory consultees responded to Summer 2024 Consultation and when.

Table 9-8 Prescribed consultees who responded to Summer 2024 Consultation

Consultee	Date
Chichester District Council	18 July 2024
EHDC	16 July 2024
EBC	22 July 2024
EA	23 July 2024
Exolum Pipeline System Ltd	6 June 2024
FBC	23 July 2024
HCC	23 July 2024
HBC	23 July 2024
Historic England	17 July 2024
Langstone Harbour Board	23 July 2024
MMO	30 May 2024
National Grid Electricity Distribution	30 May 2024
National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC	23 July 2024
National Highways	23 July 2024

Consultee	Date
NE	23 July 2024
Network Rail	26 July 2024
PCC	23 July 2024
Portsmouth Water	23 July 2024
Rowlands Castle Parish Council	17 July 2024
Royal Mail	24 July 2024
SGN (Southern Gas Networks)	19 June 2024
South Downs National Park Authority	23 June 2024
Surrey County Council	18 June 2024
Test Valley Borough Council	12 July 2024
The Coal Authority	3 June 2024
The Health and Safety Executive	29 May 2024
UK Health Security Agency	19 July 2024
University of Portsmouth	23 July 2024
Upham Parish Council	23 July 2024
Vodafone (fixed)	5 June 2024
Wiltshire Council	9 June 2024
WCC	23 July 2024

Coding process

9.7.5 The consultation feedback has been analysed in line with guidance contained within the Pre-application Prospectus 2024 which states that:

“The responses should be categorised in an appropriate way. It may be appropriate for the applicant to group responses under headline issues”.

9.7.6 Responses received during the statutory consultation were systematically coded, analysed and grouped by theme, enabling the Applicant to identify issues, priorities and areas of concern raised by respondents. These themes were then reviewed by the relevant technical leads, with each response considered against design options, environmental constraints, statutory duties and project objectives. This structured evaluation supported the Applicant in its assurance that it has had

regard to consultation responses, demonstrating the specific ways in which feedback informed subsequent development of the Project design. Each feedback response was reviewed and evaluated by the Applicant to determine the respondent's consultee category. To support consistent analysis, all feedback was coded using a three-tier structure. Tier 1 identified the main overarching theme (with criteria and issue code references set out in Appendix F.28 (Coding table)). Tier 2 provided sub-themes, and Tier 3 offered additional refinement where comments related to multiple themes. Each piece of feedback could receive up to three codes to capture all relevant issues, alongside sentiment (positive, negative or neutral) and whether the comment represented a suggestion. Feedback was received through multiple channels; via email to a dedicated inbox, the online feedback form, and postal submissions including completed forms and letters sent via FREEPOST. Postal feedback was carefully transcribed by the team to facilitate digital analysis.

9.7.7 Below is the structure of the feedback form. The feedback form was designed to gather views on the Project with a proportionate balance of open and closed questions:

- Closed tick box question – Questions designed to gather quantitative data in the form of statistics. Closed questions were included in the feedback form as they gather sentiment.
- Open text question – Questions designed to gather qualitative data in the form of open text. Open questions were included on the feedback form so respondents could add further detail to their answer provided in the closed tick box question.

9.7.8 In total, there were 8 parts of the feedback form, which contained a balance of closed questions and open questions.

- Two questions on the Project overall (Questions 1a – 1b).
- Eight questions on design, including routing and ancillary infrastructure like the WRP (Questions 2a - 2h).
- Four questions on the construction and operational effects of the Project (Questions 3a – 3d).
- Three questions seeking input on the mitigation measures proposed to protect the environment (Questions 4a – 4c).
- Two questions about the benefits and legacy the Project would deliver (Questions 5a – 5b).
- Space to make any final general comments on the Project (Question 6).
- Questions asking about the quality of the consultation (Question 7a – 7b); and
- Asking for personal information which was accompanied by the data privacy statement (Question 8).

9.7.9 After all feedback had been entered into a bespoke coding system, each response was individually examined and assigned thematic codes. They were organised within a three-tier coding framework, with Tier 1 capturing the primary theme and subsequent tiers providing additional detail if needed.

- 9.7.10 Each issue code for each theme was used to produce an individual issue statement which was a summary of the consultation response comments with a unique issue code. In addition, consultee types were also grouped into prescribed bodies, PILs and wider community. The resulting issue statements are detailed in Appendix F.29 (The Applicant’s response to feedback).
- 9.7.11 The Applicant also undertook a triage process with all the feedback received as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation. Each comment was assessed to understand its significance and potential implications for the Project. This process informed the identification of a series of design refinements by the Applicant. After a series of workshops, 25 design refinements were confirmed. These design refinements were consulted on as part of the Spring 2025 Consultation. Further detail is provided in Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report.

9.8 Consultation feedback received

Number and format of feedback received

- 9.8.1 A total of 986 pieces of feedback were submitted to the Applicant in response to the Summer 2024 Consultation held between 29 May 2024 and 23 July 2024. That number includes feedback received after the deadline, which were accepted by the Applicant on a discretionary basis, with the latest received on 26 July 2024.
- 9.8.2 In reviewing the feedback received from the subsequent Spring 2025 Consultation in April 2026, the Applicant identified feedback that referenced a response to the Summer 2024 Consultation from a PIL. The Applicant reviewed the data received, but couldn’t locate the response, so contacted the PIL and requested the feedback. This was received on 23 April 2026, however the PIL stated this had been sent via email to the Applicant on 19 July 2024. This item of feedback has been incorporated into the reporting for the Summer 2024 Consultation. However, this response was not included in the reporting of the AoCM to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 October 2025, and hence the reported number of responses received to the Summer 2024 Consultation is different. Table 9-9 outlines the number and format of feedback received as follows:

Table 9-9 Number and format of feedback received

Feedback mechanism	Number
Feedback form	597
Letters via FREEPOST	3
Emails	386

9.9 Response to consultation feedback

- 9.9.1 After Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant produced a Summary of Feedback Report, Appendix F.30 (Summer 2024 Summary of Feedback Report). This report presented statistics of the consultation, for example the number of attendees at consultation events, the number of dedicated consultation website visitors and the

demographics for those who provided feedback. Additionally, it broke down percentages of the Applicant’s closed, sentiment-based questions from the consultation feedback form. It also summarised the main themes from stakeholders’ written feedback, whilst providing a brief response to issues raised and a summary of how the feedback would inform the ongoing development of the Project. This report was published on 28 January 2025, ahead of the Applicant’s next planned Spring 2025 Consultation on environmental water quality and Project design refinements.

9.9.2 The Applicant also began its reporting of feedback received during the Summer 2024 Consultation, and how it has had regard to it in finalising its DCO application. Feedback has been grouped under key themes to aid clarity, particularly where similar points were raised by multiple respondents. All issues raised, including those with lower levels of response, have been considered and addressed. This consideration of feedback is set out in Appendix F.29 (The Applicant’s response to feedback). Together, this appendix and Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) set out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the PA 2008 to have regard to “relevant responses” received to the statutory consultation and Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report.

9.9.3 Table 9-10 provides a summary of the key issues raised and the Applicant’s response.

Table 9-10 Summary of issues raised at the Summer 2024 Consultation and how the Applicant has responded

Issue raised	The Applicant’s response
It was refuted that the South East is an area of severe water shortage and suggested that the proposed solution is therefore not appropriate. Alternatives were suggested, such as rainwater capture.	The Applicant reiterated that water scarcity is a very real issue in the South East of England, which needs to find more than 2,500 million extra litres of water a day by 2050 to maintain public supplies. Having a resilient water supply, especially in times of drought, is something that the Applicant must plan for. The Applicant’s drew attention to its WRMP19 that identified the need for a new strategic water resource solution in Hampshire to address the significant water supply shortfall. It noted that its emerging WRMP24 and Water Resources South East (WRSE) Regional Plan both identify the Project as a key component of future water supply in the Hampshire area and wider South East. Other options considered through both the WRMP and options appraisal processes do not provide the scale

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	of new water resource needed and in the timescales required.
<p>Concerns from landowners who would be affected by the proposed pipeline routes. These included impacts to farming from the amount of land that would be disrupted, both during construction of the Project and from ongoing maintenance, and the extent of the pipeline infrastructure required.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted that it had continued to refine the proposed pipeline routes in response to feedback received from the Summer 2024 Consultation. Avoiding environmental constraints and sensitive land uses wherever feasible has always been a guiding principle. Feedback has helped to inform proposed design refinements the Applicant has consulted on at subsequent statutory consultations.</p> <p>It was highlighted that engagement was ongoing, especially with local landowners, and that further mitigation was being developed to minimise disruption from the construction and operation of the Project.</p>
<p>Feedback was received highlighting concerns about the lack of detail provided in the PEI Report.</p>	<p>It was emphasised that the PEI Report provided an initial but thorough assessment of likely effects at the time of the Summer 2024 Consultation. As this was a preliminary report, it was outlined that the Project and its assessment of likely significant effects was still being developed for the DCO application but that this would fully be reported on in the ES.</p>
<p>Questions and concerns about the effect of the Project on road closures and diversions during construction, including construction traffic access routes.</p>	<p>The Applicant explained that several traffic management plans were being developed to reduce disruption from construction activity by limiting construction traffic during busy times of the day, managing affected routes with appropriate controls, encouraging workers to use sustainable travel options, and mitigating impacts on Public Rights of Way through temporary closures or diversions. It was highlighted that traffic management plans would be informed by engagement with highway authorities and further surveys of construction traffic access routes.</p>
<p>Comments about the siting of the WRP at Site 72 and the disturbance of contamination</p>	<p>The Applicant provided reassurance that building on former landfill sites was commonplace and that initial assessments did not identify any likely significant impacts</p>

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
<p>from the existing landfill in this location.</p>	<p>subject to adopting good practice construction measures, including undertaking appropriate risk assessments and waste management. The Applicant also noted that ground investigations would continue alongside close engagement with the EA and HBC in developing design and mitigation measures.</p>
<p>Concerns about the water quality at Havant Thicket Reservoir when used to store the recycled water.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognised the concerns raised by consultees about impacts on water quality and explained that it was embarking on extensive modelling to evaluate the Project's potential impacts on water quality. It was reported that these assessments on Havant Thicket Reservoir, downstream water bodies and the Solent, would be presented in a further consultation in Spring 2025.</p> <p>It was reiterated that before reaching customers, water from Havant Thicket Reservoir would be subject to further treatment to meet strict drinking water standards. Furthermore, any environmental requirements for water quality would be subject to consent by environmental regulators, which the Applicant would be required to comply with.</p>
<p>Concerns surrounding the potential health impacts of drinking recycled water.</p>	<p>The Applicant reiterated that water recycling technology is tried-and-tested in other parts of the world, including in Australia, Singapore and the USA, where companies have been recycling wastewater to create a drinking water source for more than 40 years. The Applicant provided reassurance that all water supplied to customers by the Project would continue to meet strict UK drinking water standards, regulated by the Drinking Water Inspectorate.</p>

9.10 Conclusion

- 9.10.1 Following Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant has had regard to the relevant feedback received in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. Some of the main changes as a result of feedback to the Project included minor changes to the draft Order Limits, draft Limits of Deviation to sections of the pipeline routes and changes to EIA documentation regarding mitigation and enhancement. An analysis

of the changes made to the Project post-Summer 2024 Consultation can be found in the Scheme Development Report (Document reference 5.10, DCO Volume 5). The Applicant has also demonstrated how it has had regard to this feedback by providing its response to each issue raised. Please refer to Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback).

- 9.10.2 Additionally, a series of design refinements were identified as a result of the feedback from the Summer 2024 Consultation feedback alongside on-going Project development and stakeholder engagement. The Applicant also committed to share the results of its updated environmental water quality modelling and consulted on this and the design refinements in its Spring 2025 Consultation. For more details, please see Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report.

10 Statutory Spring 2025 Consultation

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 After the Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant made further developments to the design of the Project which, when reviewed against the Pre-application Guidance 2024, warranted additional statutory consultation.
- 10.1.2 This Chapter explains how the Applicant undertook supplementary statutory consultation in Spring 2025 on the Project (Spring 2025 Consultation), which was in line with Sections 42, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. The consultation, referred to as the 'Spring 2025 Consultation' hereafter, took place between 5 March 2025 and 4 April 2025. The feedback deadline was 11:59pm on 4 April, although some exceptions applied where late responses were agreed with several parties to reflect specific exceptional circumstances, as outlined in Section 10.3 of this Chapter.

10.2 Approach to the Spring 2025 Consultation

- 10.2.1 At the Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant explained that extensive environmental water quality modelling was being undertaken and that the outputs of the modelling and assessment of effects would be fully reported in the ES with the DCO application. The Applicant committed to further engagement and consultation on this work and took the opportunity to share the updated information, alongside a number of Project design refinements, as part of the Spring 2025 Consultation.
- 10.2.2 The purpose of this phase of consultation was to seek views of communities, landowners, prescribed bodies and other local stakeholders on updated environmental water quality information and 25 design refinements to the Project made in response to feedback from the Summer 2024 Consultation, on-going Project development and stakeholder engagement.
- 10.2.3 The Applicant sought views and feedback on specific aspects of the Project:
- Predicted environmental water quality impacts on the Havant Thicket Reservoir, connected downstream water bodies (including Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream and Langstone Harbour) and the Solent.
 - The following proposed 25 design refinements:
 - Design Refinement 1 – Budds Farm WTW
 - Design Refinement 2 – WRP
 - Design Refinement 3 – Pipeline Sections A and B
 - Design Refinement 4 – Havant Thicket Reservoir
 - Design Refinement 5 – Pipeline Section D
 - Design Refinement 6 – Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E
 - Design Refinement 7 – Pigeon House Farm

- Design Refinement 8 – Construction Compound E-6b
- Design Refinement 9 – Intermediate Pumping Station F
- Design Refinement 10 – Forest Lane
- Design Refinement 11 – West of Crockerhill Farm
- Design Refinement 12 – Hoard’s Hill and Castle Farm Lane
- Design Refinement 13 – Wickham Park Golf Club and River Meon
- Design Refinement 14 – Intermediate Pumping Station G
- Design Refinement 15 – East of Winchester Road and south of Black Horse Lane
- Design Refinement 16 – Little Bull Lane
- Design Refinement 17 Sandy Lane and Woodmans Farm
- Design Refinement 18 – The River Hamble and Ford Farm
- Design Refinement 19 – Tangier Farm
- Design Refinement 20 – Break Pressure Tank K
- Design Refinement 21 – Alma Lane and Sciver’s Lane
- Design Refinement 22 – Construction Compound L
- Design Refinement 23 – West of Stroudwood Lane
- Design Refinement 24 – Pipeline Section L
- Design Refinement 25 – Otterbourne WSW

10.2.4 These design refinements were presented in the form of information sheets which could be viewed and/or downloaded from the dedicated consultation website. Please refer to Appendix G.1 (Information sheets).

10.2.5 The Applicant also produced an Environmental Water Quality Report as part of the consultation material, which can be found in Appendix G.2 (Environmental Water Quality Report). Water quality modelling and assessment work was jointly undertaken by the Applicant and Portsmouth Water. The modelling and assessments enabled further understanding of the potential effects of the Project on the water environment and supported biodiversity. The Environmental Water Quality Report focussed solely on environmental water quality matters associated with Havant Thicket Reservoir, downstream watercourses (Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream), Langstone Harbour and the Solent, including consideration of how water quality changes may impact nationally and internationally designated sites, and supported freshwater and marine flora and fauna.

10.2.6 The Applicant prepared an ‘Approach to Consultation’ document which was published on the Applicant’s dedicated consultation website on 5 March 2025. The purpose of this document was to set out how and when the consultation would be held, the information that would be included in the consultation, who would be consulted, and the approach and tools that would be used to reach consultees and gather views. This was undertaken in accordance with the 2024 SoCC published on 29 May 2024 which stated, ‘*If we deem a significant change is made to the*

Project as a whole, or new statutory consultees are affected, we will consider further targeted and proportionate consultation beyond what is specified in this document, to help inform the final design of the Project. If further consultation is carried out, we will provide appropriate notification to relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the change(s) in question.'

- 10.2.7 Consistent with the approach to preparation of and consultation on the 2024 SoCC, local authorities and South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) were invited via email to provide comments on the draft Approach to Consultation document.
- 10.2.8 The timeline in Table 10-1 details how the Approach to Consultation document was delivered, including the consultation on the Approach to Consultation document with local authorities and SDNPA, and when the document was finalised and made available to view to the general public on the Applicant's dedicated consultation website.

Table 10-1 Approach to Consultation delivery timetable

Description	Date	Detail
Start of engagement on the draft Approach to Consultation document with local authorities and SDNPA	18 February 2025	Draft Approach to Consultation document issued to local authorities and SDNPA for comment. Feedback was requested by 25 February 2025. A 28-day consultation on the approach was not a statutory requirement as the consultation was carried out within the scope of the 2024 SoCC.
Joint Officer Group Meeting with local authorities and end of engagement on the draft Approach to Consultation document with local authorities and SDNPA	25 February 2025	The Applicant further briefed local authorities and SDNPA on the approach in a Joint Officer Group Meeting. Feedback on the approach was received verbally, and in writing via email.
Finalised version of Approach to Consultation document shared with local authorities and SDNPA	3 March 2025	Queries previously made by local authorities and SDNPA were answered in the comments tracker by the Applicant, the content of which has been summarised below. The only queries raised by the local authorities were the request for possible consultation period extension, commenting on the risk of not holding any in-person events and whether the consultation documents would be available to local authorities before launch. No changes were made to the Approach to Consultation document.

Description	Date	Detail
		The Applicant distributed the finalised Approach to Consultation document to the local authorities, outlining that the document would be published alongside the other consultation documents at consultation launch on the 5 March 2025 on the dedicated consultation website at https://www.hampshirewtwrp.co.uk .
Publication of Approach to Consultation document	5 March 2025	The Approach to Consultation document was uploaded, alongside other consultation materials, to the Applicant's dedicated consultation website.

- 10.2.9 During February 2025, the Applicant engaged with local authorities and SNDPA on the draft Approach to Consultation Document. Out of this group, only PCC and SDNPA provided comments on the document. Both PCC and SDNPA initially queried whether the consultation period should be extended in light due to the inclusion of 25 design refinements, as well as an environmental water quality update. The Applicant explained that the refinements are minor and localised, and that consultees are likely to focus only on those changes relevant to their area. On this basis, the Applicant considered a four-week consultation proportionate.
- 10.2.10 PCC and SDNPA highlighted the importance of clear presentation of the proposed design refinements. PCC emphasised the need for clear explanation of what each change involved and why it was required. The Applicant noted that each design refinement would be supported by an information sheet setting out the rationale, potential effects, and comparison with the Summer 2024 Consultation design.
- 10.2.11 SDNPA expressed concern about the lack of in-person consultation events, noting the potential impact on awareness. The Applicant confirmed that a digital-first approach was considered appropriate due to the localised nature of the changes, supported by a freephone helpline for those needing assistance.
- 10.2.12 PCC also sought early access to consultation materials. The Applicant responded at the time and explained that documents were still being finalised, and early release might not be possible, though materials would be shared ahead of publication if feasible.
- 10.2.13 The Applicant considering and responding individually to each comment raised by PCC and SDNPA and determined that no changes were required to the Approach to Consultation Document.
- 10.2.14 The Spring 2025 Consultation took a 'digital first' approach. The Applicant did not hold any in person events or provide any deposit locations as it was considered this was proportionate to the nature of information being consulted on and given the Project had not fundamentally changed. Any person or organisation could contact the Applicant to ask questions about the consultation and if requested the Applicant was able to send hard copies of materials to consultees free of charge.

- 10.2.15 The Spring 2025 Consultation was undertaken to enable those with an interest in the Project who wished to make a response to provide feedback. The Applicant consulted with the local community, including the people living in the vicinity of the Project, local businesses, community representatives and community groups in accordance with the principles set out in the 2024 SoCC and the Approach to Consultation Document. The Applicant consulted with the following groups and individuals: landowners, tenants, business owners, residents, stakeholder groups and hard to reach groups. Further details are provided in the following sections.
- 10.2.16 The four consultation zones that were used at Summer 2024 Consultation were developed for the Spring 2025 Consultation to assist engagement with the local community for this supplementary consultation. The consultation zones were therefore as follows:
- Zone A comprised of landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits.
 - Zone B comprised of businesses and people living broadly within a 250m buffer of the draft Order Limits, created via an informed assessment of particularly affected communities.
 - Zone C comprised of businesses and people within a 5km radius from the draft Order Limits.
 - Zone D comprised of residents and groups in the Hampshire and wider area (with an emphasis on the south and coastal region).
- 10.2.17 Each zone received different communications about the Project, as detailed in the sections below.
- 10.2.18 Zone B was selected by the Applicant to encompass communities which were considered to be potentially affected by the proposed design refinements. The boundary was locally widened where the Applicant considered that a design refinement may affect local communities over a slightly wider area.
- 10.2.19 The Applicant chose Zone D to capture a wider audience that may have been interested in the updated environmental water quality information.
- 10.2.20 In addition to the local community, the Applicant also consulted prescribed consultees as presented in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), the MMO (Section 42(1)(aa)), relevant local authorities (Section 42(1)(b)) and persons with an interest in the land (Section 42(1)(d)).

Spring 2025 Consultation documents

- 10.2.21 To support the delivery of the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant produced a variety of consultation documents to explain the proposals and what was being consulted on, and to publicise the consultation, the methods via which people could respond and the date by which responses needed to be provided. While the Section 42 consultation documents specifically included formal notification, the broader suite of documents described in this section was made widely available to all consultees to ensure accessibility and engagement across all audiences. The Applicant ensured information was available by uploading all consultation documents to a dedicated online document library accessible through the

dedicated consultation website and making documents available in paper copy on request.

10.2.22 The consultation documents that were available to view on the dedicated consultation website are set out in Table 10-2.

Table 10-2 Consultation documents

Document	Description
Consultation Information Document	An overview of the Project, its various components, a non-technical summary of the Environmental Water Quality Report, 25 Design Refinement information sheets, updated Frequently Asked Questions, and where to find more detailed information and provide feedback. The document was written in non-technical language. This can be found in Appendix G.3 (Information Document).
Environmental Water Quality Report	A report of the environmental water quality modelling undertaken jointly by the Applicant and Portsmouth Water to predict water quality impacts on the Havant Thicket Reservoir, connected downstream water bodies (including Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream, and Langstone Harbour), and the Solent. This can be found in Appendix G.2 (Environmental Water Quality Report).
Feedback Form	The Feedback Form had both open and closed questions to gain feedback about different elements of the Project. This can be found in Appendix G.4 (Feedback Form).
Approach to Consultation	Outlined the approach to carrying out the Spring 2025 Consultation. This can be found Appendix G.5 (Approach to Consultation Document).
Section 48 notice	A notice publicising the proposed application for a Development Consent Order. This can be found in Appendix G.6 (Section 48 notice).

Updates and amendments

10.2.23 The Applicant was made aware of three typographical errors in the consultation material. On 12 March 2025, the Applicant updated the dedicated consultation

website and the online document library, and included a clarification note explaining that the typographical errors corrected did not impact any other information provided as part of the consultation materials. Corrections were made to the following design refinements information sheets to correct those typographical errors:

- Design Refinement 18 – The River Hamble and Ford Farm
- Design Refinement 22 – Construction Compound L-1
- Design Refinement 23 – West of Stroudwood Lane.

10.2.24 This clarification note can be found in Appendix G.7 (Information Document clarification note).

Dedicated consultation website

10.2.25 The Applicant updated its dedicated consultation website for the Project, which had 868 visitors over the Spring 2025 Consultation period. The consultation documents were made available to view on the website.

10.2.26 The updates to the dedicated consultation website from the Summer 2024 Consultation included the following information:

- Updating the home page to include dates and consultation proposals for the Spring 2025 Consultation.
- Adding a dedicated Spring 2025 Consultation tab, which included a consultation overview, a summary of and link to the Environmental Water Quality Report and a summary of and links to the Project Design Refinements.
- Adding an interactive map to show the location of the Project Design Refinements and links to supporting documents.
- Updating the document library with Consultation Information, the Environmental Water Quality Report, feedback form, Approach to Consultation, and Section 48 notice.

10.2.27 Screenshots of the dedicated consultation website pages can be found in Appendix G.8 (Website screenshots).

Engaging seldom heard groups

10.2.28 The Applicant contacted seldom heard groups by post and by email on a non-prescribed basis. These groups were the same as those contacted at Summer 2024 Consultation (please refer to Chapter 9).

10.2.29 To ensure accessibility of consultation materials, the Applicant made a commitment in the Approach to Consultation document that, on request, it would be able to translate, make available in large print, produce audio versions, braille, and in digital data format. The Applicant confirms that it had received no requests for alternative formats at the Spring 2025 Consultation stage.

Advertising and publicity

Newspaper advertisements

- 10.2.30 General advertisements were placed in local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Project would be situated, copies can be found in Appendix G.9 (Adverts). Table 10 details the name of the publication that held the Applicant’s newspaper adverts, as well as the dates that these adverts were published. The same approach for placing these adverts replicated that of Summer 2024 Consultation.

Table 10-3 Advertisements

Publication	Date of Notice
Portsmouth News	5 March and 12 March 2025
Southern Daily Echo	5 March and 12 March 2025
Hampshire Chronicle	6 March and 13 March 2025

Postcards and posters

- 10.2.31 To complement the letter drop for Section 42 and 47 consultees, postcards were sent to Zone B (all properties with postcodes within a 1km buffer of the draft Order Limits) with information about the Project, the consultation, how to find out more and how to provide feedback. These were sent out on 27 February 2025. A copy of the postcard can be found in Appendix G.10 (Postcard).
- 10.2.32 Posters were displayed in locations throughout Consultation Zones A, B and C to raise awareness of the consultation and included information on how to respond to the consultation and the details of consultation events. Locations were reviewed and kept from the Summer 2024 Consultation. The map of poster locations can be found in Appendix G.11 (Poster locations map) and content of the posters can be found in Appendix G.12 (Poster).
- 10.2.33 Posters were displayed across a variety of venues. Table 10 outlines types of poster locations by location type. The Applicant got in touch with more locations than detailed in the table, however, there were many instances of no reply when asking for permission to display posters.

Table 10-4 Posters

Location group	Number of Posters
Community halls	4
GP clinics	2
Post Offices	6

Location group	Number of Posters
Previous in person event locations	5
Public Facilities	4
Large parks	10
Libraries	12
Corner shops	4
Parish council offices	38
Religious places	2
Social/sports clubs	8
Train stations	1
Bus stops	8

Social media

10.2.34 The Applicant publicised details of the Spring 2025 Consultation, including reminders of the timing of the consultation, via the Applicant’s Facebook and Instagram accounts. The adverts provided a link to the dedicated consultation website. This was advertised in Consultation Zones A, B, C and D. Copies of the Facebook and Instagram posts are enclosed in Appendix G.13 (Social media).

10.3 Section 42 consultation

10.3.1 This section provides an overview of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant in compliance with Section 42 of the PA 2008 carried out between 5 March and 4 April 2025.

10.3.2 To accord with Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, ahead of the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant reviewed the list of prescribed bodies, principally those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), who were also consulted at the Summer 2024 Consultation. The Applicant determined whether a consultee was relevant to the Project in line with column 2 and column 3 of the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended). A precautionary and inclusive approach was taken to identify relevant consultees. The same parties at Summer 2024 Consultation were consulted, as well as the RNLi who was consulted as a non-prescribed consultee in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c). Any additional consultees for Spring 2025

Consultation were identified through the review, aside from those who were originally omitted and consulted later in the period.

- 10.3.3 It was identified that under Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended) some relevant statutory undertakers, relevant ambulance services, relevant fire and rescue authorities, relevant police authorities had been omitted from the Summer 2024 Consultation. This was corrected at the Spring 2025 Consultation where these consultees were provided with an opportunity (28 days) to respond to both the Summer 2024 Consultation information and the Spring 2025 Consultation information.
- 10.3.4 The Applicant invited these consultees to respond to both consultations and were provided with the deadline of 11:59pm on 4 April 2025. However, the Applicant acknowledged that consultees may require more time to review both consultations, therefore, the Applicant advised that consultees contact the Applicant to request more time to review material from both consultations if needed. The Applicant confirms that it had received no requests for more time from consultees who were invited to comment on both consultations, it is also confirmed that the Applicant did not receive any responses from those who were consulted on both the Summer 2024 Consultation and the Spring 2025 Consultation.
- 10.3.5 The prescribed bodies consulted on the Project under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, as part of the Spring 2025 Consultation, are contained in Table F17-1 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees).
- 10.3.6 Following a series of assessments conducted by the Applicant, several land parcels outside the draft Order Limits were identified as necessary additions to the Project. These were required due to changes to the Project that took into account feedback from the Summer 2024 Consultation, on-going engagement, further investigations, surveys and assessments and design development. Due to the volume and significance of these changes, the Project undertook the Spring 2025 Consultation with all PILs located within the revised draft Order Limits.
- 10.3.7 In accordance with the requirements of Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook a refresh to ensure "diligent inquiry" through a land referencing process to identify parties within Categories 1, 2 and 3, as defined in Sections 42 and 44 of the PA 2008 which were affected by these changes. The details of this follow the exact same process as detailed in section 9.3 of the Consultation Report.
- 10.3.8 To support this process, the Applicant carried out a comprehensive refresh of HM Land Registry data. This ensured that all land ownership and title information was current and accurately reflected in the referencing database. All detail of this process is provided in section 9.2 of the Consultation Report.
- 10.3.9 Site notices were erected in publicly accessible areas nearest to relevant unregistered land parcels to ensure the highest visibility to the public. These were erected, monitored and replaced weekly over a 6-week period starting 27 February 2025 and ending 07 April 2025. 174 unregistered site notices were erected and maintained by the Applicant throughout the Spring 2025 Consultation period. The unregistered site notices comprised of a copy of the Section 48 notice and an unregistered land site notice plan identifying the relevant unregistered parcel and the revised draft Order Limits in the locality. Appendix G.14 (Unregistered site

notice and Section 48 notice placement) shows a map of where unregistered site notices were placed.

- 10.3.10 Prior to the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant contacted potentially affected PILs and/or their representatives who were impacted by design refinements to provide an update on Project progress and ensure they were aware of the consultation timescales. Potentially affected PILs were directed to where information would be available on the dedicated consultation website and were offered meetings to discuss the 25 design refinements and directed to the freephone line or the dedicated consultation query inbox if there were any further queries.
- 10.3.11 Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees), contains a list of all persons that the Applicant identified as being Section 42(1)(d) consultees who were consulted under that Section during the Spring 2025 Consultation which commenced on 5 March 2025 and 4 April 2025.
- 10.3.12 The Applicant issued section 42(1)(d) consultation notifications to 1,052 active PILs for the Spring 2025 Consultation. Of these, 954 were existing active section 42(1)(d) consultees previously consulted, and 98 were new section 42(1)(d) consultees identified through a combination of the Spring 2025 land referencing refresh and the design refinements that were consulted on for the Spring 2025 Consultation.
- 10.3.13 Existing Section 42(1)(d) consultees were issued a Section 44 notification letter, a copy of the Section 48 notice, and an overview plan included within the consultation pack.

Issue of consultation notification

- 10.3.14 The Applicant commenced issuing the Section 42 letters on 27 February 2025, to the following Section 42 consultees:
- Section 42(1)(a) and (aa) prescribed bodies
 - Section 42(1)(b) the relevant local authorities
 - Section 42(1)(d) land interests
 - Section 11(1)(c) The RNLI

Method of delivery – post

- 10.3.15 The Applicant confirms that Section 42(1)(a), (aa), (b) and (d) consultees were initially issued the consultation documents by way of Royal Mail Tracked Delivery which allowed for tracking of packages and proof of delivery. The initial postal issue of consultation letters was dispatched on 27 February 2025, ahead of the start of the Spring 2025 Consultation.
- 10.3.16 Section 42(1)(a) consultees previous notified about the Summer 2024 Consultation were sent the letter found in Appendix G.15 (Section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter – existing consultees). Section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees that were omitted from the Summer 2024 Consultation received letters on both the Summer 2024 Consultation, and the Spring 2025 Consultation. This letter is found in Appendix G.16 (Section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter – new consultees).

10.3.17 The Applicant confirms that all known Section 42(1)(d) consultee notifications were sent on 26 February 2025 and were verified to have been delivered by Royal Mail Tracked Delivery service ahead of the start of the consultation. Letters for existing Section 42(1)(d) consultees can be found in Appendix G.17 (Section 42 cover letter – existing landowners). Letters for new Section 42(1)(d) consultees can be found in Appendix G.18 (Section 42 cover letter – new landowners).

Method of delivery – email

10.3.18 In addition to postal copies, the Applicant also notified the majority of consultees where appropriate email addresses were available in the public domain on 4 March 2025.

10.3.19 As standard, Section 42(1)(d) consultees were not emailed the consultation documents, as email addresses are not provided through Land Registry records and it is considered preferable to avoid sending sensitive information such as land ownership records via email.

Method of delivery – backcheck

10.3.20 Backchecks were undertaken following the initial despatch of letters to ensure that delivery was successful. Where delivery could not be confirmed by the tracking service for Section 42(1)(a), (aa), and (b) consultees, the Applicant sent a further letter on 5 March 2025.

10.3.21 From these backchecks, it was identified that the initial letters for the following had not been confirmed as delivered by Royal Mail:

- NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHS CFA)
- SP Distribution Plc

10.3.22 Both stakeholders were sent follow up letters, as well as a follow up email sent to addresses located on their relevant websites, on the 11 March 2025 to verify whether the letters had arrived. However, neither stakeholder confirmed delivery from the attempted communications.

10.3.23 On 13 March 2025, it was brought to the attention of the Applicant that it had written to Thorney Parish Council located near Peterborough, instead of West Thorney Parish Council in Sussex. In response, the Applicant sent out a new letter on 8 May 2025, giving the council 30 days to respond upon receipt. This allowed both time for the letter to arrive and at least the statutory 28 period to respond, with a deadline of the 11 June 2025. An email was then re-sent to the email address listed on the Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council websites to verify the letter being sent. This bespoke letter can be found in Appendix G.19 (Bespoke Section 42 cover letter for West Thorney Parish Council).

10.3.24 The email addresses listed on both the Chichester District Council and the West Sussex County Council website to verify the letter being sent returned undeliverable messages. The Applicant then emailed both Chichester District Council and the West Sussex County Council in order to verify contacts and addresses. Chichester District Council outlined that the Parish meeting address on their website was to be considered outdated, and likely the same for the West Sussex County Council website. They then pointed to West Sussex County

Council for answers with West Sussex County Council providing the Applicant with its most up to date contact address and stated '*If you have already got in touch with an officer from the Military Barracks, then West Sussex County Council would consider that you have made every appropriate effort to raise awareness of the consultation*'. The Applicant then emailed this contact on the 27 June 2025, asking for confirmation of the letter arriving, to which no response was received.

- 10.3.25 Where no alternative address was identified for consultees where delivery had been unsuccessful, the Applicant found their email addresses on publicly accessible sites and delivered emails to the consultees. It was confirmed that no undelivered messages were returned to the general enquiries inbox these emails were sent from, but no consultees responded.
- 10.3.26 Consultation deadline extensions were agreed, upon request, for:
- Langstone Harbour Board – 9 April 2025
 - Paul R Harris BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV – 9 April 2025
 - PCC – 9 April 2025
- 10.3.27 These extensions were granted by the Applicant due to consultees requesting well in advance before the deadline of the consultation period, with some reasoning that additional time was needed due to governance processes within various organisations. The Applicant could also accommodate this extension within the Project programme and were happy to provide extensions as requested.
- 10.3.28 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements of the PA 2008 in relation to the distribution of consultation documents.

Deadline for response – Section 45 of the PA 2008

- 10.3.29 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the covering letters found in Appendices G.15 (Section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter – existing consultees), G.16 (Section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) cover letter – new consultees), G.17 (Section 42 cover letter – existing landowners) and G.18 (Section 42 cover letter – new landowners) stated that the consultation commenced on 5 March 2025 and that responses needed to be returned by 11:59pm on 4 April 2025, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.
- 10.3.30 The Applicant confirms that all persons consulted under Section 42 received the consultation notification with sufficient time to observe the minimum 28-day period, running from the day after receipt of the documents, prescribed by Section 45 of the PA 2008. Additionally, where necessary, bespoke consultation periods were administered to those who requested it.

Conclusion

- 10.3.31 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements for consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 during the Spring 2025 Consultation.

10.4 Section 46 notification

- 10.4.1 The Applicant wrote to the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 5 March 2025 by letter via email, (please refer to Appendix G.20 (Section 46 notification)) in accordance with Section 46(1) of the PA 2008 setting out its intention to submit an application for development consent and notifying the Planning Inspectorate that the Applicant would be shortly undertaking a period of statutory consultation. This email included the following:
- Template of consultation notification letter to be sent to consultees set out in Section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (b) of the PA 2008 (including those prescribed in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 as amended).
 - Template of letter to be sent to Category 1, 2 and 3 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 as required by Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008.
 - Copy of the Section 48 notice.
- 10.4.2 In accordance with Section 46(2) of the PA 2008, this letter was sent at the same time as issuing the consultation notification to Section 42(1)(a), (aa), (b) and (d) consultees, and prior to the commencement of the Spring 2025 Consultation on 5 March 2025.
- 10.4.3 A formal acknowledgement of the Section 46 notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 6 March 2025 confirming receipt of the consultation documents. This can be found in Appendix G.21 (Acknowledgement of Section 46 Notification).

Conclusion

- 10.4.4 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements to notify the Secretary of State under Section 46 of the PA 2008 during the Spring 2025 Consultation.

10.5 Section 47 consultation

- 10.5.1 The Applicant undertook Section 47 consultation with the local community and key stakeholders in accordance with the published 2024 SoCC Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC). The 2024 SoCC allowed for future targeted consultations to be held in accordance with the principles and methods set out in Section 11 of the 2024 SoCC.

Notification of stakeholders under Section 47

- 10.5.2 As part of the Applicant's Approach to Consultation Document and in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, on 27 February 2025, letters were sent to stakeholders in the local community, for example NGOs, recreational groups, and educational establishments, to raise awareness of the consultation. Copies of the letters are provided in Appendix G.22 (Section 47 cover letter).
- 10.5.3 At Summer 2022 Consultation and Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant created 'keep in touch' cards for our consultation events. These cards allowed stakeholders to give the Applicant their email addresses with the interest of

receiving any Project updates. These addresses were stored in line with the GDPR commitments outlined previously in the Consultation Report. For the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant used the emails collected from the keep in touch cards, as well as those who registered to be kept in touch via the dedicated consultation website, to notify stakeholders on 4 March 2025 that the consultation would be open the next day. This was done in the form of Appendix G.23 (Section 47 keep in touch email).

Conclusion

- 10.5.4 The Applicant complied with the requirements of Section 47 of the PA 2008 by consulting the local community in accordance with the published 2024 SoCC, ensuring that residents, land interests and wider stakeholders were appropriately notified and had the opportunity to engage with the Project.

10.6 Section 48 publicity

Notices publicising the Spring 2025 Consultation

- 10.6.1 As required by Section 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), a Section 48 notice, found in Appendix G.6 (Section 48 notice), publicising the proposed application for development consent for the Project was published on 4 March 2025 in the London Gazette, once in a national newspaper (The Times) (also on 4 March 2025), and for two successive weeks in a local newspaper (Portsmouth News, Hampshire Chronicle and Hampshire Independent). Copies of the notices, as published, are enclosed in Appendix G.24 (Section 48 published notices). The Applicant was not obliged to publish in Lloyd’s List nor a relevant fishing journal under Section 48, due to the Project not being an offshore development.
- 10.6.2 In addition, the Applicant displayed 15 copies of the Section 48 notices at intervals of 5km in locations of greatest likely footfall to maximise public awareness.
- 10.6.3 Table 10 outlines when and in which publication the Section 48 notices were published. The Hampshire Independent was published only once as a request from a local authority, as the requirement for publishing twice had already been met. Additionally, as this was a supplementary consultation to Summer 2024 Consultation, proportionate publication was implemented.

Table 10-5 Section 48 notices

Publication	Date of notice	Rationale
The News (Portsmouth)	25 February and 4 March 2025	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
Hampshire Chronicle	20 and 27 February 2025	Published twice for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper.
Hampshire Independent	28 February 2025	Published once in a local newspaper. Two local newspapers already

Publication	Date of notice	Rationale
		included, a third was selected due to comments from local authorities on the pre-draft 2024 SoCC, see Chapter 8 for more details.
The London Gazette	4 March 2025	Published once in the London Gazette.
The Times	4 March 2025	Published once in a national newspaper.

Content of the Section 48 notice

10.6.4 As required by Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended) the content of the notice included:

- The name and address of the Applicant.
- A statement that the Applicant intends to make a DCO application of development consent to the Secretary of State.
- A statement that the application is EIA development.
- A summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Project.
- A statement that the documents, plans and maps may be inspected free of charge on the dedicated consultation website.
- The address of (and place on) the dedicated consultation website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected.
- The latest date on which the documents, plans and maps would be available for inspection on the dedicated consultation website.
- A telephone number (0800 254 5138) which could be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps.
- Whether a charge would be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge.
- Details of how to respond to the publicity via the dedicated email inbox, the online feedback form, and FREEPOST letters.
- The deadline of 4 April 2025 for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice was last published (i.e. 4 March 2025).

Conclusion

10.6.5 The Applicant complied with the requirements of Section 48 of the PA 2008 by publishing the requisite notice in accordance with the prescribed regulations, ensuring that the consultation was publicised to the wider public.

10.7 Consultation feedback analysis methodology

- 10.7.1 The consultation responses have been analysed in line with advice contained within Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report which states that:
- “The responses should be categorised in an appropriate way. It may be appropriate for the applicant to group responses under headline issues”.*
- 10.7.2 Feedback was received via the dedicated email inbox, the online feedback form, and FREEPOST letters. Postal responses were transcribed verbatim so that all feedback could be analysed digitally.
- 10.7.3 A code frame was developed to analyse the consultation responses and facilitate the creation of issue codes as a means of grouping responses under headline themes. Coding was conducted using three Tiers, Tier 1 outlined the core theme to a response, with Tiers 2 and 3 providing further detail.
- 10.7.4 Tier represents the overall theme of the feedback, resulting in an issue code reference, with tiers 2 and 3 creating further sub-themes. Feedback sentiment was also recorded to enable issue codes to be assigned appropriately.
- 10.7.5 The code frame for the Spring 2025 Consultation included the same issue code references used for the Summer 2024 Consultation, please refer to Chapter 9 and Appendix F.28 (Coding table) for further detail, with new Tier 1 codes for each of the 25 Design Refinements (DR) that the Applicant was seeking feedback on.
- 10.7.6 Individual issue statements were drafted for each issue code. The resulting issue statements are detailed in Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback).

10.8 Consultation feedback received

- 10.8.1 This section provides an overview of the relevant feedback received to the Spring 2025 Consultation and provides a summary of how the Applicant has had regard to that feedback. Together, this section of the report and Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback), set out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the PA 2008 and Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, with regard to the Spring 2025 Consultation.

Number and format of feedback received

- 10.8.2 A total of 216 relevant pieces of feedback were submitted to the Applicant in response to the Spring 2025 Consultation held between 5 March 2025 and 4 April 2025. This included 2 letters via the freepost address, 122 online feedback forms, and 92 emails. Please see Table 10 for the number and format of feedback received and Table 10-7 for a breakdown of the number of feedback responses per consultee category.

Table 10-6 Number and format of feedback received

Feedback mechanism	Number
Online Feedback form	122
Letters via FREEPOST	2
Emails	92

Table 10-7 Number of responses per consultee category

Consultee category	Number of responses
Section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees (including statutory undertakers)	15
Section 42(1)(b) relevant local authorities	12
Section 42(1)(d) person with an interest in land	28
Consultation under Section 47 and Section 48 publicity	161

- 10.8.3 As advised in Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, the Applicant should provide a summary of the individual feedback received, categorised in an appropriate way. The advice states that there should be a clear and concise summary of the feedback received from all consultees alongside evidence that the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback. The summary of feedback should also outline clearly feedback of relevance (directly or indirectly) and how this influenced the refined design of the Project during the pre-application stage. This could include changes to the proposed pipeline routes, the location of AGP and the WRP, as well as any proposed mitigation or compensatory measures proposed by the Applicant. This information, including the Applicant’s demonstration of regard to the issues raised during the Spring 2025 Consultation, is set out in full in Appendix G25 (The Applicant’s response to feedback).
- 10.8.4 The Applicant confirms that personal details will not be placed on public record except where this is required in accordance with legislation or legal duty such as land referencing but will be held securely by the Applicant and its appointed agents in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Planning Inspectorate’s Customer Privacy Notice 8 and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 10.8.5 When reporting on feedback to the Spring 2025 Consultation, feedback has been grouped under headline issues, with care taken to ensure that this does not present the feedback in a misleading way. The methodology used to summarise and categorise the feedback mirrors the approach set out in Chapter 9 (section 9.7.9), where a coding tree was developed and issue codes assigned across three tiers to identify themes and responsible parties. This same method has been applied to

feedback received from prescribed consultees under Section 42 of the PA 2008, local communities consulted under Section 47 of the PA 2008, and the wider public through Section 48 publicity, as presented in the Consultation Report. The resulting issue statements can be found in Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback).

Feedback form – Statistics and results

- 10.8.6 The feedback form (see Appendix G.4 (Feedback form)) was designed to gather views on the updated environmental water quality information and the proposed design refinements for the Project. As no summary of feedback report was produced for the Spring 2025 Consultation, some findings from the online feedback form are summarised in Table 10. It should be noted that the Applicant did not receive any completed paper feedback forms.
- 10.8.7 From the 122 relevant online feedback responses, 88 submitted feedback forms responded to the Applicant's Environmental Water Quality Information question. Additionally, 74 submitted forms responded to the Applicant's questions on the design refinements. Table 10 outlines the interest respondents had in each design refinement through the number of times the option was ticked.

Table 10-8 Number of times a design refinement was ticked

Design refinement	Number of times ticked on the online feedback form
Design refinement 1	49
Design refinement 2	59
Design refinement 3	39
Design refinement 4	45
Design refinement 5	23
Design refinement 6	19
Design refinement 7	12
Design refinement 8	13
Design refinement 9	11
Design refinement 10	10
Design refinement 11	10
Design refinement 12	10
Design refinement 13	13

Design refinement	Number of times ticked on the online feedback form
Design refinement 14	11
Design refinement 15	11
Design refinement 16	10
Design refinement 17	10
Design refinement 18	11
Design refinement 19	11
Design refinement 20	10
Design refinement 21	9
Design refinement 22	9
Design refinement 23	9
Design refinement 24	12
Design refinement 25	11

- 10.8.8 62 submitted feedback forms shared additional information aside from what was being consulted upon. These responses were analysed and processed as part of the consultation feedback. More information about this process is detailed in section 10.9.
- 10.8.9 In relation to questions about the Applicant’s consultation adequacy, 75% of respondents said that the information was presented from an average to a very effective degree, 78% of respondents found the dedicated consultation website easy to navigate from an average to very effective degree, and 48% agreed that it was promoted to the right people from an average to very effective degree.
- 10.8.10 For the questions surrounding the demographic of the respondents, 43% were female, 44% were male and 13% preferred not to say. The age group that responded the most was 65-74 at 26% of the respondents, followed by 55-64 and 75 and older respectively at 20% each. 70% of respondents were ‘Local residents’, with the next largest respondent type was ‘Local interest group member’ at 11%.
- 10.8.11 Amongst the submissions for the online feedback form, there were 1,362 individual visitors to the dedicated consultation website.

10.9 Response to consultation feedback

- 10.9.1 The Applicant has responded to the issues raised which can be found within Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback).

- 10.9.2 On 29 April 2025, the Applicant received a late response from Chichester District Council. Chichester District Council acknowledged it had responded late. The Council’s feedback is summarised as follows for the purposes of the Consultation Report. The Council said that it supported the Project in principle but understood further work was required to understand the environmental impacts. It noted that an increase in phosphorous was predicted at Havant Thicket Reservoir, and that some changes to water body status in some locations was predicted without mitigation. The Council noted that work to agree appropriate mitigation was ongoing and added that it wanted to see any adverse environmental impacts understood and fully mitigated by the DCO stage.
- 10.9.3 On 24 July 2025, the Applicant received an email, via the dedicated consultation feedback inbox, FeedbackHWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk, from West Berkshire Council which stated that the Council had no objections to the Project and supports the proposed solution. West Berkshire Council added that it supports the plan to ‘improve local wastewater to ultimately make it potable’.
- 10.9.4 Table 10 below provides a summary of the key issues raised during the Spring 2025 Consultation and the Applicant’s response.

Table 10-9 Summary of issues raised at the Spring 2025 Consultation and the Applicant’s response

Issue raised	The Applicant’s response
<p>Concerns about the need for the Project, particularly in light of other potential measures such as addressing water efficiency, leakage reduction, or alternative demand options.</p>	<p>Demand management measures, including leakage reduction and water efficiency, form an essential part of the Applicant’s wider water resources strategy. The Applicant has an ambitious target to reduce leakage by up to 50% by 2050, but fixing leaks alone will not address the water resource challenge in Hampshire, which is why a major new source of water is required (i.e. the Project) to help address the significant water supply shortfall.</p> <p>The Applicant’s emerging WRMP24 and Water Resources South East (WRSE) Regional Plan both identify the Project as a key component of future water supply in the Hampshire area and wider South East. Other options considered through both the WRMP and options appraisal processes do not provide the scale of new water resource needed and in the timescales required.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding public trust in the Applicant and its ability to safely deliver and operate a water recycling scheme.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the importance of public confidence and has sought to address concerns through transparent engagement and evidence-based assessments. Water recycling is a well-established and internationally proven technology, and the Project will be subject to robust regulatory oversight, multiple treatment</p>

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	barriers, continuous monitoring, and compliance with all relevant statutory requirements.
Concerns about the use of recycled water, including potential impacts on drinking water quality and public health.	All water supplied to customers will continue to meet strict UK drinking water quality standards, regardless of source. Under the Project, recycled water would undergo advanced treatment processes and further treatment prior to entering supply, ensuring that public health is protected and that all regulatory requirements are met.
Concern about the removal of 'forever chemicals' from recycled water.	<p>Water recycling is a well-established and internationally proven technology. Purified recycled water will undergo advanced multi-barrier treatment processes and be blended with spring water before final treatment to drinking water standards at Otterbourne WSW. The treatment process, which utilises reverse osmosis, ultraviolet advanced oxidation and granular activated carbon, is in fact more capable at removing these contaminants than conventional water or sewage treatment processes. All water entering the public supply will continue to meet the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016.</p> <p>The Applicant has conducted extensive testing through its water recycling pilot plant with experts from the University of Brighton. Testing has included analysis of pharmaceuticals and personal care products, pesticides, trace organic contaminants (including so-called 'forever chemicals'), and volatile organic compounds. The pilot plant data has not identified any substances in the recycled water at concentrations that would constitute a threat to human health.</p>
Concerns about algal blooms as a result of increased levels of phosphorus in Havant Thicket Reservoir.	Following the Spring 2025 Consultation, updated water quality modelling has demonstrated that the use of a High Rejection Rate Membrane (HRRM) as part of the water treatment process will ensure that water quality will maintain the 'high' ecological status of Havant Thicket Reservoir. The addition of the HRRM would avoid the accumulation of phosphorus within Havant Thicket Reservoir and

Issue raised	The Applicant's response
	<p>prevent algal blooms with the addition of recycled water.</p> <p>An environmental permit is required for the release of recycled water into Havant Thicket Reservoir and this will stipulate the water quality requirements that the Applicant needs to achieve.</p>
<p>Feedback on how compensatory flows could affect marine and freshwater biodiversity, as well as wildlife, at Havant Thicket Reservoir, Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream, and Langstone Harbour.</p>	<p>The Applicant's latest water quality modelling results demonstrate that, through the use of a High Rejection Rate Membrane as part of the water recycling treatment process, the Project is not predicted to have an impact on the biodiversity or ecological status of Havant Thicket Reservoir or receiving watercourses and water bodies downstream. The results of the water quality modelling are presented in the ES.</p>
<p>Landowners objected to their land being used for proposed environmental mitigation and enhancement areas.</p>	<p>Following the Spring 2025 Consultation, the proposed environmental mitigation and enhancement areas were refined to ensure they were necessary and proportionate, taking into account the findings and assessments set out in the ES.</p>

10.10 Conclusion

- 10.10.1 Following the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant has had regard to the relevant feedback received in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. One of the main changes that resulted from this feedback to the Project included further refinement to Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Areas. An analysis of the changes made following the Spring 2025 Consultation is outlined in the Scheme Development Report (Document reference 5.10, DCO Volume 5). The Applicant has also had regard to this feedback by providing its response to each issue raised. Please refer to Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback).
- 10.10.2 Additionally, taking into account feedback from the Spring 2025 Consultation, further investigations, surveys and assessments, and design development, the Applicant identified eight more design refinements. Due to the minor nature of these refinements, these changes were brought forward for a targeted, statutory consultation in the Autumn of 2025. For more detail, please see Chapter 11 of the Consultation Report.

11 Statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 Following the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant made eight further refinements to the design of the Project. These took into account feedback from the previous consultation, further investigations, surveys and assessments, and design development.
- 11.1.2 This chapter explains how the Applicant undertook targeted, statutory consultation on the Project in Autumn 2025, which was in line with Sections 42, 45 and 46 of the PA 2008. The targeted, statutory consultation, referred to as the 'Autumn 2025 Consultation' hereafter, took place between 10 September 2025 and 8 October 2025. The feedback deadline was 11:59pm on 8 October 2025.

11.2 Approach to the Autumn 2025 Consultation

- 11.2.1 The scale of the eight further Project design refinements was considered to be minor by the Applicant, as they did not materially or substantially change the Project or its effects as a whole, either individually or collectively, in line with the Pre-application Guidance 2024. Because the refinements were minor, this informed the approach to consultation with a targeted process focused on those directly affected by the changes. This explains why the approach for this stage differed from previous, broader consultations undertaken for the Project.
- 11.2.2 The purpose of this phase of consultation was to seek views on eight further design refinements to the Project from those whose land was directly affected or who had a land interest.
- 11.2.3 The Applicant sought views and feedback on the following refinements:
- Design refinement 1 – North of Pricketts Hill, Shedfield
 - Design refinement 2 – Botley Road and A334 highway works, Curdridge
 - Design refinement 3 – Winchester Road (A334), Blind Lane and Titchfield Lane highway works
 - Design refinement 4 – Five Oaks Farm, Shedfield
 - Design refinement 5 – Portsdown Hill Road Crossing Point
 - Design refinement 6 – Church Lane and Bishopstoke Lane, Colden Common
 - Design refinement 7 – Low Hill Farm, west of Lower Upham
 - Design refinement 8 – South of High Street, Shirell Heath
- 11.2.4 These refinements were presented in the form of information sheets and sent to directly affected consultees by letter.
- 11.2.5 The Autumn 2025 Consultation was carried out individually with landowners depending on their land interest. Specific information sheets (see Appendix H.1

(Information sheets)) were sent to each consultee, to ensure that they were only consulted on the specific changes relevant to their land interest(s). This approach was taken to ensure that the feedback received from this targeted approach allowed the Applicant to understand the specific impacts of these changes.

- 11.2.6 Prior to the Autumn 2025 Consultation, the Applicant contacted landowners and/or their representatives who were impacted by design refinements to provide an update on Project progress and ensure they were aware of the consultation timescales.

11.3 Section 42 consultation

- 11.3.1 This section provides an overview of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant in compliance with Section 42 of the PA 2008.
- 11.3.2 This targeted consultation solely involved affected stakeholders under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008. The exception was HCC who were also consulted under Section 42(1)(a) and (b) as the relevant local authority for public rights of way, and relevant Highway Authority for the proposed changes to a temporary PRow diversion and amendments on highway land.
- 11.3.3 In accordance with the requirements of Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook a refresh to ensure "diligent inquiry" through a land referencing process to identify parties within Categories 1, 2 and 3, as defined in Sections 42 and 44 of the PA 2008 which were affected by these changes. The details of this follow the exact same process as detailed in section 9.3 of the Consultation Report.
- 11.3.4 To support this process, the Applicant carried out a comprehensive refresh of His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) data. This ensured that all land ownership and title information was current and accurately reflected in the referencing database. The details of this follow the same process as detailed in section 9.2 of the Consultation Report, as well as section 9.3 in relation to the Book of Reference (Document reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4).
- 11.3.5 Potential new landowners were also identified with a possible interest in the subsoil underlying the highway as a result of minor highway works design refinements. The Applicant invited these newly identified consultees to additionally respond to the two previous statutory consultations and were directed to where they could find relevant information and materials on the Applicant's dedicated consultation website. They were also provided with the deadline of 11:59pm on 8 October 2025. However, the Applicant acknowledged that consultees may require more time to review previous statutory consultations, therefore, the Applicant advised that consultees contact the Applicant to request more time to review material if needed. The Applicant confirms that it received no requests for more time from newly identified consultees.
- 11.3.6 Land interests consulted on the Project under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, as part of the Autumn 2025 Consultation, are contained in Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). 108 active PILs were consulted under Section 42(1)(d) and of these, 79 were existing consultees and 29 were new consultees identified through a combination of the Spring 2025 Consultation land referencing refresh

and the design refinements that were consulted on for the Autumn 2025 Consultation. The Applicant confirms that there were no late reveals as the Autumn 2025 Consultation was a targeted consultation for specific areas of the Project.

- 11.3.7 Although the Autumn 2025 Consultation was directed to affected stakeholders, the Applicant also responded where possible to land and landowner enquiries through phone calls, emails and face-to-face meetings in the course of, and subsequent to, the consultation period. Ongoing landowner engagement continued after the close of the consultation and will continue through the timeline of the Project.
- 11.3.8 The Applicant erected five unregistered land site notices that comprised a copy of the Section 48 notice previously used in the Spring 2025 Consultation (see Appendix G.6 (Section 48 notice)) and an unregistered land site notice plan identifying the relevant unregistered parcel and the revised draft Order Limits in the locality, inviting any party with an interest to contact the Applicant. For a map of where these unregistered site notices were placed, please refer to Appendix H.2 (Unregistered site notice placement).

Issue of consultation notification

- 11.3.9 The Applicant issued the Section 42 letters, information sheets and unregistered land plans ahead of the start of the Autumn 2025 Consultation on 8 September 2025 to targeted consultees.

Method of delivery – post

- 11.3.10 The Applicant confirms that Section 42(1)(a)-(b) and (d) consultees were issued the consultation documents by way of Royal Mail Tracked Delivery which allowed for tracking of packages and proof of delivery. These letters were verified to have been delivered in each case by Royal Mail. These cover letters can be found in Appendix H.3 (Section 42(1)(a)-(b) and (d) cover letter – existing consultees), Appendix H.4 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – existing landowners), Appendix H.5 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – new landowners) and Appendix H.6 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – new landowners with highway interests).

Deadline for response – Section 45 of the PA 2008

- 11.3.11 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the covering letters found in Appendix H.3 (Section 42(1)(a)-(b) and (d) cover letter – existing consultees), Appendix H.4 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – existing landowners), Appendix H.5 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – new landowners) and Appendix H.6 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 cover letter – new landowners with highway interests) stated that the consultation commenced on 10 September 2025 and that responses needed to be returned by 11:59pm on 8 October 2025.
- 11.3.12 The Applicant confirms that all persons consulted under Section 42 received the consultation documents with sufficient time, running from the day after receipt of the documents, to observe the minimum 28-day period, prescribed by Section 45 of the PA 2008.

Conclusion

- 11.3.13 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements for consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 during the Autumn 2025 Consultation.

11.4 Section 46 notification

- 11.4.1 The Applicant issued a letter to the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 10 September 2025 via email in accordance with Section 46(1) of the PA 2008 setting out its intention to submit an application for development consent and notifying the Planning Inspectorate that the Applicant would be shortly undertaking a period of statutory consultation. For this letter, please refer to Appendix H.7 (Section 46 notification). The letter included the following:
- Eight design refinement information sheets
 - A copy of the letter to be sent to HCC under Section 42(1)(a), (b) and (d), and Section 44 of the PA 2008
 - Template of letters to be sent to Category 1, 2 and 3 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 and as required by Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008
- 11.4.2 This letter also informed the Planning Inspectorate that newly identified persons were also being given access to previous consultations and invited to provide feedback should they wish.
- 11.4.3 Formal acknowledgement of the Section 46 notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2025, please refer to Appendix H.8 (Acknowledgement of Section 46 notification) confirming receipt of information concerning the proposed application.

Conclusion

- 11.4.4 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements to notify the Secretary of State under Section 46 of the PA 2008 during the Autumn 2025 Consultation.

11.5 Consultation feedback analysis methodology

- 11.5.1 Due to the nature of the consultation being targeted and the resulting two consultation responses, the Applicant responded to feedback as received rather than producing issue statements as with the previous statutory consultations.

11.6 Consultation feedback received

- 11.6.1 This section provides an overview of the responses received to the Autumn 2025 Consultation and illustrates how the Applicant has had regard to those responses.

Number and format of responses

- 11.6.2 A total of two responses were submitted to the Applicant in response to the Autumn 2025 Consultation held between 10 September 2025 and 8 October 2025. These were received via emails from Section 42(1)(d) stakeholders using the dedicated email inbox at FeedbackHWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk.
- 11.6.3 During the consultation period, the Applicant was contacted about the consultation by an interested party not affected by the refinements. The interested party requested copies of the consultation materials and the deadline by which responses should be submitted. By email, the Applicant provided the consultation materials and deadline to the interested party for information, however, no consultation feedback was received.

11.7 Response to consultation feedback

- 11.7.1 Comments were received on design refinements 4 and 7. The concerns raised by consultees related to the Pipeline route and depth, specifically its proximity to residential land and the risk of land sterilisation, as well as matters surrounding construction and safe access.
- 11.7.2 The Applicant has responded to the issues raised which can be found within Appendix H.9 (The Applicant's response to feedback). This appendix contains the two pieces of feedback, whether the Project was changed due to the feedback, and the Applicant's response. Due to the low number of responses received, the Applicant has presented the feedback as received with personal information removed, as opposed to summarising the feedback. This appendix sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the PA 2008 and the Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, with regard to the Autumn 2025 Consultation.
- 11.7.3 Under the two separate pieces of consultation feedback, the Applicant confirms that the Pipeline route has been evaluated against criteria that considers technical and environmental parameters. Trenchless construction, in reference to design refinement 7, will be used to mitigate impacts despite the route being closer to properties. The Applicant states that flexibility has been included in the Order Limits, in relation to design refinement 4, to allow for further engagement with the landowner as its planning application for sand extraction progresses. For more information on the Applicant's commitment to future engagement with landowners, please refer to the Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5).

11.8 Conclusion

- 11.8.1 Following the Autumn 2025 Consultation, the Applicant has had regard to the feedback received in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008.
- 11.8.2 As a result of the Autumn 2025 Consultation, two further statutory consultations were undertaken in Spring 2026 as a result of the draft Order Limits being expanded at the Otterbourne WSW and at the junction at Kiln Lane and Main Road

in Otterbourne. For more details, please see Chapter 12 of the Consultation Report.

12 Statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations

12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1 Following the Autumn 2025 Consultation, the Applicant made two additional refinements to the design of the Project, in response to Project design development and assessment outcomes.
- 12.1.2 This chapter explains how the Applicant undertook two targeted, statutory, consultations on the Project in Spring 2026, which were in line with Sections 42, 45 and 46 of the PA 2008. These two consultations are referred to collectively as the ‘Spring 2026 Consultations’ and individually as the ‘Otterbourne Water Supply Works (WSW) Consultation’ and the ‘Kiln Lane Consultation’ hereafter. The Otterbourne WSW Consultation started on 17 March 2026, with the consultation closing and feedback deadline being 11:59pm on 16 April 2026. The Kiln Lane Consultation started on the 18 March 2026, with the consultation closing and feedback deadline being 11:59pm on 17 April 2026.

12.2 Approach to the Spring 2026 Consultations

- 12.2.1 The scale of the two additional Project design refinements were considered to be minor by the Applicant, as they did not materially or substantially change the Project or its effects as a whole, either individually or collectively, in line with the Pre-application Guidance 2024. The Applicant notes the Spring 2026 Consultations took place after the PIA 2025 received Royal Assent. However, to be consistent with the previous statutory consultations on the Project and in the absence of published guidance setting out how consultation should be undertaken under the new legislative framework, this further consultation was undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008. As the refinements were minor, this informed the approach to consultation with a targeted process focused on those directly affected by the changes. The approach for the Spring 2026 Consultations aligned with that which was taken for the Autumn 2025 Consultation, due to the targeted nature of the design refinements.
- 12.2.2 These two design refinements proposed the extension of the draft Order Limits at two different locations near Otterbourne. The Applicant decided these refinements required two separate, targeted consultations with the purpose of seeking views on the design refinements to the Project from those whose land was directly affected or who had a land interest.
- 12.2.3 The first design refinement was the extension of the draft Order Limits at Otterbourne WSW to allow for the installation of additional water treatment plant. The additional treatment plant would either be placed in an existing redundant building or constructed as a new building having maximum plan dimensions of 24mx12m, and 8m high. The additional treatment plant required an extension to the draft Order Limits and thus the Otterbourne WSW Consultation was undertaken with affected consultees as defined by Section 42 and Section 44 of the PA 2008.

- 12.2.4 The second design refinement proposed the extension of the draft Order Limits at the junction at Kiln Lane and Main Road in Otterbourne. The Project includes temporary highway works at this location to ensure that larger construction vehicles can safely pass through this junction to access pipeline construction areas. Further review identified the need to marginally widen the draft Order Limits to accommodate the necessary changes to the kerbs and footpath. As a result, the Kiln Lane Consultation was undertaken with affected consultees as defined in Section 42 and 44 of the PA 2008.
- 12.2.5 These refinements were presented in the form of letters explaining the design refinement and illustrated figure(s), sent by post to directly affected consultees depending on their land interest. This approach was taken to ensure that the feedback received from this targeted consultation would allow the Applicant to understand the specific impacts of these changes.
- 12.2.6 Although the Spring 2026 Consultations were undertaken separately and on a targeted basis, there were common consultees who were consulted on land interests as part of both targeted consultations.
- 12.2.7 Prior to the Spring 2026 Consultations, the Applicant engaged with Southern Water Services Limited about the Otterbourne WSW Consultation, and Hampshire County Council (HCC) about the Kiln Lane Consultation. The Applicant undertook this engagement through email correspondence and online meetings.

12.3 Section 42 consultation

- 12.3.1 This section provides an overview of the consultations undertaken by the Applicant in compliance with Section 42 of the PA 2008.
- 12.3.2 The Applicant did not undertake a refresh of HMLR data at this stage as a refresh had been undertaken recently as part of the preparation for the Autumn 2025 Consultation. Ongoing landowner engagement continued after the close of the Spring 2026 Consultations and will continue throughout the submission and examination of the Project.

Otterbourne WSW Consultation

- 12.3.3 The Otterbourne WSW Consultation involved affected land interests under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008. The exception was Southern Water Services Limited, who were additionally consulted under Section 42(1)(a) as a prescribed body as a statutory undertaker and the relevant water and sewage undertaker for the proposed changes to the operational site of Otterbourne WSW.
- 12.3.4 A potential new land interest was also identified as having a possible interest in land under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008. However, as this consultee had previously been consulted during the Summer 2024 Consultation and Spring 2025 Consultation under Section 42(1)(a) as a prescribed body and relevant statutory undertaker being a relevant NHS Trust, the Applicant did not invite them to additionally respond to the two previous statutory consultations.
- 12.3.5 Land interests consulted on the Project under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, as part of the Otterbourne WSW Consultation, are contained in Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). A total of 15 active PILs were consulted under

Section 42(1)(d) for the Otterbourne WSW Consultation, and of these, all were existing consultees. The Applicant confirms that there were no late reveals as the Otterbourne WSW Consultation was a targeted consultation for a specific area of the Project.

Issue of consultation notification

- 12.3.6 The Applicant issued the Section 42 letters dated 17 March 2026, with information describing the refinements, and enclosed illustrative figures ahead of the start of the Otterbourne WSW Consultation on 12 and 13 March 2026 to targeted consultees.

Method of delivery – post

- 12.3.7 The Applicant confirms that Section 42(1)(a) and (d) consultees were issued the consultation documents by way of Royal Mail Tracked Delivery which allowed for tracking of packages and proof of delivery. These letters were verified to have been delivered in each case by Royal Mail. These cover letters can be found in Appendices I.1 (Section 42(1)(a) and (d) Otterbourne WSW cover letter – existing consultees), Appendix I.2 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Otterbourne WSW cover letter – existing landowners), Appendix I.3 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Otterbourne WSW cover letter – new landowner). The enclosed illustrative figures for the design refinement can be seen in Appendix I.4 (Otterbourne WSW Consultation illustrative figures).
- 12.3.8 On 25 March 2026, Royal Mail were unable to confirm delivery of the letter addressed to The Wireless Asset Company Limited. Therefore, a letter was reissued by the Applicant on the same day to an alternative address for The Wireless Asset Company Limited, and the consultation period extended for them to 24 April 2026.
- 12.3.9 On 27 March 2026, delivery of the consultation notification to The Wireless Asset Company Limited was still not confirmed, so the Applicant reissued a further letter to the alternative address for the Wireless Asset Company Limited, and the consultation period extended for them to 26 April 2026.
- 12.3.10 The Applicant subsequently received confirmation that the initial letter sent to The Wireless Asset Company Limited on 12 March 2026 was delivered on 23 March 2026. As a result, the deadline for their feedback was reverted back to 16 April 2026, as provided for in the letter sent on 12 March 2026.

Deadline for response – Section 45 of the PA 2008

- 12.3.11 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the covering letters found in Appendix I.1 (Section 42(1)(a) and (d) Otterbourne WSW cover letter – existing consultees), Appendix I.2 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Otterbourne WSW cover letter – existing landowners), and Appendix I.3 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Otterbourne WSW cover letter – new landowner) stated that the consultation commenced on 17 March 2026 and that responses needed to be returned by 11:59pm on 16 April 2026.

- 12.3.12 The Otterbourne WSW Consultation ran for 30 days to mitigate for the two bank holidays in April which occurred during the consultation period. The Applicant confirms that 14 of the 15 persons consulted under Section 42 received the consultation documents by 16 March 2026 and with sufficient time to observe the minimum 28-day period, running from the day after receipt of the documents, prescribed by Section 45 of the PA 2008.
- 12.3.13 The Wireless Asset Company Limited received the consultation documents on 23 March 2026, which stated that the consultation period would run until 16 April 2026. The Applicant did not receive any request or response from the Wireless Asset Company Limited to extend their consultation period. However, the Applicant continued to monitor the dedicated Project feedback inbox for responses after 16 April 2026, in case of a response being received.

Kiln Lane Consultation

- 12.3.14 The Kiln Lane Consultation involved affected land interests under Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008. The exception was HCC, who were also additionally consulted under Section 42(1)(a) as the relevant Highway Authority for proposed amendments on highway land.
- 12.3.15 Land interests consulted on the Project under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, as part of the Kiln Lane Consultation, are contained in Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). A total of 13 active PILs were consulted under Section 42(1)(d) and all were existing consultees of the Project. The Applicant confirms that there were no late reveals as the Kiln Lane Consultation was a targeted consultation for a specific area of the Project.
- 12.3.16 On 17 March 2026, the Applicant erected one unregistered land site notice that comprised a copy of the Section 48 notice previously used in the Spring 2025 Consultation (see Appendix G.6 (Section 48 notice)), an unregistered land site notice plan identifying the relevant unregistered parcel and the revised draft Order Limits in the locality, and a plan illustrating the draft Order Limits of the full extents of the Project, inviting any party with an interest to contact the Applicant. The unregistered land site notice included a copy of the relevant Section 44 letter (see Appendix I.5 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing landowners)). For a map of where the unregistered site notice was placed, please refer to Appendix I.6 (Unregistered site notice placement).

Issue of consultation notification

- 12.3.17 The Applicant issued the Section 42 letters, dated 18 March 2026, with information describing the refinements, and enclosed an illustrative figure ahead of the start of the Kiln Lane Consultation on 16 and 18 March 2026 to targeted consultees.

Method of delivery – post

- 12.3.18 The Applicant confirms that Section 42(1)(a) and (d) consultees were issued the consultation documents by way of Royal Mail Tracked Delivery which allowed for tracking of packages and proof of delivery. These letters were verified to have been delivered in each case by Royal Mail. These cover letters can be found in Appendix I.7 (Section 42(1)(a) and (d) Kiln Lane cover letter – existing consultee), Appendix

I.8 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing prescribed body and landowner), Appendix I.5 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing landowners), and Appendix I.9 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing landowners for both targeted consultations). These cover letters had the illustrative figure for the design refinement enclosed. This figure can be seen in Appendix I.10 (Kiln Lane Consultation illustrative figure).

- 12.3.19 On 18 March 2026, delivery of the consultation notification to Otterbourne Care Limited and Langley House Trust was not confirmed, so the Applicant reissued a letter to these consultees with no change to the consultation period. Royal Mail confirmed delivery of letters to Otterbourne Care Limited and Langley House Trust on 19 March 2026.

Deadline for response – Section 45 of the PA 2008

- 12.3.20 In accordance with Section 45 of the PA 2008, the covering letters found in Appendix I.7 (Section 42(1)(a) and (d) Kiln Lane cover letter – existing consultee), Appendix I.8 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing prescribed body and landowner), Appendix I.5 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing landowners), and Appendix I.9 (Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 Kiln Lane cover letter – existing landowners for both targeted consultations) stated that the consultation commenced on 18 March 2026 and that responses needed to be returned by 11:59pm on 17 April 2026.
- 12.3.21 The Kiln Lane Consultation ran for 30 days to mitigate for the two bank holidays in April which occurred during the consultation period. The Applicant confirms that all persons consulted under Section 42 received the consultation notification by 19 March 2026 and with sufficient time to observe the minimum 28-day period, prescribed by Section 45 of the PA 2008, running from the day after receipt of the documents. This includes all persons that were consulted at later dates throughout the original consultation period due to unconfirmed delivery methods.

Conclusion

- 12.3.22 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements for consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 during the Spring 2026 Consultations.

12.4 Section 46 notification

- 12.4.1 The Applicant issued a letter to the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 16 March 2026 via email in accordance with Section 46(1) of the PA 2008 setting out its intention to submit an application for development consent and notifying the Planning Inspectorate that the Applicant would be shortly undertaking a period of statutory consultation. Due to the two targeted consultations starting a day apart, the Applicant sent one letter containing the information and materials for both consultations. For this letter, please refer to Appendix I.11 (Section 46 notification). The letter included the following:

Otterbourne WSW Consultation

- A copy of the letter sent to Southern Water Services Ltd under Section 42(1)(a) and (d), and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
- Template of letters to be sent to Category 2 as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 and as required by Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
- Template of letter to be sent to South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust as a new Category 1, 2 and 3 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 and as required by Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008. This consultee had previously been consulted under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 and thus was not invited to provide feedback on previous consultations.
- Figures 1 and 2.

Kiln Lane Consultation

- A copy of the letter sent to Hampshire County Council under Section 42(1)(a) and (d), and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
- A copy of the letter sent to National Highways under Section 42(1)(d), and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
- Template of letters to be sent to existing Category 1, 2 and 3 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 and as required by Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
- Template of letters to be sent to existing Category 2 persons as defined in Section 44 of the PA 2008 and as required by Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008, who also have an interest in land affected by the consultation on a design refinement at Otterbourne WSW.
- Figure 1.

12.4.2 Formal acknowledgement of the Section 46 notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 17 March 2026, please refer to Appendix I.12 (Acknowledgement of Section 46 notification) confirming receipt of information concerning the proposed application.

Conclusion

12.4.3 The above explains and provides evidence that the Applicant complied with the statutory requirements to notify the Secretary of State under Section 46 of the PA 2008 during the Spring 2026 Consultations.

12.5 Consultation feedback analysis methodology

12.5.1 Following the consideration of feedback and due to the low number of responses received, the Applicant has presented the feedback as received with personal information removed, as opposed to summarising the feedback as with the previous statutory, non-targeted consultations. This is set out in Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback). This appendix sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the PA 2008 and the Planning

Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report, with regard to the Spring 2026 Consultations.

12.6 Consultation feedback received

12.6.1 This section provides an overview of the responses received to the Spring 2026 Consultations and illustrates how the Applicant has had regard to those responses.

Number and format of responses

12.6.2 A total of four responses from Section 42(1)(a) and Section 42(1)(d) stakeholders were submitted to the Applicant in response to the Spring 2026 Consultations held between 17 March 2026 and 17 April 2026. Two of these were received via emails using the dedicated email inbox at FeedbackHWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk. Two responses were received by the Project team via email.

12.6.3 It should be noted that Southern Water Services Limited was consulted on both the Otterbourne WSW Consultation and the Kiln Lane Consultation and provided a combined response for the Spring 2026 Consultations. As a result, this was counted as a singular response.

12.7 Response to consultation feedback

12.7.1 Feedback was received on both the Otterbourne WSW Consultation and the Kiln Lane Consultation. Overall, none of the respondents objected to the changes being proposed, with caveats that access to relevant sites and assets were maintained.

12.7.2 The Applicant has considered all feedback and has responded to the issues raised, as set out in Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback). This appendix contains the four pieces of feedback, whether the Project was changed due to the feedback, and the Applicant's response.

12.7.3 The Applicant confirms that it is in ongoing discussions with landowners about their assets. Regarding the design refinement presented as part of the Kiln Lane Consultation, the Applicant confirms that protective provisions contained in the draft Development Consent Order (Document reference 3.1, DCO Volume 3) ensure adequate oversight of works to the highway networks.

12.8 Pre-submission engagement with PILs and relevant Statutory Undertakers

12.8.1 During the week commencing the 6 April 2026, the Applicant undertook a refresh of HMLR data to identify any new PILs before DCO submission. Through this refresh, 39 new PILS were identified in combination with ongoing due diligence that established potentially affected land interests from a deceased party, a contact from a Will, a reputed new ownership interest and a new planning application.

12.8.2 Following this refresh, the Applicant prepared a letter explaining that these new PILs had recently been identified as having an interest in land that may be affected by the Project. The letter included information about the anticipated DCO application submission and noted that they will in due course receive a Section 56

Notice. The cover letter and an LIQ was sent on 1 May 2026, please refer to Appendix I.14 (Cover letter – new landowners).

- 12.8.3 All new interests identified by the Applicant as part of this refresh have been incorporated into the Book of Reference (Document reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4). These new 39 PILs do not appear in Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (List of consultees) as they have not been consulted on the Project.
- 12.8.4 Additionally, in April 2026, the Applicant identified eight new relevant statutory undertakers and prescribed bodies having considered Annex 1 of Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation. These new statutory undertakers include:
- AGR Networks LTD
 - E.ON UK Network Assets LTD
 - Edge Utility Networks LTD
 - Grid Line Power Networks LTD
 - Sphere Energy Connect LTD
 - Vital Energi Power Networks LTD
 - Marchwood Power LTD
 - Eclipse Power Distribution LTD
- 12.8.5 These eight new statutory undertakers were sent letters informing them that they had been identified as such and requesting that they notify the Applicant of any assets that could interact with the Project area. The letter included information about the anticipated DCO application submission and that they will in due course receive a Section 56 Notice.
- 12.8.6 Seven of these new statutory undertakers had not been consulted on the Project before and do not appear in Table 17-1 in Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees). For this letter, please refer to Appendix I.15 (Section 42(1)(a) cover letter A – DCO submission). However, the remaining new statutory undertaker, Eclipse Power Distribution Limited, had previously been consulted on the Project at Summer 2024 Consultation and Spring 2025 Consultation as a PIL and therefore appears in Table F17-3 in Appendix F.17 (List of consultees). As a result, they received a separate letter as detailed in Appendix I.16 (Section 42(1)(a) cover letter B – DCO submission).
- 12.8.7 All eight letters were sent to stakeholders on 28 April 2026, with Royal Mail confirming delivery of six letters on 30 April 2026. Two letters were returned to sender, so the Applicant emailed copies of the corresponding letters to E.ON UK Network Assets LTD and Sphere Energy Connect LTD on 1 May 2026 requesting receipt of the letters.

12.9 Conclusion

- 12.9.1 Following the Spring 2026 Consultations, the Applicant has had regard to the feedback received in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. No changes were made to the Project as a result of consultation feedback.

13 Conclusion

13.1 Compliance with the Planning Act 2008 and the EIA Regulations

- 13.1.1 The Consultation Report has been prepared and submitted pursuant to Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, which sets out that any application for a DCO must be accompanied by a consultation report.
- 13.1.2 In accordance with the requirements of Section 37(7) of the PA 2008, the Consultation Report has provided details of the following:
- Section 46 compliance: how the Applicant has notified the Secretary of State of the proposed application as set out in Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Consultation Report.
 - Section 47 compliance: how the Applicant has consulted local authorities on the 2024 SoCC as well as South Downs National Park Authority on a non-prescribed basis, as demonstrated in Chapters 9, 10 and 11 of the Consultation Report.
 - Statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC commenced on 14 March 2024. On 21 March 2024, the Applicant contacted all local authorities to advise that refinements had been made to the description of 'what we are consulting on' within the draft 2024 SoCC. Notwithstanding these refinements, the Applicant restarted the consultation period from 22 March 2024, thereby ensuring that consultees were afforded the full statutory 28-day consultation period.
 - Sections 42, 47 and 48 compliance for statutory consultations, as demonstrated within Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 11 in relation to the:
 - Summer 2024 Consultation (29 May to 23 July 2024)
 - Spring 2025 Consultation (5 March to 4 April 2025)
 - Autumn 2025 Consultation (10 September to 8 October 2025)
 - Spring 2026 Consultations (17 March to 17 April 2026)
 - A summary of the relevant responses received by the Applicant in response to the statutory consultations, as presented in:
 - Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix H.9 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Section 49 compliance: how the Applicant has had regard to the responses, as demonstrated in:
 - Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix H.9 (The Applicant's response to feedback)
 - Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback)

- Section 50 compliance: how the Applicant has had regard to the Government's pre-application guidance, as demonstrated in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- 13.1.3 The Consultation Report also outlines how the Applicant has carried out non-statutory consultation and continued engagement outside the statutory consultation periods. Detail is provided in Chapters 5 and 6 and in the Statement of Engagement (DCO reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5), including how feedback from these activities has informed the development of the Project and its assessment of environmental impacts.
- 13.1.4 The Applicant followed Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report as highlighted in Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist).
- 13.1.5 An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2023, and a Scoping Opinion was adopted in August 2023. This Scoping Opinion informed the scope and methodology of the ES. In compliance with the EIA Regulations, which require the preparation and consultation of preliminary environmental information, a PEI Report was produced and consulted on as part of the statutory Summer 2024 Consultation. Please refer to Chapter 7 for an overview of consultation undertaken under the EIA Regulations.
- 13.1.6 Through the Consultation Report and Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist), the Applicant has evidenced compliance with all statutory requirements of the PA 2008 in relation to conducting pre-application consultation. The Applicant has demonstrated full regard to pre-application guidance and advice as reported within Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist). Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) includes information on the production of the AoCM. The AoCM as published can be viewed in Appendix A.3 (AoCM) of the Consultation Report.

13.2 Summary of consultation activity

- 13.2.1 The Consultation Report details all consultation undertaken by the Applicant including:
- Non-statutory Public Consultation 2021 between 8 February and 16 April 2021 to introduce desalination and other alternatives including water recycling and water transfer as evidenced in Chapter 5.
 - Non-statutory Summer 2022 Consultation between 5 July and 16 August 2022 to consult on the use of water recycling as a new sustainable water source, preferred location of the WRP, and preferred corridors for pipelines, zones for AGP and, the decision-making processes as set out in Chapter 6.
 - The statutory Summer 2024 Consultation, held between 29 May and 23 July 2024 to consult on the proposed pipeline routes, WRP, AGP, the process undertaken to develop the Project, and preliminary environmental and other impacts of the Project and initial proposals for mitigation. This consultation is evidenced in Chapter 9.
 - The statutory Spring 2025 Consultation, held between 5 March and 4 April 2025 to consult on environmental water quality and 25 design refinements as set out in Chapter 10.

- The statutory Autumn 2025 Targeted Consultation, held between 10 September and 8 October 2025 to consult on eight design refinements, as seen in Chapter 11.
- The statutory Spring 2026 Targeted Consultations, held between 17 March and 17 April to consult on two additional design refinements, as seen in Chapter 12.

13.2.2 Ongoing engagement and feedback received is evidenced in the Statement of Engagement (DCO reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5).

13.3 Summary of key issues raised

13.3.1 The Applicant acknowledges, throughout the phases of consultation, common issues which have been consistently raised include:

- Alternatives to meet the shortfall instead of water recycling and water transfer
- The location and design of the proposed WRP
- The acceptability of recycled water as a source for drinking water
- The use of, and impact on, Havant Thicket Reservoir from the storage of recycled water
- Landowner engagement
- Construction impacts on people living within the vicinity of the Project
- Environmental impacts and proposed mitigation

13.3.2 The Applicant has worked through the key issues raised through on-going engagement and reviewing the Project design to see where changes can be made and information provided to respond to and mitigate any concerns.

13.3.3 Key issues raised in the statutory consultations (Summer 2024 Consultation, Spring 2025 Consultation, Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations) can be viewed in Appendices F.30 G.25, H.9 and I.13, respectively.

13.4 Applicant's response to feedback

13.4.1 The Applicant also produced summary of feedback reports for Public Consultation 2021, Summer 2022 Consultation, and Summer 2024 Consultation. In addition to this, the Applicant provided a response to feedback for the Summer 2021 Consultation, the Summer 2022 Consultation and the Summer 2024 Consultation. The Applicant has also outlined where changes have been made to the Project, where relevant, in response to consultation, environmental and design information, therefore demonstrating regard to feedback.

13.4.2 In addition to the pre-application consultation, the Applicant has undertaken ongoing engagement throughout the development of the Project. Details of how the Applicant has undertaken engagement can be found in the Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5) and Statements of Common Ground (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5), which accompany the DCO application and will be updated as necessary throughout examination alongside any ongoing engagement activities.

- 13.4.3 The Applicant continues to engage with all identified parties who may be impacted by the Project. Where new statutory undertakers, PILs, and other potentially impacted parties are identified, the Applicant will be proactive in ensuring the potentially impacted parties have access to information on how to engage with the DCO process if the application is accepted for examination.



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The logo graphic for Southern Water, featuring three stylized white waves of varying lengths, with the longest wave on the right.