Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Consultation Report Appendix C – Non-Statutory Summer 2022 Consultation 3 of 3 Documents

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May 2026

Version 0

from Southern Water®

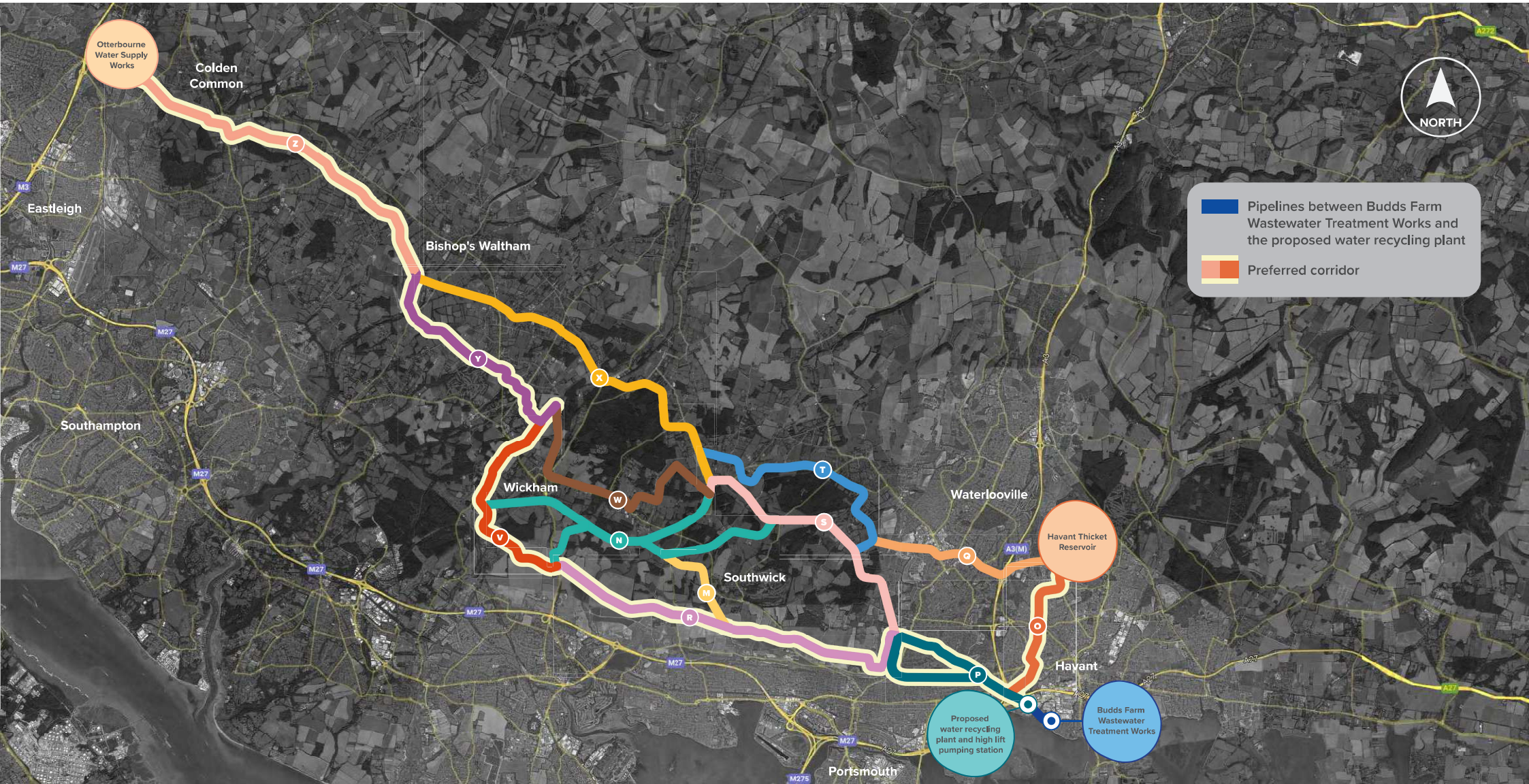
Contents

C.12 Public exhibition boards

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Corridor sections

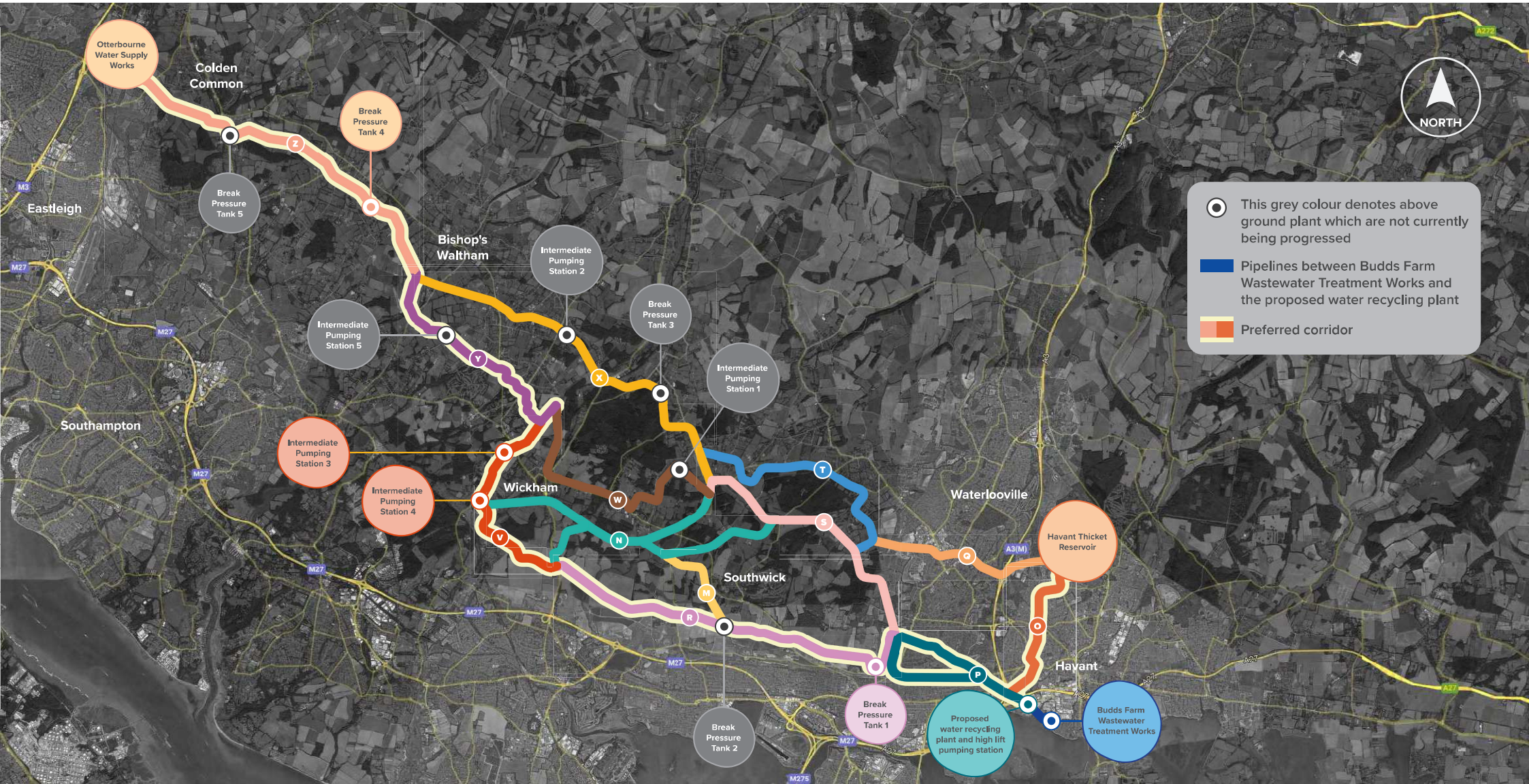
from Southern Water



Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Corridor sections and above ground plant

from Southern Water



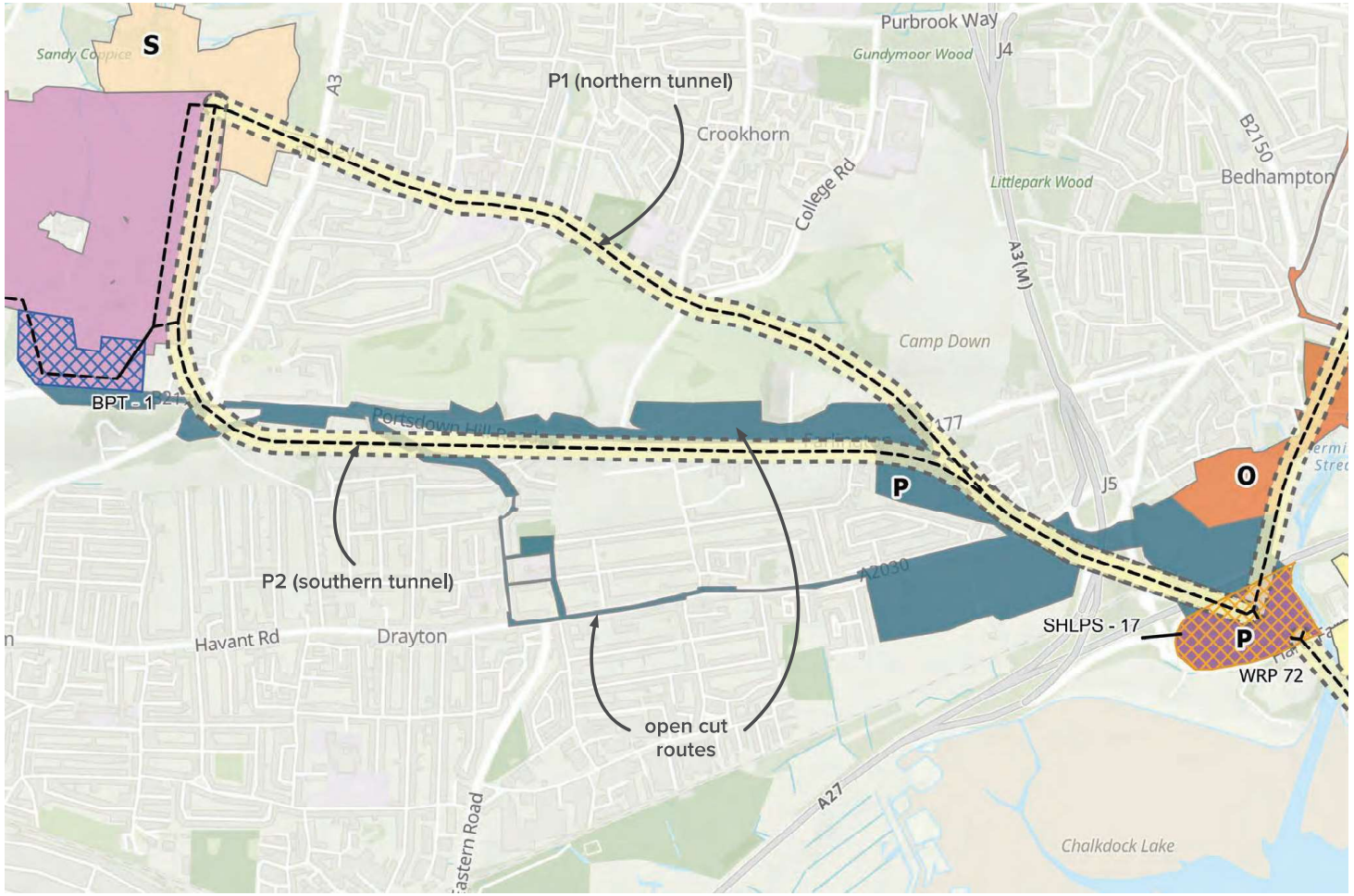
Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Preferred corridor

from Southern Water

Corridor Section O

Corridor Section P



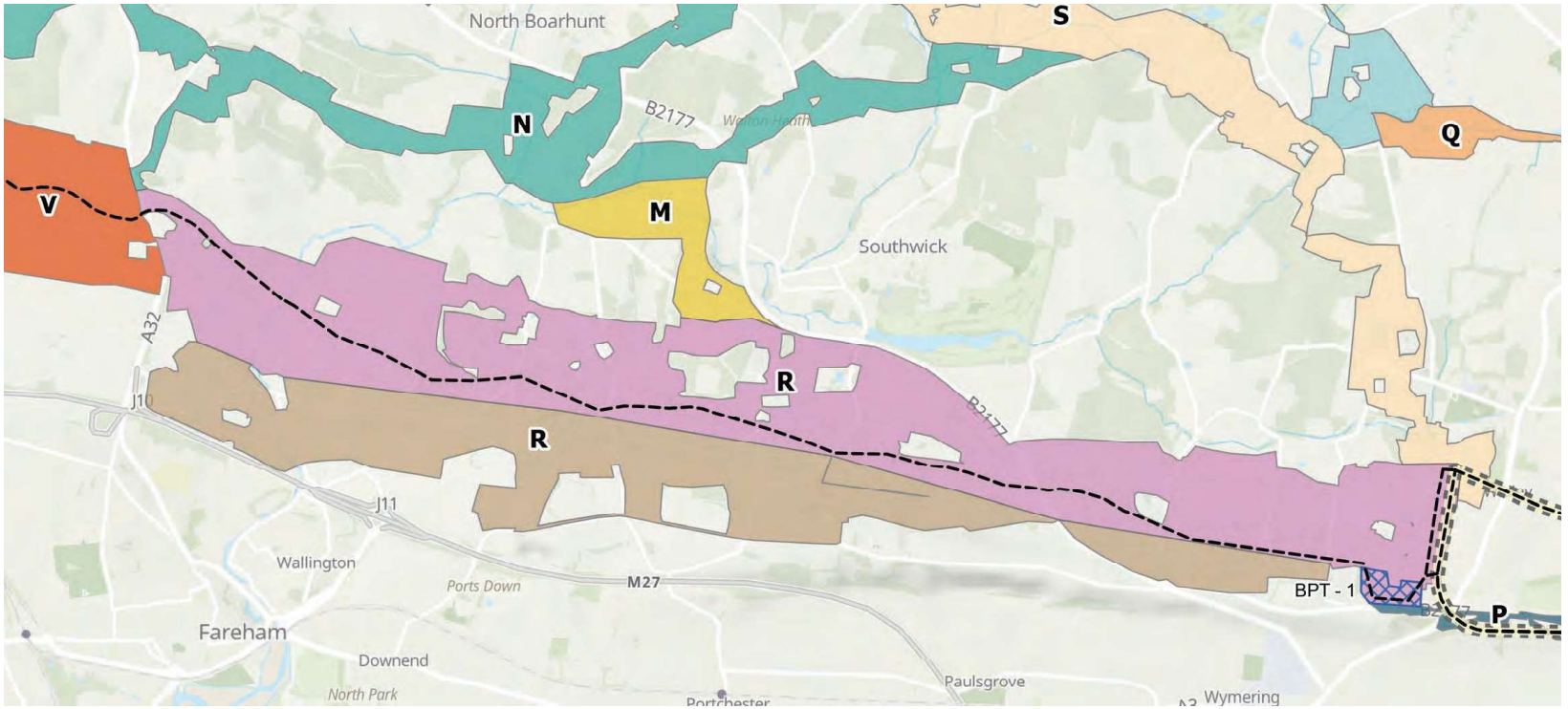
Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

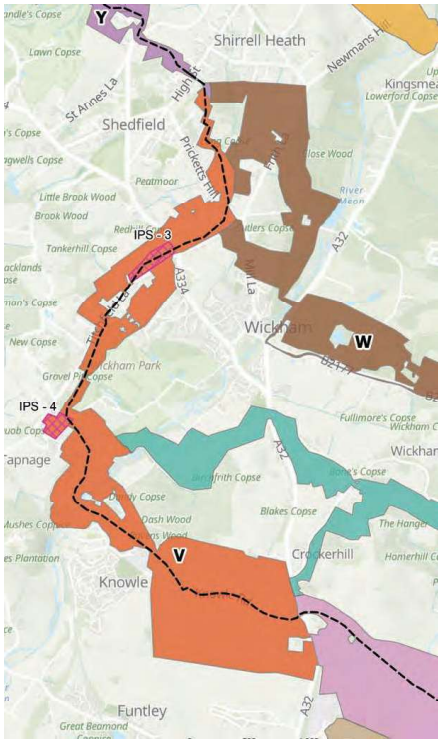
Preferred corridor

from Southern Water

Corridor Section R

Corridor Section V





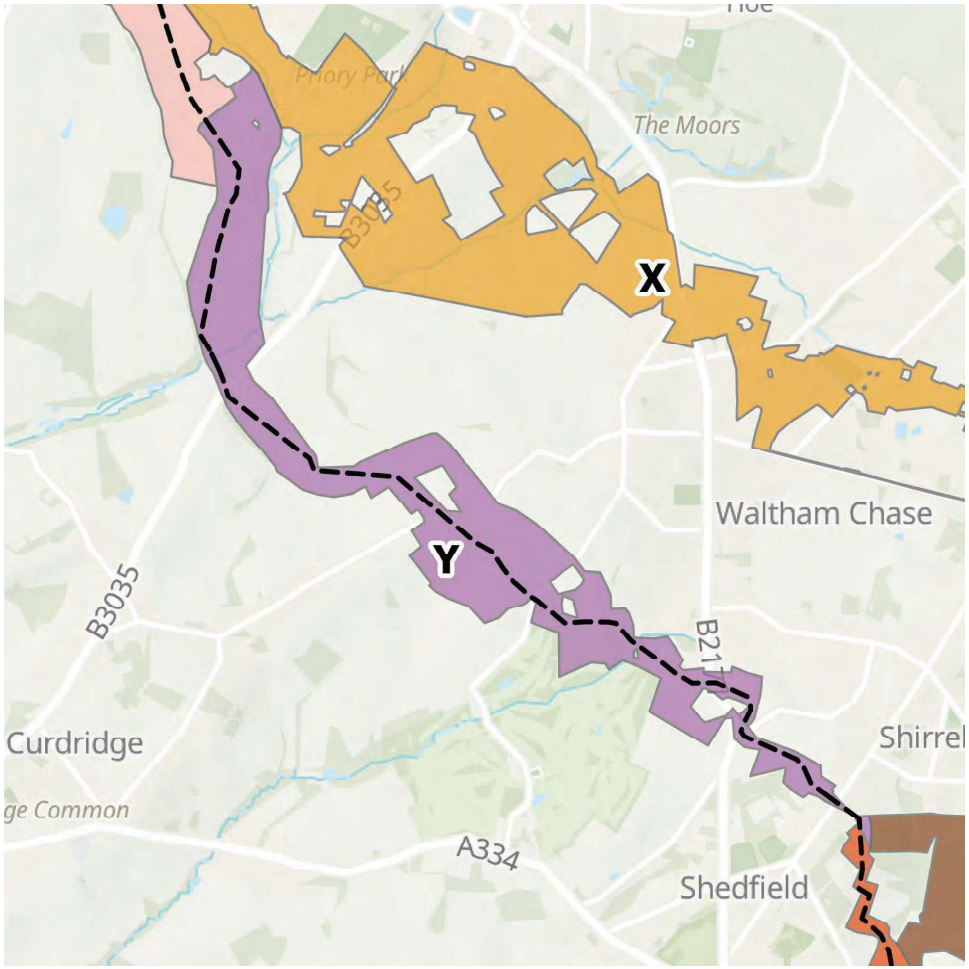
Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

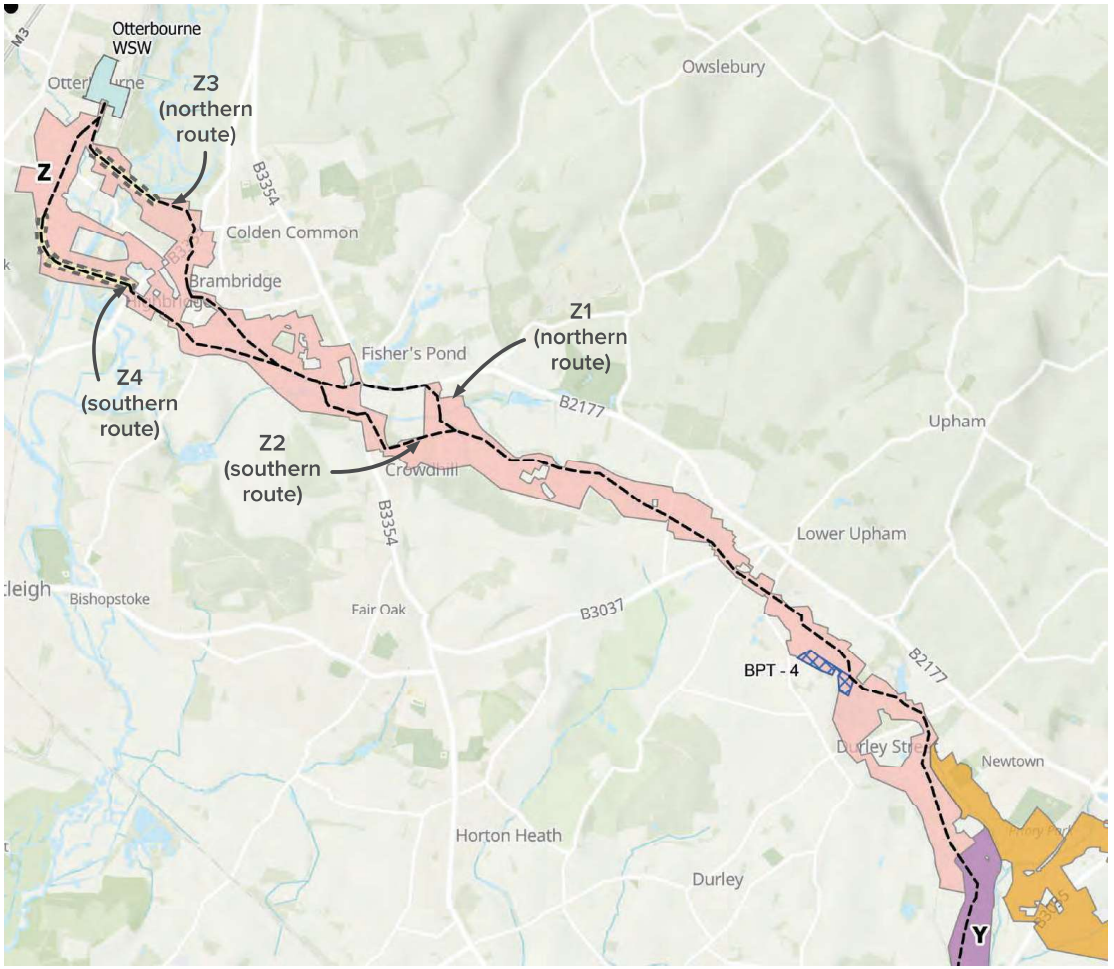
Preferred corridor

from Southern Water

Corridor Section Y

Corridor Section Z





Introduction

Water for Life - Hampshire

Demand for water in Hampshire is higher than the available supply – especially during a drought. Much of the county's water comes from the River Test and the River Itchen, world-famous chalk streams often described as "England's rainforests".

To protect them we need to find new sources of water to maintain our supplies for customers while protecting these sensitive habitats.

Our Water for Life - Hampshire programme sets out a range of measures that are needed to make up this shortfall.

Some words from Lawrence Gosden, our CEO

"We have always relied on the environment for water. In Hampshire we have taken that water from our major rivers the Test and Itchen. As our climate changes and our population grows, we have to find new, environmentally friendly ways of supplying water to customers".

"Along with Portsmouth Water we are developing new approaches that reduce our reliance on rivers and enable us to take less water from the environment during a drought when nature needs it most".

"Listening to our customers and our stakeholders is really important to us. This is your opportunity to help us design a water supply network that's fit for the future – we look forward to hearing from you".

Chalk Stream © Wessex Rivers Trust

https://HampshireWTWRP.commonplace.is

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

The Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project is centred around the wider Havant Thicket Reservoir project which we're funding and developing in collaboration with Portsmouth Water.

Our plans involve:

- Building a new water recycling plant south of Havant and using advance treatment techniques to turn treated wastewater into recycled water. The water would then be transferred via a new pipeline to the reservoir so there's more water available for use.
- Building a new pipeline to transfer water from the reservoir to our Otterbourne Water Supply Works, where it will be treated further to become drinking water.
- Installing above ground plant such as break pressure tanks and pumping stations.

In dry weather, the Project could provide some 90 million litres of water a day into our Hampshire supply network. The Project could also recycle more water for the benefit of the wider area should the amount of water we can take from the environment be reduced further.

Components of the Project

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Water recycling

Water recycling is relatively new to the UK, however it is common in other parts of the world such as Singapore and California so it is tried and tested elsewhere.

Currently, the water that comes out of your taps is taken from the environment and treated to a high standard so that it is safe for you to drink.

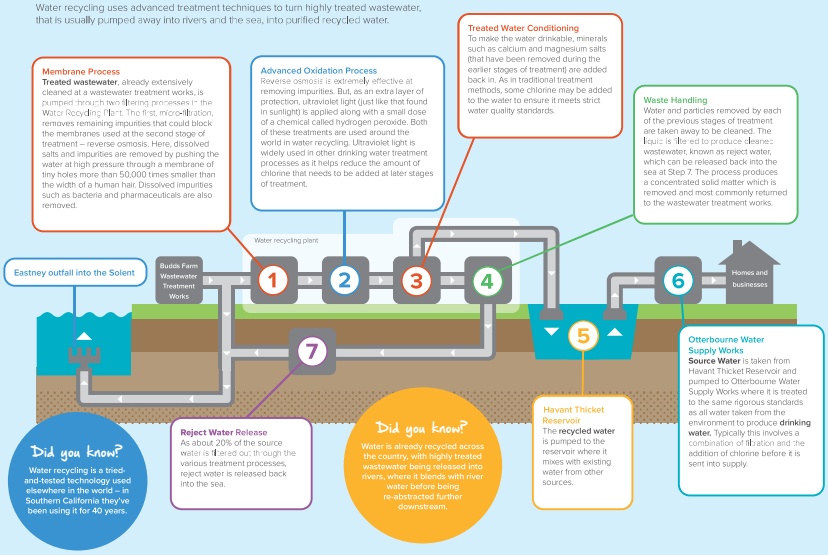
After you've used it, we collect and treat the wastewater and return it to the environment once more. The cycle then repeats.

When water is in the environment, natural processes such as filtration through soil and dilution with other water sources reduce impurities. We then continue treatment to produce water that is safe to drink. Water recycling technology speeds this up and improves the natural process.

Water recycling plants use advanced treatment techniques to convert treated wastewater into a highly purified source water. Special membranes are used to remove salts and a range of other impurities. In fact, so much is removed from the water that some essential minerals such as calcium and magnesium have to be added back in to achieve the water quality customers are used to.

A guide to the stages of water recycling

Water recycling uses advanced treatment techniques to turn highly treated wastewater, that is usually pumped away into rivers and the sea, into purified recycled water.



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The need for the Project

Hampshire's water supply shortfall

Hampshire's water shortfall is huge, and finding an additional 192 million litres of water a day from a source that is not a river or aquifer is a big challenge but one we are tackling head-on.

The Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project alone will produce 90 million litres of the water needed, protecting our unique chalk streams at the same time.

Like all water companies, we have a legal duty to prepare a Water Resources Management Plan which sets out how the company will meet its water supply duties for at least the next 25 years.

Our current plan highlighted the need for an extra 192 million litres of water per day. We have promised the Environment Agency that we will provide this water, and this Project is the first step in achieving this.

It is possible that the water supply issue in Hampshire could get worse through further restrictions on the amount of water that companies can take from the environment. Our Project is currently designed to deal with the water shortage that we know about, but our long-term planning could find that we actually need more.

We are planning for this possibility by ensuring that the site we choose for the water recycling plant is large enough to expand in the future and that our pipelines can handle larger flows of water if needed.

Water Crowfoot © Wessex Rivers Trust

https://HampshireWTWRP.commonplace.is

Developing our pipeline corridors

We identified and evaluated a number of corridor sections to work out how we could best transfer the source water between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works.

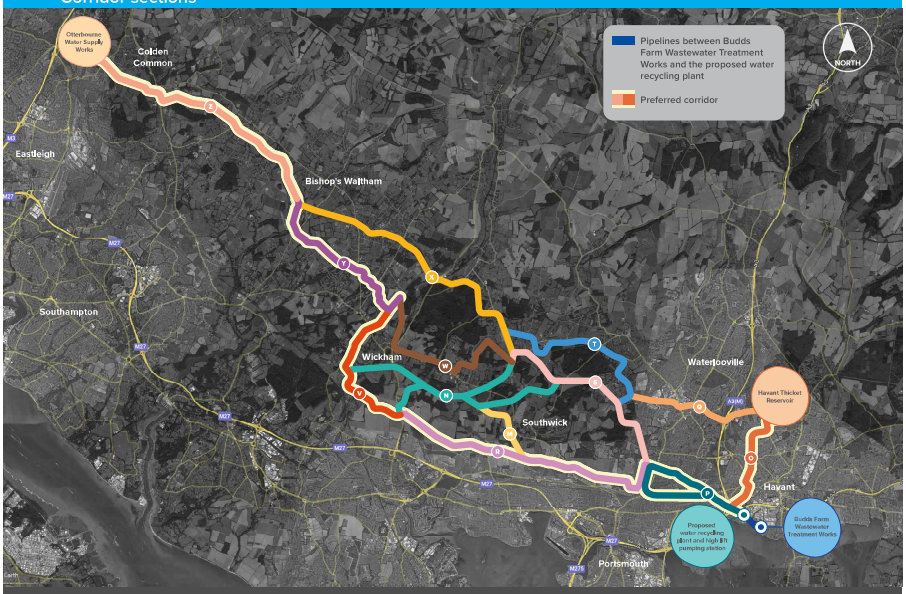
From our assessment work, a preferred corridor between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works emerged which performs better overall against the evaluation criteria than the other corridor sections.

Our preferred corridor incorporates corridor sections O, P, R, V, Y and Z. The above ground equipment we could need within the preferred corridor are break pressure tanks in corridor sections R and Z and intermediate pumping stations in corridor section V.

Subject to the feedback we receive from this consultation, we are currently not intending to progress other corridor sections.

At this early stage, we have shown an indicative pipeline route within our preferred corridor which we are referring to as the "best engineering solution" pipeline route. This has been selected based on the topography (levels) of the land, construction constraints and all of the information that has been gathered to date by our technical teams.

Corridor sections



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Seeking permission to deliver our Project

The planning process and getting involved

As a development of national significance, we will seek approval in the form of a Development Consent Order and submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate.

Under this process, the application would be considered by an appointed Examining Authority with the final decision made by the Secretary of State. The process for preparing and determining a development consent application follows a series of steps as set out below.

Every project must follow each of these steps. Public consultation is a crucial part of the pre-application stage. You can find out more by visiting https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/

Indicative process for preparing and determining a development consent application

We are here

Indicative timeframe from Development Consent Order Application to Decision = 18 months

	Pre-application	Acceptance	Pre-examination	Examination	Recommendation	Decision	Post-decision
Lead	Applicant	Planning Inspectorate	Planning Inspectorate/ Applicant	Examining Authority	Examining Authority	Secretary of State	Applicant / Courts
Timescale	1.5 years +	28 days	3-5 months	6 months	3 months	3 months	6 weeks
	• Design • Construction Planning • Consultation (min. one round of Statutory Consultation) • Stakeholder engagement • Environmental Impact Assessment • Land referencing • Traffic modelling • Needs case • Statements of Common Ground	• Checking of consultation, incl. adequacy of consultation representations by local authorities • Consistency of documents / information	• Relevant representations • Examination timetable • Continue engagement • Examining Authority appointed • Preliminary Meeting	• Questions • Representations • Comments and responses • Local impact reports • Hearings • Updates to key documents	• Examining Authority prepares recommendation to Secretary of State	• Secretary of State considers Examining Authority's recommendation • Secretary of State makes decision	• 21 days for the Order to come into force • Judicial review challenge period - 6 weeks • Powers to do the works • Acquisition of land and land rights

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Environmental assessments

Our approach

We understand that our proposals have the potential to impact local communities and the surrounding environment in a number of ways. We will measure this impact through an Environmental Impact Assessment which will identify the overall effect a project will have throughout its lifespan.

To do this, we will carry out a preliminary environmental impact assessment while the Project is still in development to predict any potential issues. We will then decide upon ways to address these environmental effects with help from stakeholders and the community. The findings of our Environmental Impact Assessment will then be documented in an Environmental Statement.

Surveys

Comprehensive field-based surveys are a great way to identify where protected or priority species may be present. Our surveys started in 2021 and will continue throughout the Project to make sure we have a good understanding of the existing environment.

Mitigation

Throughout the Project, we always aim to mitigate potential issues before they arise. If we can, we make sure we avoid important areas such as nature conservation designations and the South Downs National Park as much as possible. Where this cannot be avoided, we will seek to minimise the impact as much as we can.

We need to deliver the right balance between the benefits of the Project, the effects of its construction and operation on local communities and the environment, and the need to deliver a value-for-money solution for customers.

https://HampshireWTWRP.commonplace.is

Share your views

Our consultation is open between 5 July and 16 August 2022. This is your opportunity to learn about what the Project means for you and your area and express your views on our Project.

Visit https://HampshireWTWRP.commonplace.is to access the full suite of consultation materials, view our virtual exhibition and browse our interactive maps to pinpoint where you live or work in relation to the Project.

To register for one of our webinars, just ask a member of the team, or email HampshireWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk and let us know which date you wish to sign up for:

26 July Tuesday

3 August Wednesday

11 August Thursday

Scan QR code to view our consultation website

Next steps

After this consultation has closed, we will review our proposals, having regard to the feedback received alongside the findings of our ongoing design and assessment work.

We will develop our proposals further before consulting next year on a preferred pipeline route and other elements of the Project. We will also develop likely working areas for construction such as the compounds and access routes. We will continue to engage with stakeholders and interested parties to develop the Project further.

Contact us

By email at **HampshireWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk**

By post at FREEPOST HAMPSHIRE WTWRP CONSULTATION (no stamp is required)

Follow us on Twitter **@SouthernWater**

If you have questions about the consultation please speak to a member of the team here at the event or call **0330 303 0368.**

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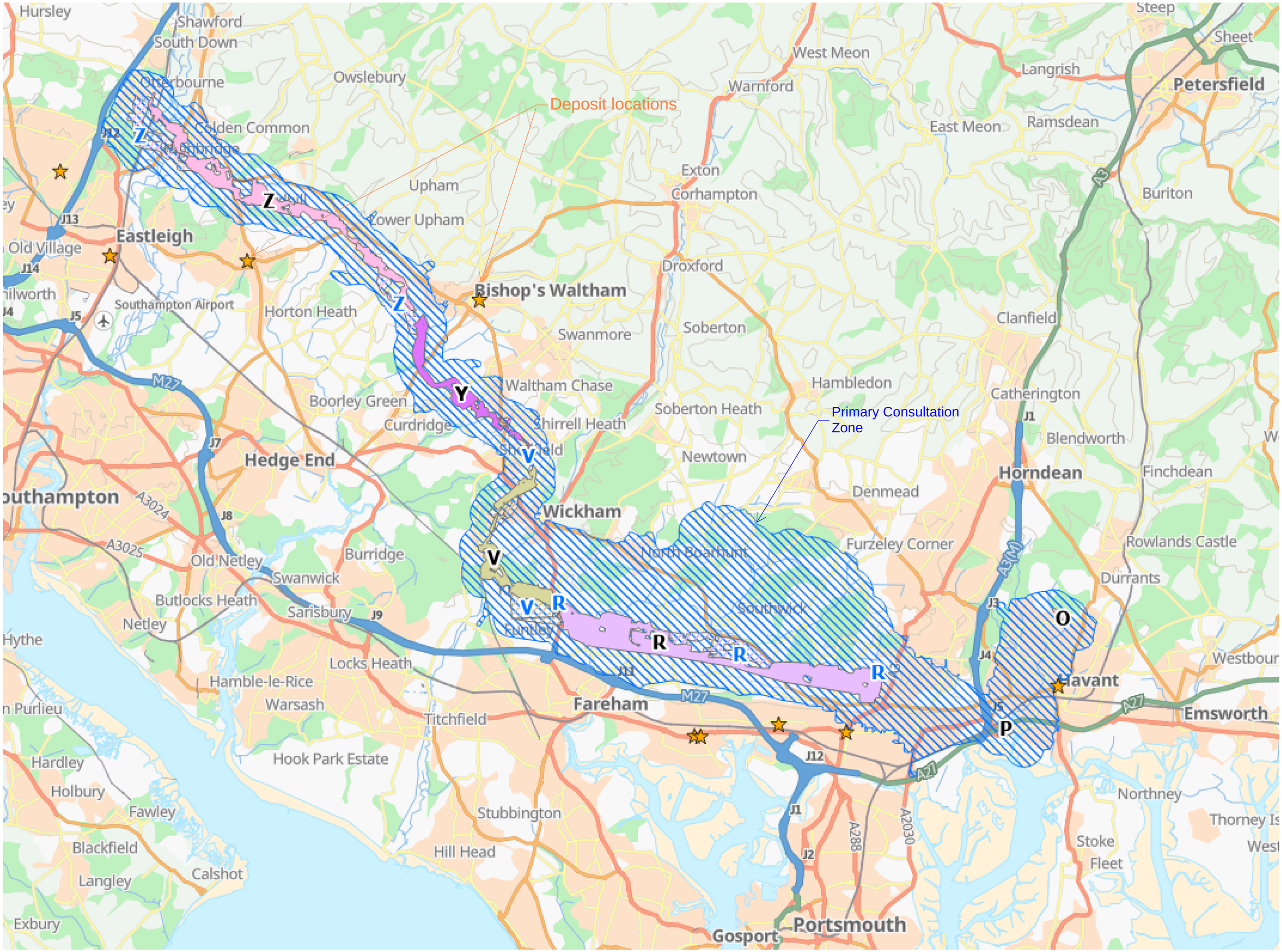
C.13 Deposit locations


Deposit locations
Primary Consultation Zone
Z
Y
V
R
O
P
Hursley
Shawford
South Down
Otterbourne
Owslebury
Colden Common
Upham
Lower Upham
Eastleigh
Old Village
Southampton Airport
Horton Heath
Bishop's Waltham
Swanmore
Waltham Chase
Boorley Green
Curdridge
Shirrell Heath
Hedge End
Wickham
Furzeley Corner
North Boarhunt
Southwick
Funtley
Fareham
Titchfield
Stubbington
Hill Head
Portsmouth
Gosport
Hook Park Estate
Warsash
Hamble-le-Rice
Locks Heath
Netley
Butlocks Heath
Swanwick
Old Netley
Burridge
Sarisbury
Hythe
Calshot
Langley
Blackfield
Fawley
Holbury
Hardley
Exbury
n Purlieu
Warnford
West Meon
Exton
Corhampton
Droxford
Soberton
Soberton Heath
Newtown
Hambledon
Denmead
Clanfield
Catherington
Horndean
Blendworth
Finchdean
Rowlands Castle
Durrants
Langrish
East Meon
Ramsdean
Petersfield
Sheet
Steep
Buriton
Westbour
Havant
Emsworth
Northney
Thorney Is
Stoke
Fleet
M27
A3024
A3025
A27
A2030
A2288
A3(M)
J1
J2
J3
J4
J5
J7
J8
J9
J11
J12
J13
J14

C.14 Webinar presentation

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Thursday 11 August

from Southern Water

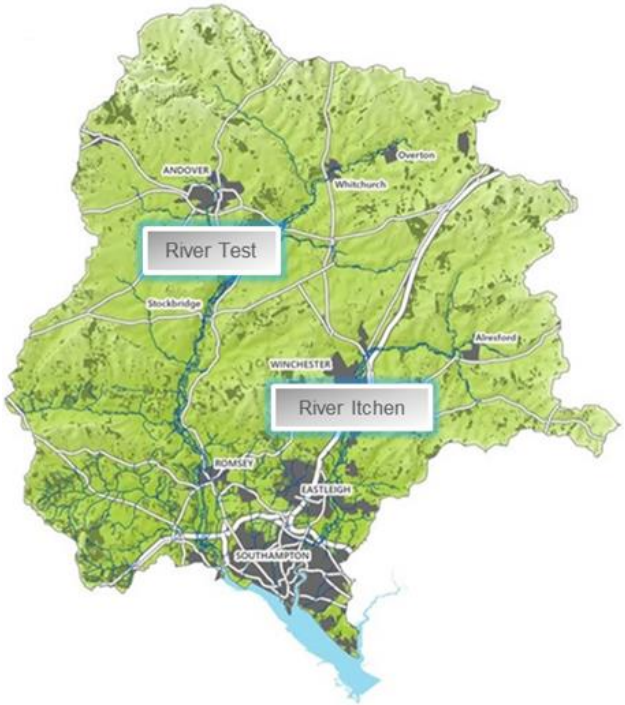
Housekeeping

- Q&A session will follow the presentation
- Some of your questions may need to be forwarded to need input by others not attending the webinars.
- Please ask questions anonymously by selecting anonymous in the reply box to the right of the screen.

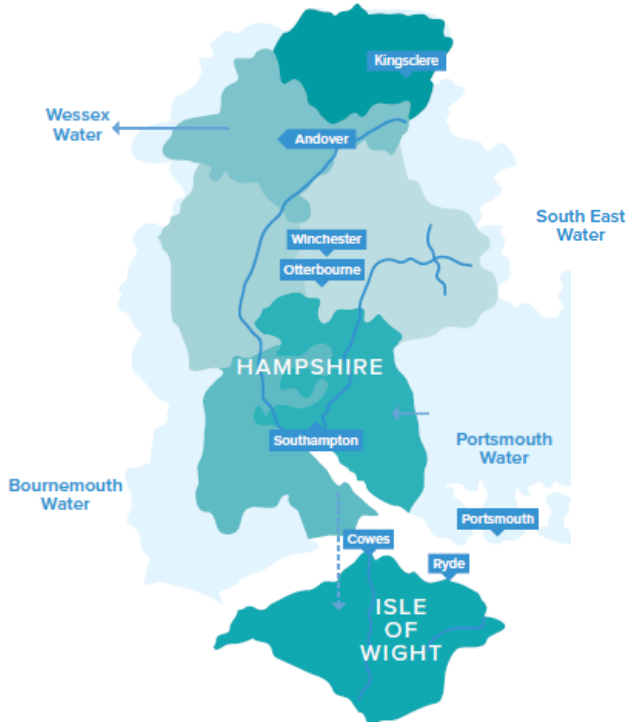
Agenda

- Introductions
- Water for Life – Hampshire and Need for the Project
- Hampshire Water Transfer & Water Recycling Project
- What is water recycling?
- Pipeline corridors
- Our preferred corridor
- Installing underground pipework
- Seeking permission to deliver our Project
- Assessing the environment
- Share your views

The River Test and the River Itchen



…are also our major water sources in Hampshire



Western water resource zones

Kingsclere, Hampshire
100% groundwater

Andover, Hampshire
100% groundwater

Rural Hampshire
100% groundwater

Winchester, Hampshire
100% groundwater

Southampton East, Hampshire
52% river,
48% groundwater

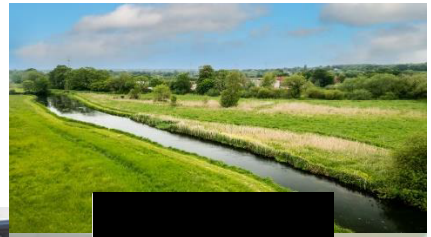
Southampton West, Hampshire
100% river

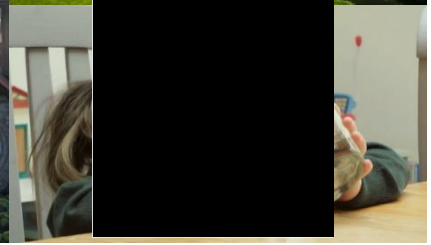
Isle of Wight
47% groundwater,
23% river, 30% transfers

WATER for LIFE from Southern Water

Our plan to keep taps and rivers flowing

- Water for Life – Hampshire is our commitment to deliver a resilient water future for Hampshire.
- Infrastructure investment, nature-based solutions, land management and customer behaviour all have an important part to play in an integrated approach.





The Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

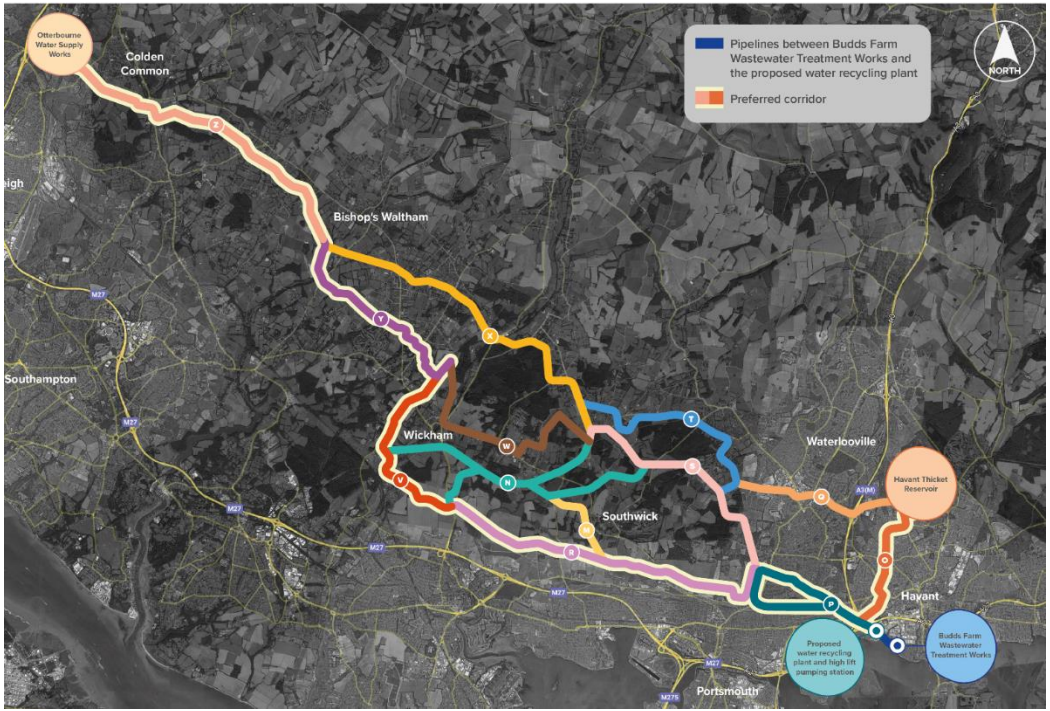
We propose to:

- Build a new water recycling plant south of Havant to turn treated wastewater into recycled water.
- Transfer this recycled water via a new underground pipeline to the new Havant Thicket Reservoir.
- Build a new pipeline to transfer water from the reservoir to our Otterbourne Water Supply Works, where it will be treated further to become drinking water.

Not to scale, for indicative purposes only

Water recycling animation

Developing our pipeline corridors



- We considered a number of corridor options to work out how we could best transfer water between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works.
- We identified a preferred corridor that minimised environmental, land use, construction and transport impacts.

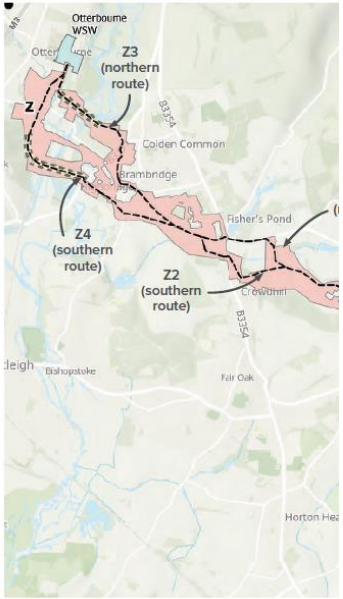
Our preferred corridor

- Our consultation website and documents illustrate our preferred pipeline corridor along with an indicative pipeline route and locations for above ground plant.
- Most of the route will be open-cut but tunnelling is proposed in some areas.
- We have identified a site for the water recycling plant south of Havant.

Corridor Section O

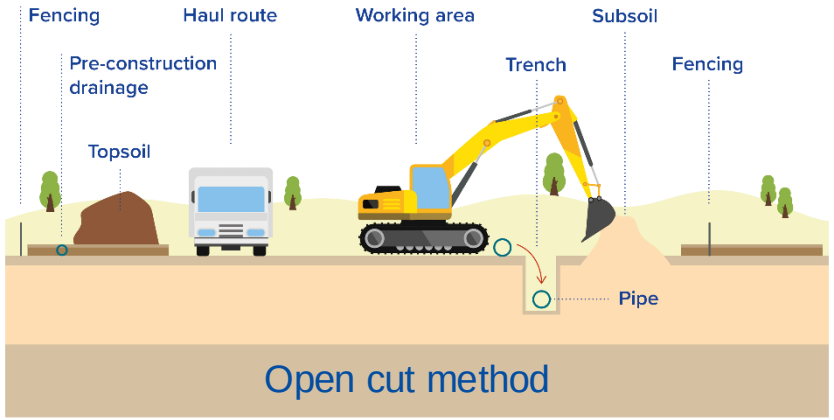
Corridor Section Z

Water recycling plant

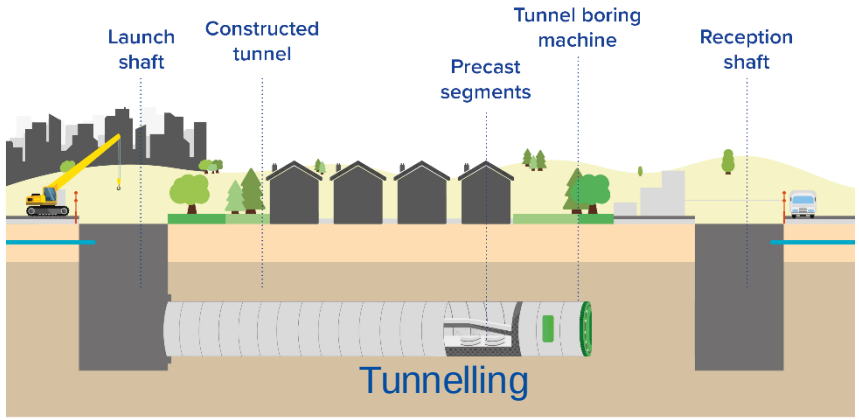


WATER for LIFE from Southern Water

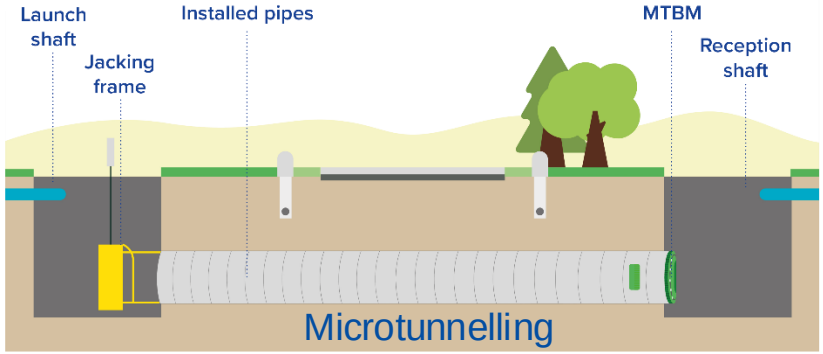
Installing underground pipework



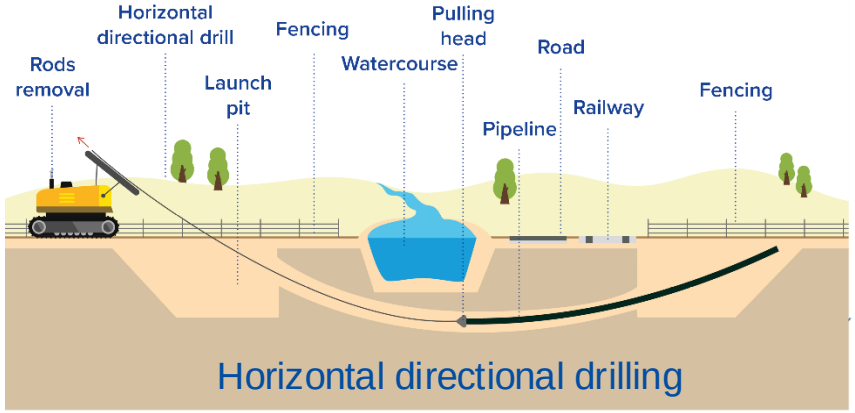
Open cut method



Tunnelling

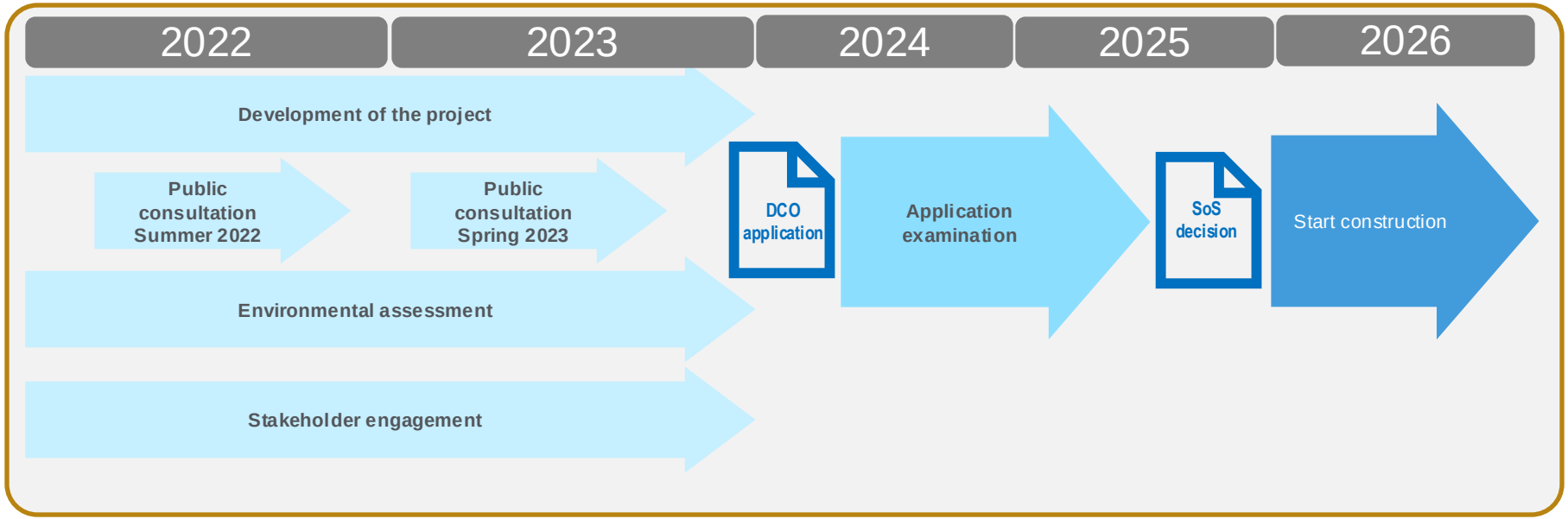


Microtunnelling



Horizontal directional drilling

Seeking permission to deliver our Project



Defra has confirmed the project is of national significance so we will need to apply for a Development Consent Order from Government to build it.

Consultation and engagement are central to the pre-application process, so there are a number of ways people can have their say.

A Development Consent Order gives us the best opportunity to deliver the project quickly and efficiently.

Landowners

- The Development Consent Order process was in part set up to provide a fairer process for groups such as landowners
- We are already working with landowners to access land for environmental surveys
- We will not need all the land in the corridor for the pipeline route or above ground plant. We will confirm the land we will need later this year
- We will seek rights in land for the pipeline and seek to acquire land for above ground plant
- For those under a tunnelled route, we will not seek to acquire land above the route.

Assessing the environment

- We are now undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment to assess the potential impacts (positive and negative) which may occur during the construction and operation of the Project.
- To understand the existing environment, we are using data from a wide range of sources and carry out field-based surveys.
- We will always aim to avoid impacts. Where impacts are unavoidable, we will look to minimise and mitigate them as far as practically possible.
- Details of the Environmental Impact Assessment work will be available at the next stage of consultation early next year.

Share your views

Our consultation runs from 5 July and 16 August 2022.

Visit https://HampshireWTWRP.commonplace.is to view our virtual exhibition, read documents, browse interactive maps and fill in the feedback form.

Paper copies of consultation materials are available at a number of locations, listed in the consultation brochure.

Contact us:

- By email at HampshireWTWRP@southernwater.co.uk
- By post at FREEPOST HAMPSHIRE WTWRP CONSULTATION (no stamp required)

WATER for LIFE from Southern Water

Questions

C.15 Summer 2022 Consultation Summary of Feedback Report

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Summer 2022 public consultation
Summary of feedback

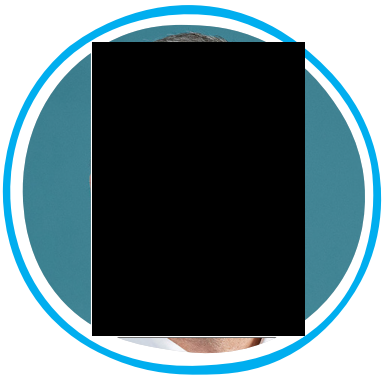
January 2023

from Southern Water

Contents

1. Introduction

Lawrence Gosden, CEO



“Water scarcity and shortfalls driven by climate change, population growth and increasing demand from industry are a reality. It’s a challenge on a global scale, and it’s no different across our region. The situation is particularly stark in Hampshire and last summer we saw the first temporary water use ban (commonly known as a hosepipe ban) in over a decade.”

from Southern Water

“Ensuring that we plan for the future, and the anticipated shortfall of 192 million litres of water a day in Hampshire by 2030, is something that we take very seriously. Our Water for Life – Hampshire programme will transform the way we source, treat and supply water, while protecting the county’s rare and sensitive chalk streams. This essential programme will help us reduce the amount of water we take from the environment while maintaining customers’ supplies.

“We need to find new ways of producing water, such as water recycling, while ramping up more traditional methods of conserving it like reducing leakage and improving water efficiency. We are developing a water supply network that caters for a growing population, as more people move to our region, and a changing climate where longer, drier summers are expected to become more frequent.

“During summer 2022, we held our Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project consultation. Thank you to everyone who took the time to take part and share their views. This document provides a summary of the feedback we received from the consultation, how we are incorporating your feedback into our developing plans as well as the next steps we are taking.

“Your views are really important to us and will help ensure our solution is sensitive and supportive of the environment and communities we serve. Thank you for taking the time to help us create a water supply network that is ready to face the challenges of today and is able to reliably supply water for many generations to come.”

Lawrence Gosden, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Water.

The Project will help us achieve the following:

Protect sensitive habitats
Our Project will enable us to maintain water supplies while reducing the amount of water taken from Hampshire’s sensitive chalk streams and protecting rare and sensitive habitats.

Create resilience to drought
Our Project will ensure we can maintain essential water supplies when the weather is dry. It could provide up to 90 million litres of water a day into our Hampshire water supply network during a drought.

Future proof our supply
Our Project has the potential to provide future water needs as the population grows and we and neighbouring water companies are required to take less from the natural environment.

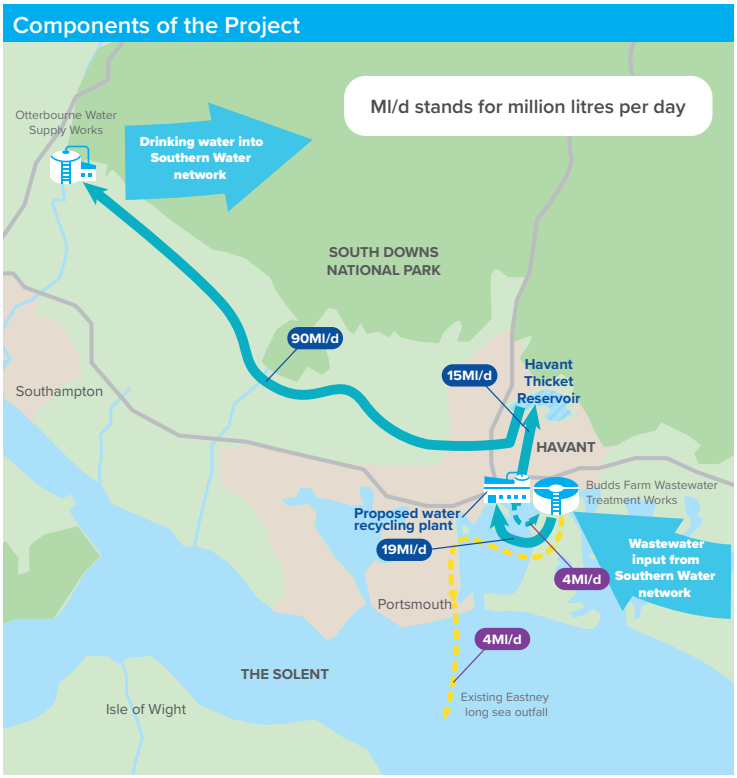
2. Why we need new sustainable water sources

The South East of England is designated by the Environment Agency as an area of 'serious water stress'. This means that demand for water can outstrip supply – especially during a drought.

We have been exploring ways of tackling this problem. In February 2021, we consulted on our proposals to build a desalination plant at Fawley in the New Forest and introduced alternative options, including water transfer and water recycling. Following the 2021 consultation, we assessed the proposals as part of an options appraisal process and concluded that desalination was not deliverable in the proposed location. We are now progressing a combined water transfer and water recycling solution to help address the water supply deficit and improve resilience in Hampshire.

Called the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project, our solution will turn treated wastewater into purified recycled water at a new water recycling plant south of Havant. The recycled water would then be transferred via a new underground pipeline to supplement the spring-fed water that will be stored in the planned Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Another new pipeline would be installed underground to transfer water from the reservoir to our Otterbourne Water Supply Works, some 40 kilometres to the northwest, to be treated to strict drinking water standards ready for supply to homes and businesses.



Not to scale, for indicative purposes only

Water recycling – a new source of water

Water recycling uses advanced treatment techniques to turn treated wastewater into purified water that can be used as source water for treatment to drinking water standard.

While new to the UK, water recycling is a safe, established method of water treatment that has been used around the world for more than 40 years, including Australia, the USA and Singapore.

Southern Water has plans for four water recycling plants across its region in the near future and five other water companies in the country are looking to develop their own plants too and consulting on water recycling as a solution to future water shortages in their draft Water Resource Management Plans.

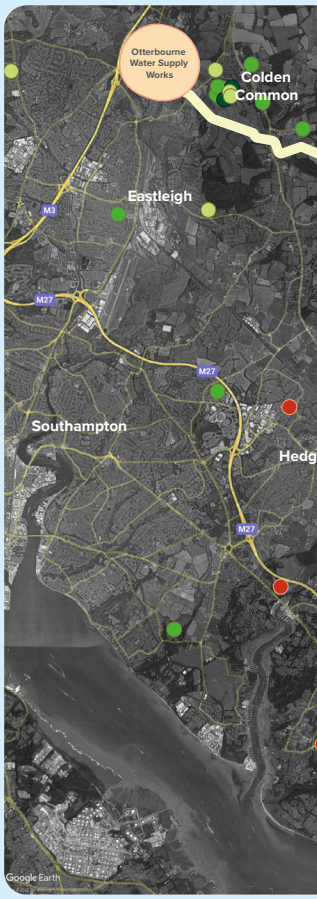
3. Our consultation

Our six-week consultation ran from 5 July to 16 August 2022.

We explained how the water recycling process works, as well as the site selection process we undertook to identify the proposed location for the water recycling plant. We also explained how we developed the corridors in which the pipelines would be located and identified where zones for above-ground plant, such as pumping stations, could be located.

Map showing location of those who provided their postcode when responding to the question *'Do you support water transfer and water recycling as the proposed solution to the challenge of securing water supplies for the future in Hampshire'.*

- **Preferred pipeline corridor**
- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support



How we undertook our consultation

31,826
letters sent
to local homes, businesses, and landowners in the vicinity of the project

Advertised
our consultation
in the Southern Daily Echo, Hampshire Chronicle and Portsmouth News and at local information points

Launched our consultation **Website**

Launched our **Virtual** Exhibition Room

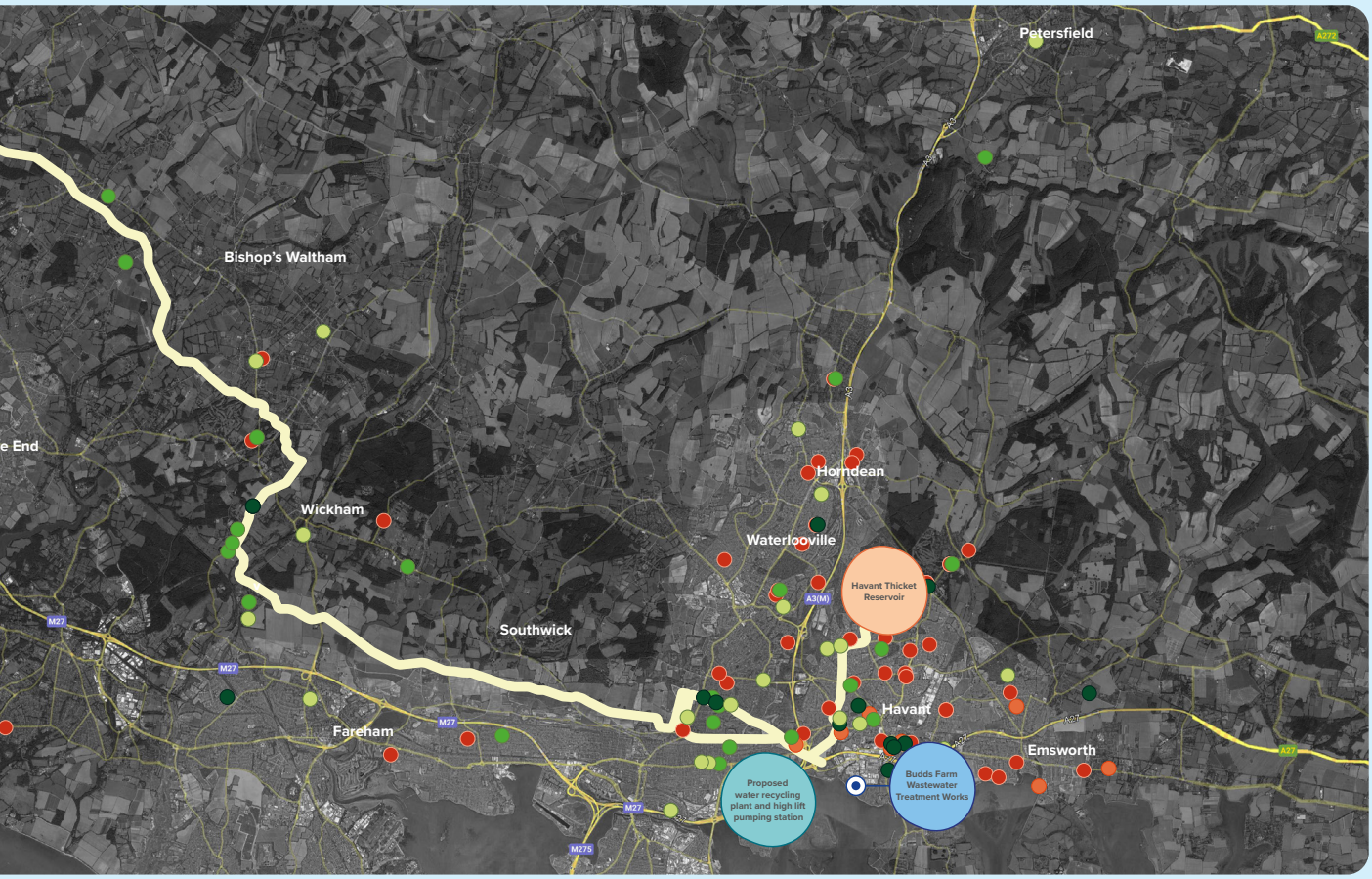
6 **in-person** consultation events

3 **online** webinars

Hosted copies of **Consultation Documents**

Free **Feedback Forms**

9 **deposit** locations



How you responded

571 written responses

878 **in-person** event attendees

69 **webinar** attendees

9,169 **unique visitors** to consultation website

205 **unique visitors** to virtual exhibition room

Consultation responses categorised by age group and gender where provided

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 or over	Prefer not to say
Female	1	3	1	15	39	54	25	6
Male		6	7	13	28	36	13	2
Other				1	1	1		8
Prefer not to say		2	1	1		1	1	1

4. What you told us

We asked your views on the following topics:

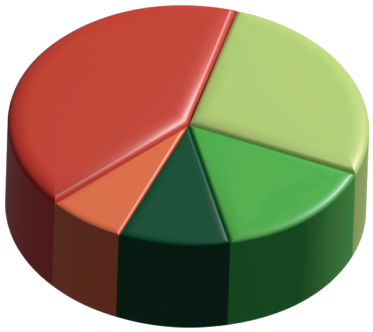
- Water transfer and water recycling as the proposed solution to Hampshire's water supply deficit and the options appraisal process we went through to select it
- The location of the water recycling plant and the process we went through to select it
- Our preferred pipeline corridors and the process we went through to develop them
- The identified zones for potential above-ground infrastructure
- Whether you thought there were any areas where construction works would be particularly challenging
- Our consultation approach and any other views on the Project

The questions, answers and key themes, including the most common issues that arose in the consultation responses and how we're addressing them, are summarised on the following pages.

We are grateful for the feedback we received, which continues to be considered alongside our studies, surveys and ongoing technical assessments. These will help inform our evolving design proposals for the pipeline route, the water recycling plant and how we will construct the Project.

Water recycling

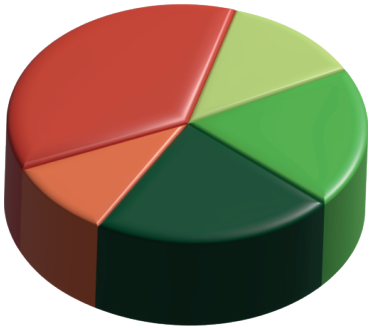
Do you support water transfer and water recycling as the proposed solution to the challenge of securing water supplies for the future in Hampshire?



476 total respondents

- (27%) Strongly support the proposed solution
- (15%) Support the proposed solution
- (10%) Neither support or oppose the proposed solution
- (7%) Do not support the proposed solution
- (41%) Strongly do not support the proposed solution

What do you think about the options appraisal process we went through to select water transfer and water recycling as the proposed solution?



419 total respondents

- (13%) Strongly support the options appraisal process
- (19%) Support the options appraisal process
- (22%) Neither support or oppose the options appraisal process
- (10%) Do not support the options appraisal process
- (36%) Strongly do not support the options appraisal process

What you told us

The use of recycled water prompted some concerns about the quality of drinking water and potential changes to its taste or smell.

Those in favour of water recycling highlighted the need to safeguard the ecologically important chalk stream rivers in Hampshire and felt that water recycling was the most environmentally sustainable solution to address the county's water shortage.

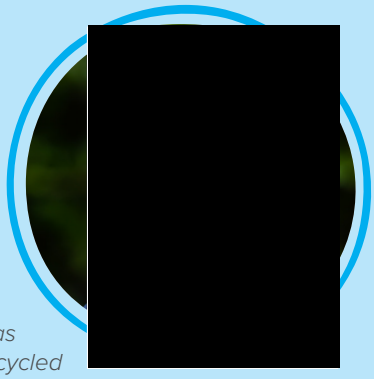
Of those who did not support our options appraisal process to arrive at water transfer and water recycling as the preferred solution, some did not give their reasons or felt there was a lack of awareness and publicity around the Project. Others said they were unclear on the reasons why desalinisation was no longer the preferred option.

Our proposal to use the Havant Thicket Reservoir to store the recycled water prompted some concerns from people who felt the reservoir should only be fed by spring water.

The potential environmental impacts of recycled water on biodiversity, wildlife and ecology were also raised as a concern by some respondents.

The majority of respondents were from the Havant area, where there is strong support for the Havant Thicket Reservoir plans and, understandably due to the nature of the proposed source water for the Project, concerns about perceived impact on water quality in the reservoir.

How we're listening and what happens next



"We are committed to providing water for customers which meets the same strict regulatory drinking water standards as it does now. The use of recycled water will not reduce those standards in any way.

Mark Wintringham, Head of Delivery

"The options appraisal process we undertook resulted in the selection and subsequent development of the preferred solution of water transfer and water recycling - our response to progressing the most sustainable solution and addressing stakeholder feedback.

"This Project is separate from the current plans for the Havant Thicket Reservoir which gained approval at the time when desalination at Fawley was proposed. We are working closely with Portsmouth Water as we develop our Project, especially on the quality of the recycled water that would enter the reservoir. Any water that enters the reservoir (recycled or spring) becomes part of the unique reservoir quality.

"As we further develop our proposals, we will be conducting environmental assessments to identify any environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures required to ensure that the local environment and marine life is protected during the construction and operation of the Project."

Water recycling plant

What you told us

The water recycling plant's ability to remove impurities such as chemicals, hormones and microbes, was raised as a concern. Some respondents asked for more information on the potential environmental impacts of releasing "reject water" from the water recycling plant into the marine environment and were concerned about any potential impacts on local fisheries.

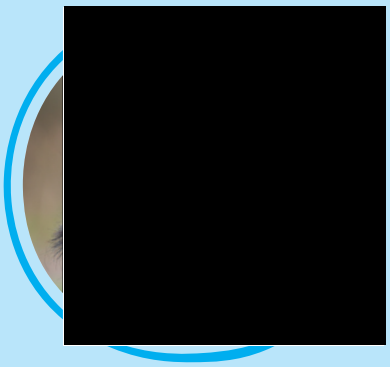
Others also raised concerns around the sustainability of the water recycling process and the energy and maintenance required to build and operate the plant.

Feedback on the proposed site for the water recycling plant (Site 72) was mixed.

Those in support highlighted its proximity to Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works, thus minimising construction impacts and disruption to the local environment.

Those who did not support the site raised concerns about the perceived risk of harmful emissions, odour, and other environmental impacts due to it being a former landfill site.

How we're listening and what happens next



Varsha Wylie, Principal Process Engineer

"Water recycling uses advanced treatment techniques to remove impurities from treated wastewater.

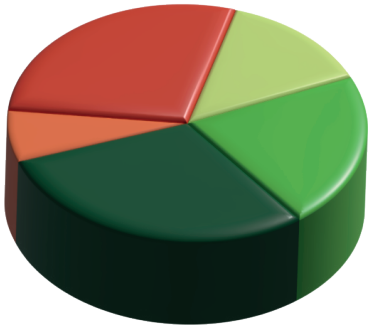
"As part of the water recycling process, treated wastewater, already extensively cleaned at the wastewater treatment works, passes through four further treatment processes in the water recycling plant, namely micro-filtration, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation and water conditioning. These processes ensure that dissolved salts, biological and chemical contaminants and remaining impurities, including bacteria and pharmaceuticals, are removed.

"As part of the normal wastewater treatment process, the "reject water" from the water recycling plant will be returned to Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works prior to releasing it back into the sea via the existing long sea outfall."

"Careful consideration of energy requirements and carbon emissions during the design and planning stages of the Project will also help us manage and reduce emissions during construction and operation.

"Our proposed site for the water recycling plant (Site 72) was carefully assessed and selected given its suitability and proximity to Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works."

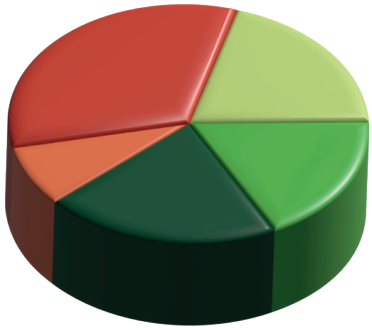
What do you think about the process we went through to arrive at the proposed site for the new water recycling plant?



385 total respondents

- (14%) Strongly support the site selection process
- (21%) Support the site selection process
- (30%) Neither support or oppose the site selection process
- (7%) Do not support the site selection process
- (28%) Strongly do not support the site selection process

Do you support our proposal to build a water recycling plant on site 72 south of Havant?

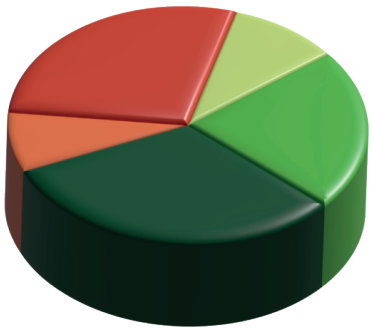


393 total respondents

- (20%) Strongly support the proposal
- (18%) Support the proposal
- (21%) Neither support or oppose the proposal
- (8%) Do not support the proposal
- (33%) Strongly do not support the proposal

Pipeline corridor and route development

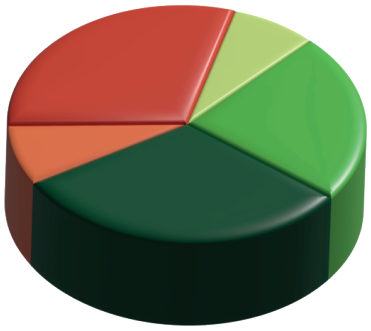
What do you think about the process we went through to arrive at the pipeline corridor sections?



370 total respondents

- (10%) Strongly support the process
- (22%) Support the process
- (32%) Neither support or oppose the process
- (8%) Do not support the process
- (28%) Strongly do not support the process

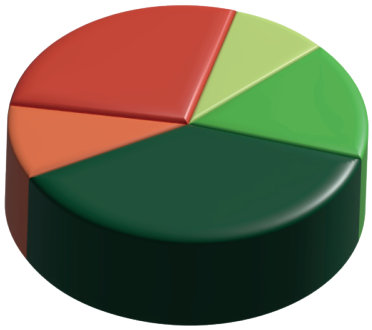
What do you think about our preferred corridor?



361 total respondents

- (8%) Strongly support the preferred corridor
- (23%) Support the preferred corridor
- (31%) Neither support or oppose the preferred corridor
- (8%) Do not support the preferred corridor
- (30%) Strongly do not support the preferred corridor

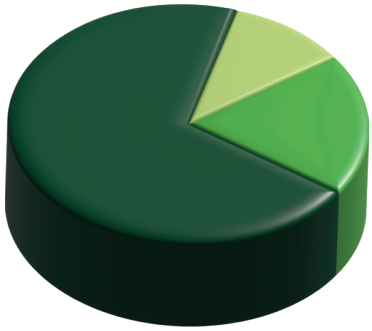
Do you have any views on the pipelines between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works and the water recycling plant?



393 total respondents

- (9%) Strongly support the pipelines
- (16%) Support the pipelines
- (38%) Neither support or oppose the pipelines
- (10%) Do not support the pipelines
- (27%) Strongly do not support the pipelines

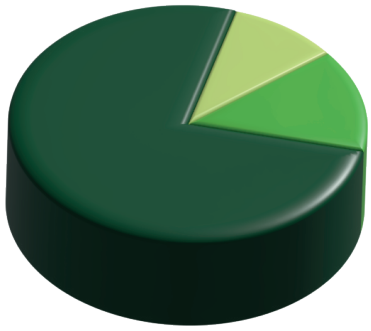
What is your preference between the two tunnelled pipeline routes in corridor section P?



326 total respondents

- (11%) Prefer the Northern pipeline route (P1)
- (19%) Prefer the Southern pipeline route (P2)
- (70%) No preference of pipeline route

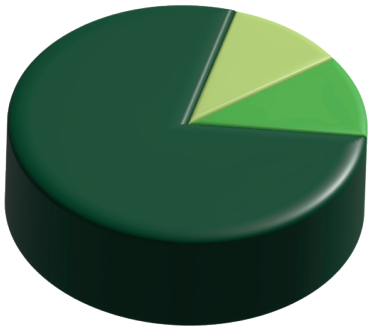
What is your preference between the two pipeline routes in corridor section Z south of Fisher's Pond?



310 total respondents

- (10%) Prefer the Northern pipeline route (Z1)
- (14%) Prefer the Southern pipeline route (Z2)
- (76%) No preference of pipeline route

What is your preference between the two options in corridor section Z as the pipeline approaches Otterbourne Water Supply Works?



316 total respondents

- (11%) Prefer the Northern pipeline route (Z3)
- (11%) Prefer the Southern pipeline route (Z4)
- (78%) No preference of pipeline route

What you told us

Those who supported the process we went through to develop the pipeline corridor sections described it as transparent, well considered, and detailed. Those who did not support it felt they should have been consulted earlier, prior to alternative routes being discounted.

Some agreed that the preferred corridor keeps the potential for disruption to a minimum, while sufficiently avoiding areas of natural beauty.

The potential for disruption to local wildlife habitats and areas of natural beauty, as well as potential visual impacts on the local landscape, were amongst the concerns of those who did not support our preferred corridor. The potential impact on the local road network during construction was also highlighted.

For the pipelines between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works and the proposed water recycling plant, many respondents raised concerns about landfill gas emissions and contaminated water leaking into the sea if the pipeline were to burst.

For corridor section P, we asked people to indicate their preference between two tunnelled route options. Of those who expressed a preference, the majority preferred the southern tunnel route (P2) over the northern tunnel route (P1) and felt that this would minimise impact on residential areas and groundwater sources.

For corridor section Z, we asked people to indicate their preference between two route options south of Fisher's Pond. Of those who expressed a preference, the majority preferred the southern route (Z2) over the northern route (Z1) due to the latter's potential impact on groundwater sources and local traffic network.

We also asked people to indicate their preference between two route options in corridor section Z as the pipeline approaches Otterbourne Water Supply Works. There was an equal preference from those who responded. Those who preferred option Z4 noted that it would cause less disruption to the South Downs National Park and residential areas of Colden Common, while others felt that option Z3 would have the least environmental impact on rivers and associated floodplains.

How we're listening and what happens next

James Kissack, Senior Project Design Lead

"At this early stage of the Project, we have shown an indicative pipeline route within our preferred corridor, which has been selected based on the topography (levels) of the land, construction constraints and all the information that has been gathered to date.

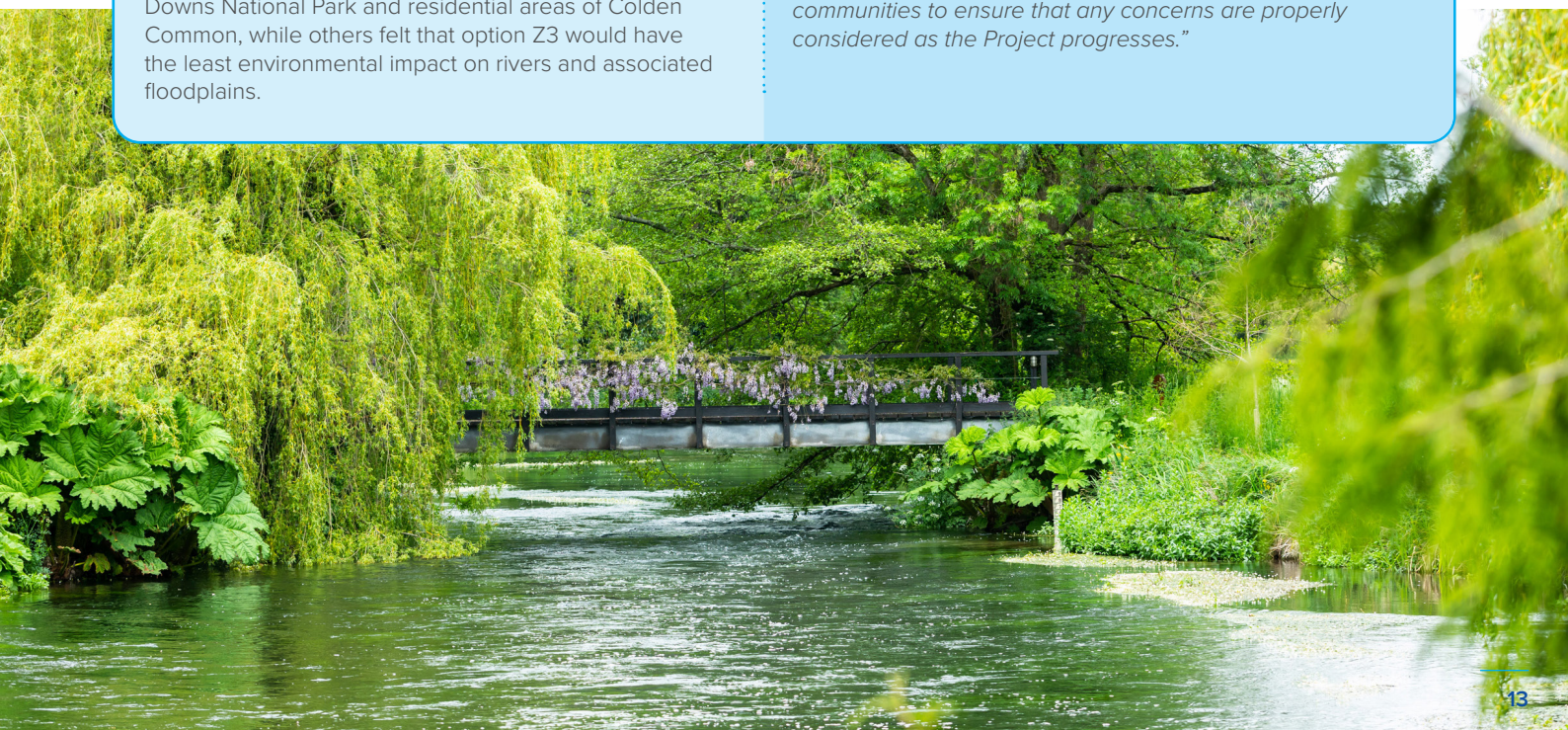
"Our approach to route selection was first to identify the broad corridor that performs best from an environmental, engineering and cost perspective before refining our proposals through further assessment and engagement with stakeholders.

"In developing the preferred corridor and indicative pipeline route we have taken into account a range of issues and constraints and, in particular, the need to mitigate impacts on designated areas of natural beauty such as the South Downs National Park. Where impacts cannot be avoided, we will seek to minimise these as far as practicable.

"We are now developing a preferred pipeline route based on the feedback received from this consultation, ongoing engagement and further data collection to support route refinement.

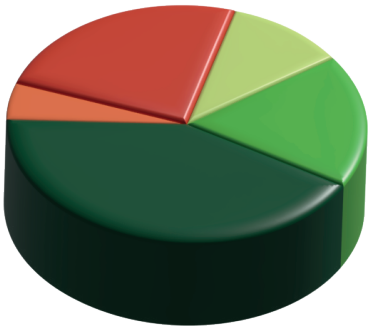
"At our next consultation, everyone will have the chance to feedback on a more refined design of the Project, including the preferred pipeline route and proposed construction areas. The consultation will include more information on the potential environmental and construction impacts and consider how these can be best mitigated.

"We will work closely with local authorities and environmental bodies and listen to the views of our local communities to ensure that any concerns are properly considered as the Project progresses."



Above-ground infrastructure

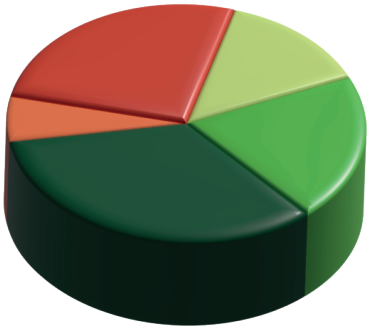
What do you think about the process we went through to arrive at the proposed site for the high lift pumping station?



338 total respondents

- (11%) Strongly support the process
- (18%) Support the process
- (42%) Neither support or oppose the process
- (5%) Do not support the process
- (24%) Strongly do not support the process

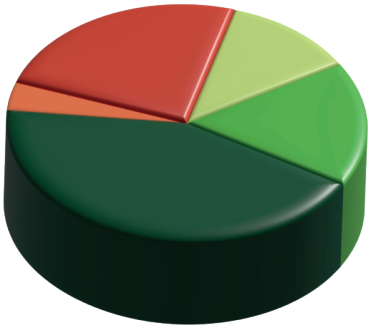
Do you support our proposal to build a high lift pumping station in the proposed location?



337 total respondents

- (14%) Strongly support the location
- (20%) Support the location
- (34%) Neither support or oppose the location
- (6%) Do not support the location
- (26%) Strongly do not support the location

What do you think about the process we went through to arrive at the potential zones for the above-ground plant?



329 total respondents

- (12%) Strongly support the location
- (17%) Support the location
- (43%) Neither support or oppose the location
- (4%) Do not support the location
- (24%) Strongly do not support the location

What you told us

Those who supported the process to determine the proposed site for the high lift pumping station described it as fair, thorough and robust.

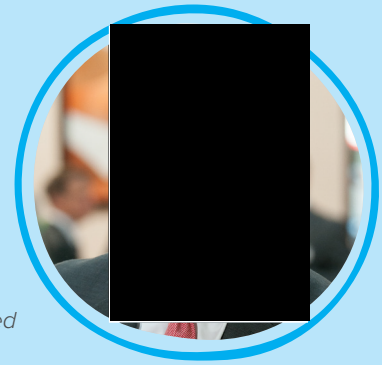
Others said they would have liked to have been consulted earlier in the process and felt that not enough alternatives had been considered.

Those who supported the location of the high lift pumping station felt that this was a logical proposal as it will be on the same site as the water recycling plant, thus minimising disruption.

Those who did not support it raised concerns over potential landfill gas emissions from the site and other environmental impacts including dust and noise pollution.

There was also a concern highlighted around the zones identified to locate the above-ground plant and their potential impact on heritage sites.

How we're listening and what happens next



Robert Lawless, Programme Lead

"We welcome your feedback on the above-ground plant needed as part of the Project. We will carry out more detailed assessments of the high lift pumping station alongside the water recycling plant and we will consider the specific siting and impacts of the above-ground plant we showed in the Summer 2022 consultation.

"As the scheme development work progresses, our engineering designs may identify potential sites for additional above ground plant - we will consult on any new locations proposed at our next consultation as well as the preliminary findings of any potential impacts from the above-ground plant."

Environment and Construction

What you told us

Some respondents were concerned about the construction impacts of the Project and disturbance to local wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas, including sites of historical and cultural interest and conservation areas. The potential visual impact on local landscapes was also a concern.

Potential environmental impacts due to construction works on the proposed site for the water recycling plant (Site 72), as well as impacts on Portsdown Hill and Bedhampton Road were also mentioned as a concern.

Construction traffic and impacts on the local road network, particularly on Park Lane, Middle Park Way, Titchfield Lane and Knowle Road, were also raised by some respondents. Residents of Colden Common sought reassurance that pipeline installation would not exacerbate the existing subsidence issues in the area.

Some respondents felt that preventing disruption to local ecosystems may be challenging but should be a priority, particularly in terms of minimising damage to woodlands and areas of sensitive ecology. Some concerns were also raised over the perceived impacts on Hampshire's underground aquifers during construction.

People living in areas of low ground that sit close to the proposed pipeline route highlighted a perceived risk of localised flooding in the event of a leak.

Concerns were also raised over potential vibration impacts on nearby properties during pipeline installation using tunnelling techniques, while others suggested tunnelling would minimise road and traffic impacts.

How we're listening and what happens next

Nicola Catt, Principal Environmental Advisor

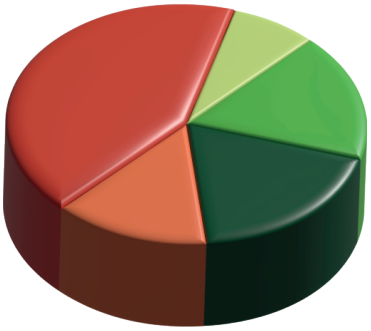
"We will take account of your feedback as we refine our proposals in readiness for our next consultation.

"We continue to progress a variety of environmental surveys, studies and ground investigations to inform our design work and to feed into the extensive environmental and other assessments we are undertaking. These will include a comprehensive assessment of the construction and operational effects of the Project. We will share our progress on these assessments at our next consultation in the form of 'preliminary environmental information'. This information will outline our initial understanding of the Project's impacts and provide details of how we propose to avoid or minimise them.

"We will mitigate as many of these potential impacts as possible through ongoing careful design of our proposals, from routing the pipeline to avoid local communities and environmentally sensitive sites, to tunnelling beneath urban areas to minimise disruption to local roads and traffic."

Consultation

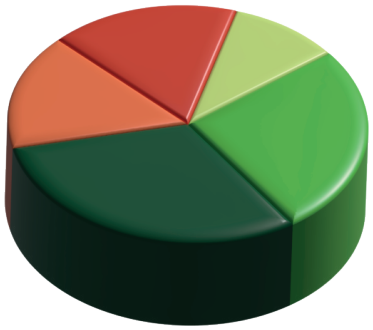
Promotion – was the consultation promoted well?



- (8%) Very good
- (17%) Good
- (19%) Average
- (14%) Poor
- (42%) Very poor

448 total respondents

Materials – were they easy to understand?



- (10%) Very good
- (26%) Good
- (31%) Average
- (16%) Poor
- (17%) Very poor

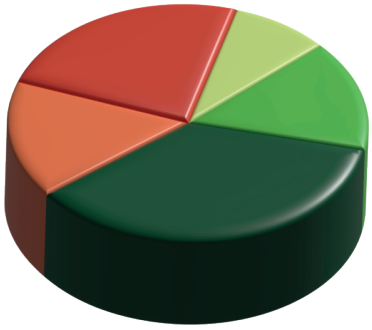
444 total respondents

Information – was enough information made available for you to respond?

- (12%) Very good
- (28%) Good
- (27%) Average
- (15%) Poor
- (18%) Very poor

422 total respondents

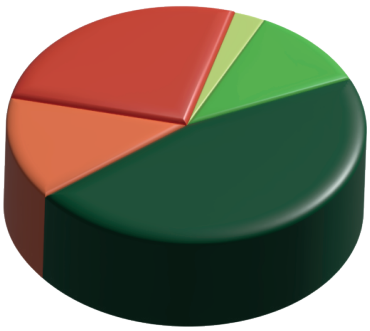
Events – were the events of good quality and suitably located?



- (9%) Very good
- (15%) Good
- (36%) Average
- (16%) Poor
- (24%) Very poor

354 total respondents

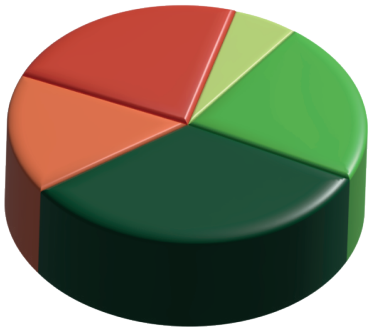
Webinars – were the webinars of good quality and well run?



- (3%) Very good
- (11%) Good
- (46%) Average
- (14%) Poor
- (26%) Very poor

268 total respondents

Website – was the consultation website easy to use and information presented in an engaging?



- (6%) Very good
- (22%) Good
- (33%) Average
- (16%) Poor
- (23%) Very poor

353 total respondents

What you told us

While some respondents reported that they felt well engaged and that sufficient information was available to understand our proposals, others expressed that they would have liked the consultation period to be longer, broader in scope, and with more detailed information on environmental impacts and impacts on landowners.

There were also some respondents who found the consultation brochure to be too long, and the information provided too complex, while others felt that there was a lack of detail on the maps presented.

How we're listening and what happens next

"Our approach to our next public consultation will be published in a Statement of Community Consultation.

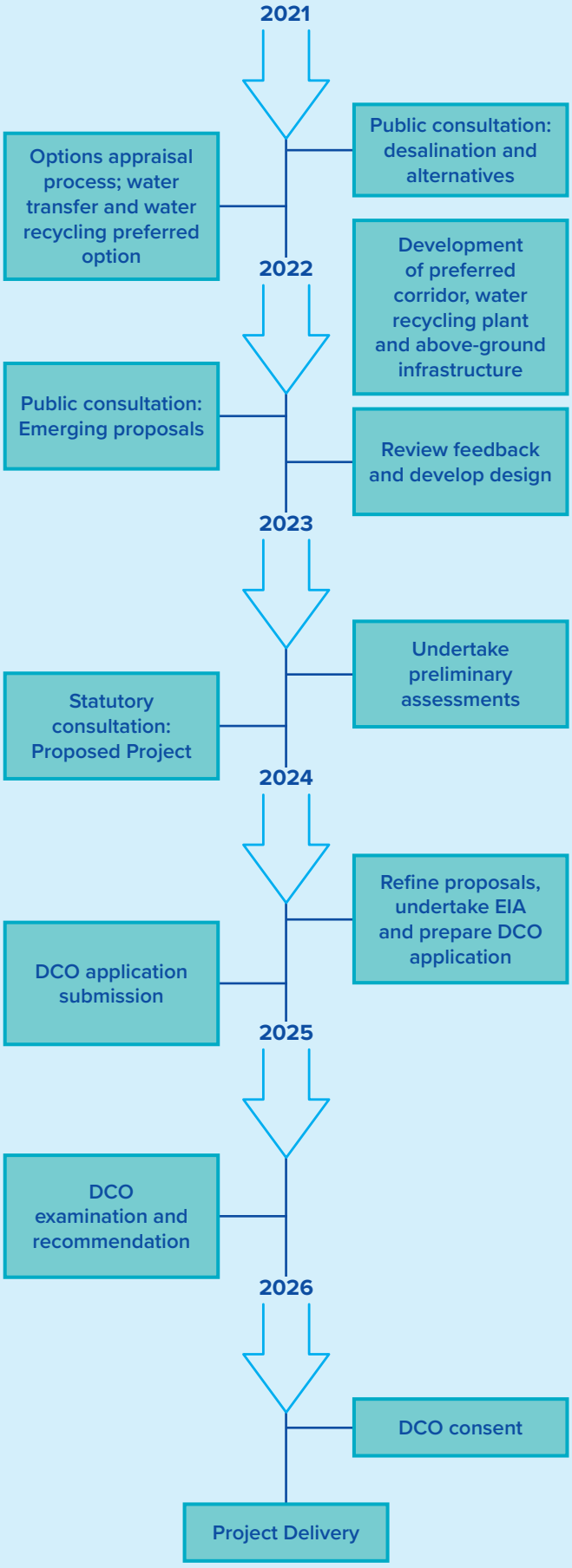
We will provide engagement materials for a variety of audiences and give information on preliminary environmental assessments, outlining the likely impacts of the Project and potential mitigation."

5. Next steps

We are continuing to develop our proposals to refine the design of the Project using feedback we have received from this consultation, ongoing engagement with stakeholders and our environmental studies.

We anticipate holding our next consultation on the Project in late 2023, which will set out further details on:

- The water recycling plant
- The preferred pipeline routes and proposed installation methods
- Locations of proposed construction compounds and temporary working areas
- Proposed locations of the above-ground infrastructure, including pumping stations and break pressure tanks
- Preliminary environmental information and potential mitigation measures



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C.16 Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback Report

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Summer 2022 Consultation Response to Feedback

Summer 2024 Consultation

Contents

1. Introduction

The Project

Southern Water is developing proposals for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (the Project). The Project is primarily a drought resilience scheme that will ensure we can maintain essential water supplies, while protecting the rare and sensitive chalk streams of the River Test and River Itchen.

The Project is part of the Water for Life – Hampshire programme which is aimed at addressing the significant shortfall in water supply that we face in Hampshire. It could provide up to 90 million litres of water a day to our customers in Hampshire.

The Project would use advanced treatment techniques to turn highly treated wastewater, that is usually pumped far out to sea, into purified recycled water at a new water recycling plant in Havant. This purified recycled water would be pumped via an underground pipeline to the Havant Thicket Reservoir where it would mix with spring water. Water from the reservoir would then be pumped along another pipeline to our Otterbourne Water Supply Works where it would be treated to strict drinking water standards before being sent into supply.

As a project of national significance, we will seek consent from the Secretary of State in the form of a Development Consent Order. We expect to submit a Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025. The Development Consent Order process puts an emphasis on consultation and early engagement with stakeholders and communities. This allows the opportunity for stakeholders to influence and comment on projects before Development Consent Order applications are submitted.

Previous consultation in 2021

In February 2021 we held a public consultation on our proposal to build a desalination plant on the Solent, located at Fawley in the New Forest. Consultees were invited to comment on the desalination technology and the infrastructure to turn seawater into drinking water before transferring it via a 25-kilometre-long pipeline to our Testwood Water Supply Works. This proposal could have provided up to 75 million litres of water per day in a drought.

We asked people for their views on the proposed desalination plant at Fawley and its associated pipelines and introduced alternative water transfer and water recycling options. We also asked for views on the alternative options, including the use of a water recycling and water transfer option to provide a new water source coupled with a new pipeline to transfer more water from the Havant Thicket Reservoir for supply to the Hampshire area.

We received 180 responses to the Consultation. Desalination was not well supported by those who responded, with only 27% agreeing it was an acceptable solution to the water resources challenge in Hampshire. Meanwhile 60% of respondents considered that water recycling would be an acceptable solution in the event that desalination was not deliverable. The main issue raised was around the potential environmental impact of releasing the desalination reject water back into the Solent, with 24% of respondents raising this concern.

Having regard to this feedback and ongoing engagement with our regulators, and following an extensive options appraisal process, the combined water recycling and water transfer option was identified as the preferred solution for providing Hampshire with a new sustainable source of water.

Purpose of this Report

This report provides a response to feedback received from our Summer 2022 Consultation on the Project and sets out how issues raised have been considered in the further development of the Project. It follows on from the summary of feedback report published in January 2023. When we submit our Development Consent Order application, we will include 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 consultations and our response to those issues.

from Southern Water®

2. Summer 2022 Consultation

Purpose of the consultation

Following selection of a combined water transfer and water recycling option as the preferred solution to addressing Hampshire's water shortage, the initial stages of project development were undertaken prior to a public consultation in Summer 2022. The six-week consultation, which ran from 5 July to 16 August 2022, invited comments on a number of matters, including:

- The use of water recycling as a new sustainable water resource for the Hampshire area
- The location of the proposed water recycling plant
- The preferred corridors for the pipelines required to transfer water between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works, the proposed water recycling plant, Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works
- The proposed zones for above ground plant required along the pipeline route to Otterbourne Water Supply Works
- The decision-making processes we followed in each case to identify sites, zones and pipeline corridors.

In order to respond to queries and record feedback, we provided a number of ways to be contacted, including an online feedback portal, paper feedback forms with Freepost return envelopes, a dedicated email and Freepost address and a phone line.

With the help of local authorities, we identified hard to reach groups and collaborated with organisations that represent their interests. As such, people from these identified groups were informed of our proposals and had the opportunity to express their views.

Considering responses from the consultation

Following the Summer 2022 Consultation, we published a summary of feedback report in January 2023 outlining the main themes arising from the responses we received Following the Summer 2022 Consultation, we published a summary of the feedback report in January 2023 outlining the main themes arising from the feedback responses we received to the consultation.

We set out in Sections 3 to 8 of this report how we have had regard to the feedback received in the further development of the Project since the Summer 2022 Consultation.

The majority of issues raised in the consultation feedback (Section 3) have been categorised as environmental topics, and are being considered in our ongoing environmental assessments through the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Other issues related to construction (Section 4), infrastructure (Section 5), land (Section 6), planning (Section 7) and how the consultation was undertaken (Section 8).

3. Environment

Introduction

We received numerous comments relating to environmental topics – some raised concerns over the lack of information about the impacts of the project, some queried what the impacts might be and others were worried about perceived impacts. We respond to these and other issues raised below. This section is arranged by theme with a summary of the issues raised during consultation and our response to those issues.

Environmental Assessments

Comments raised during Summer 2022 Consultation

Some respondents felt that insufficient progress had been made in carrying out key environmental assessments including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Framework Directive Regulations assessment, in part making reference to an earlier Southern Water submission under the RAPID[1] gated process. Respondents suggested that we should be considering a wider range of topics in our environmental assessments.

Our response

In response to comments relating to assessments submitted as part of the RAPID gated process in late 2021, these were a specific requirement of that process and were necessarily high level as they covered a range of scheme options under consideration, and well before work had properly commenced on progressing the Project through the consenting process. The Strategic Environmental Assessment required as part of the RAPID gated process was not part of the Summer 2022 Consultation and is not required under the Development Consent Order process for consenting the Project.

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, the Project has progressed through the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping stage with the Secretary of State adopting a Scoping Opinion in August 2023. Environmental Impact Assessment scoping is a key stage in the Project's development as it establishes the approach to undertaking the environmental assessments, including the topics to be assessed and the methodology for assessing them. Relevant statutory consultees were consulted as part of the Scoping stage.

Since the receipt of the Scoping Opinion, we have been undertaking the detailed environmental assessments required for the Development Consent Order process. The preliminary outcomes of these assessments form part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report shared as part of the statutory consultation.

These environmental assessments will continue to be developed and will be reported in full in an Environmental Statement that will be submitted with our Development Consent Order application.

We have also been gathering information through extensive environmental surveys and engagement with landowners, as well as statutory and non-statutory bodies.

A Water Framework Directive Regulations assessment and other assessments are also being undertaken and will also be submitted with the Development Consent Order application. Further information on these assessments can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

We are working closely with a wide range of stakeholders as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Marine Conservation Zone Assessment and Water Framework Directive Regulations Assessment processes, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation. Progress of the Project to date confirms that we are undertaking the right assessments and engaging extensively with the right stakeholders at this stage of the consenting process.

[1] RAPID stands for Regulator's Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development – a grouping of water industry regulators comprising the Environment Agency, Drinking Water Inspectorate and Ofwat, specifically set up to support the initial funding and development of Strategic Resource Options – regionally significant water supply schemes needed to address imminent deficits in UK water supplies.

Air quality and odour

Comments raised during consultation

Comments made related to potential impacts of emissions during construction from deliveries and workers commuting to the construction sites, as well as on-site fuel use from construction equipment. Concerns were also raised about operational odour from the proposed water recycling plant, Havant Thicket Reservoir and use of Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works.

Our response

The air quality assessment in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report provides an initial assessment of the impact of the Project on people and the environment, including emissions from construction traffic on the local road network. Construction a ctivities will be managed so that impacts on air quality are avoided or minimised as far as practicable. The preliminary Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan shared as part of our Summer 2024 Consultation, sets out how air quality and odour impacts will be managed during construction. This plan will be developed further and submitted as part of the Development Consent Order application. Examples of measures in the preliminary plan to reduce emissions from vehicles, plant and equipment include avoiding idling vehicles on construction sites and use of diesel or petrol-powered generators where practicable . The preliminary Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan also contains odour control measures that would be implemented, as required, during the construction of the proposed water recycling plant due to exposure of the landfill waste. Odour suppression would be employed as necessary during excavation of contaminated materials – damping down and/or misting as appropriate. Such measures will mitigate any likely impacts arising from odours at the site.

In considering potential odours at our Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works, the existing operations and odour management system would not change as a result of the Project, therefore, no increase in odours are expected.

In considering odours from the proposed water recycling plant, advanced treatment techniques will be employed as part of the operation of the plant. The treated water at the water recycling plant is not anticipated to have any significant odours as it would be more akin to river water than wastewater. Additionally, the proposed water recycling plant will include a covered storage tank and treatment plant, operating as a closed system and therefore reducing the risk of odours from these processes. Hence, there would be no potential for additional odour from the operation of the Project.

Odour arising from the operation of Havant Thicket Reservoir is also not expected as the reservoir would contain a mix of spring water and purified recycled water. Our water recycling pilot and other modelling has shown that, in the majority of cases, recycled water is cleaner than spring water.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

Comments raised during consultation

Comments received related to avoiding the most important archaeological remains and heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments. It was suggested that, where permanent above ground works take place, the setting of any scheduled monuments should be considered, and impacts avoided where possible. In addition, we should recognise, record and mitigate the potential presence of archaeological remains encountered during construction and associated works.

Our response

The design of the Project to date has sought to avoid or minimise impacts through embedding mitigation measures including avoiding designated and non-designated heritage assets and areas of high archaeological potential where possible, minimising disturbance of potential remains, and using existing landform and planting to provide screening. Where practicable, land and/or planting disturbed during pipeline construction or temporary works will be restored to pre-existing conditions.

Where the potential for impacts on heritage assets and areas of high archaeological potential remains, including along the proposed pipeline route, our assessments are helping us to understand any potential impacts and what mitigation may be available, including using trenchless construction methods and careful siting of the pipeline route, to minimise risks. We are also engaging with stakeholders, including Historic England, to support our assessments and mitigation proposals.

Our work to date has also identified mitigation measures that would be implemented, which will also comprise archaeological investigations aimed at preserving archaeological remains, recording information and mitigating impacts. Details of those proposed investigations will be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order application and implemented prior to construction.

Biodiversity (Terrestrial/Freshwater)

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were raised regarding the impact on biodiversity if the Havant Thicket Reservoir is used to store recycled water. This included comments about the impact on the ecology of the new habitats being created in the reservoir, especially the wetland area.

Some respondents felt that the Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken was not robust and that there could be adverse impacts on the ecology of the site proposed for the water recycling plant, as well as on areas through which the main pipeline route would either pass through or in close proximity to. There were comments about the need to protect veteran trees and biodiversity in general.

We received suggestions on how to avoid or reduce the impact and mitigate for biodiversity losses, such as introducing buffer zones to protect ancient woodland and individual trees. It was felt that measurable Biodiversity Net Gain must be achieved and evidenced in line with the Environment Act 2021.

Our response

Extensive water quality modelling is being undertaken in collaboration with Portsmouth Water to investigate the effects of the addition of recycled water on reservoir water quality and downstream watercourses, including Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream and Langstone Harbour. This analysis, which will consider impacts on existing and new habitats, is ongoing, with further engagement on the results to come later. A full assessment of effects on the reservoir (including on the new habitats created as part of its construction) and its associated watercourses, together with any required mitigation, will be reported in the Environmental Statement submitted with our Development Consent Order application.

With regard to ecology at the proposed water recycling plant site, our site selection process, reported in our Summer 2022 Consultation, carefully evaluated sites against a range of planning and environmental criteria, including proximity to ecological sites. The site for the proposed water recycling plant was selected as it has the least environmental constraints and is undeveloped. We have since undertaken a further comprehensive review that reconsidered a range of sites and assessed these using up to date information to ensure our conclusions remained valid. The review reaffirmed that the proposed site was the most suitable, and had fewer ecological risks than other undeveloped sites. As part of our preliminary proposals for the site, we are looking to retain and reinforce the landscaped boundaries around the site to support on-site habitats.

The Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment will fully assess the potential impacts of the Project on the ecology of the water recycling plant site and will detail any mitigation required to address them. Preliminary information on any likely significant effects is provided within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

The design of the Project has sought to avoid and include buffers from statutory designated sites, ancient woodland, wildlife and habitats, wherever practicable and in line with best practice. Underground trenchless crossings would be used to install the pipelines under sensitive ecological areas to avoid and minimise disturbance. Where trenchless techniques are not possible, we have, for example, reduced the working width in some areas to minimise impacts when crossing hedgerows, particularly where hazel dormouse is known or likely to be present.

We do, however, recognise that construction activity, such as the presence of people and noise from machinery, could disturb wildlife or temporarily change the character of the landscape. Construction could also result in dust and emissions from earthworks, construction plant and construction traffic, which could affect habitats and wildlife. To avoid and mitigate these effects, best practice construction measures will be followed, as set out in the preliminary Outline Construction Environment Management Plan.

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have been engaging with statutory bodies (including local authorities) and other stakeholders on the collection of baseline data, including designations, habitats and species, on our survey methodologies and also on our preliminary assessment findings, mitigation approaches and protected species licensing requirements . The Environmental Impact Assessment and emerging design incorporate mitigation measures that will aim to avoid and minimise effects, as well as identifying opportunities for compensation, where required, and enhancement.

A suite of environmental surveys is ongoing to define current conditions and inform proportionate and specific mitigation measures aimed at minimising adverse effects on biodiversity. Although not currently a requirement for projects progressing through the Development Consent Order process, we are committed to achieving a net gain in biodiversity as part of the Project and we will incorporate environmental enhancements, including habitat creation and management, into the design of the Project where practicable. We have produced a draft illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation, to set out our current, early thinking on opportunities to co-ordinate and integrate environmental and biodiversity net gain opportunities across the Project.

Carbon and climate change

Comments raised during consultation

Points were made that the process of recycling water requires a lot of energy and a high carbon footprint and that we should seek solutions that do not contribute further to the causes of climate change. Some respondents queried why we have proposed a solution that is as carbon-intensive as the desalination proposals we were pursuing in 2021 and that we should look at alternative solutions that have lower carbon footprints and consume less energy.

Respondents queried where the electricity required for the operation of the water recycling plant will come from and suggested that we should acknowledge the net zero carbon policies and commitments made by councils and the Government in our assessments.

Our response

We are committed to working towards net zero carbon emissions as per our Net Zero Plan, which has been developed in line with the Government's commitments, and minimising carbon is being considered as part of our ongoing project design. The Project will not solve Hampshire's water resources challenge alone – we are developing a range of wider solutions to help meet the shortfall we face. These include reducing leakage (up to 50% by 2050) and improving water efficiency to ensure we're all using water wisely. Our Net Zero Plan explains how we are maximising our own energy generation and sourcing energy in the most responsible way across our network. For example, in 2018, we began selecting electricity from energy providers that had a greater proportion of renewable power. We also increased the proportion of renewable power that we generate on site and use to power our treatment processes.

During the early phases of options appraisal for the Project, we explored different solutions for providing a new source of supply. Our decision to progress a water recycling and water transfer solution over desalination was based on many different factors and not just carbon. Whilst water recycling and transfer is inherently an energy intensive process, it requires considerably less energy than desalination and was determined as the most efficient and effective solution overall in providing the quantity of new water required. Our decision to progress water recycling in particular was supported by our regulators and reflects a wider trend by other water companies in bringing forward water recycling schemes as the best-value solution to the water supply challenges being experienced elsewhere. Further detail on our options appraisal process can be found in our 2022 Scheme Development Summary published at our Summer 2022 Consultation.

Preliminary environmental information on carbon and climate change are reported in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. We have included measures in the design

of the Project to minimise carbon emissions throughout its lifecycle, including using resources sustainably and incorporating a design that is energy efficient, low carbon in use, and climate resilient where feasible. We will continue to explore feasible options for using renewable energy sources, produced either on site or linked to any local renewable energy initiatives, as well as energy efficient technologies. Peak energy use associated with the operation of the water recycling plant is only likely to occur during drought conditions, and the energy use associated with the normal operation of the plant is much lower. Carbon emissions associated with the consumption of electricity will be assessed as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment and we will continue to develop the design of the Project to identify measures that could further reduce emissions.

Health

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made about the water recycling technology and in particular that its effectiveness in removing impurities was an unproven process which presented risk to human health from drinking the water produced.

Respondents questioned the potential for a change in taste of the drinking water and whether the drinking water standards would continue to be effective to protect human health.

There were also comments about the proposed works and the impact these would have on people's mental health and wellbeing.

Our response

While relatively new to the UK, water recycling is a tried-and-tested method of water treatment and has been used successfully in other parts of the world for over 40 years. The process includes several stages of treatment including micro- or ultra-filtration, reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation. This multi-barrier treatment process is so effective at stripping out impurities and minerals, that the purified water requires re-mineralising after the treatment process.

Water transferred from the reservoir to our Otterbourne Water Supply Works would then undergo the usual final treatment process for any water source, including chlorination, to meet strict drinking water standards before going into supply to homes and businesses. We commissioned a water recycling pilot to evaluate the effectiveness of recycled water in managing water quality. The pilot, which concluded in 2023, demonstrated that the water recycling treatment process was extremely effective at removing a range of impurities from treated wastewater and capable of producing high quality purified recycled water.

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 the reservoir, all water sent into supply would continue to meet strict regulatory standards for drinking water quality.

As part of our assessments undertaken since our Summer 2022 Consultation, we have been considering the impact of the Project on people's mental health and wellbeing. Our preliminary findings are set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and will be fully reported in our Environmental Statement.

Land quality and ground conditions

Comments raised during consultation

Some respondents asked that we investigate ground conditions at specific locations that have encountered problems from subsidence, such as Bidbury Infant School, and undertake detailed ground investigations in the pre-application stage rather than after the Development Consent Order is granted. One respondent was concerned about excavations taking place during wet winter months that could cause soil damage and cause leaching into a nearby stream.

Comments were made about the suitability of the proposed site for the water recycling plant, as it is a former landfill site where there is the potential risk for release of landfill gas and leachate spreading off-site.

Our response

We have been carefully considering the landfill waste present on the proposed site for the water recycling plant and undertaking various ground investigations since 2022. Our proposal is to locate the proposed water recycling plant predominantly on the western part of the site where the landfill is of a more inert nature, and to ensure any tunnelling works in other areas of landfill follow best practice engineering methods to contain any potentially contaminated materials. The proposed design for tunnel shafts will also ensure ground gas and leachate cannot penetrate through shaft walls. The connecting pipelines between the proposed water recycling plant and Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works will also be below the depth of the landfill.

The design of the Project has not yet been finalised, however, and ground investigations are ongoing to further our understanding of the ground stability and conditions, together with engagement with the Environment Agency and Havant Borough Council. This will inform the required detailed design of ground and tunnelling works at the site and will be comprehensively assessed as part of the land quality and ground conditions assessment in our Environmental Statement.

In relation to subsidence (e.g. at Bidbury Infant School) the proposed tunnel underneath Havant is at a substantial depth (more than 20m) therefore significantly reducing the likelihood of potential impact. An extensive programme of ground investigation is being undertaken aimed at informing the design and construction of the Project and ensuring ground condition risks are understood and minimised. In any location where there is a potential risk of settlement, buildings will be assessed and measures undertaken, including pre and post construction condition surveys and monitoring, where deemed necessary, to manage this.

The preliminary Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan sets out measures that we are considering to minimise and mitigate any impacts and/or disruptions that may arise during the construction phase and includes measures to minimise the release of soils and contaminants from construction sites into the water system.

Land use and agriculture

Comments raised during consultation

Some respondents made general comments about the importance of farmland and green spaces and the need to minimise disruption to agricultural activities (for example, reinstating hedgerows).

Some respondents challenged the need for a 40m wide working width, stating that it is bigger than necessary and would cause significant and unjustified damage to the soil and productivity of the land.

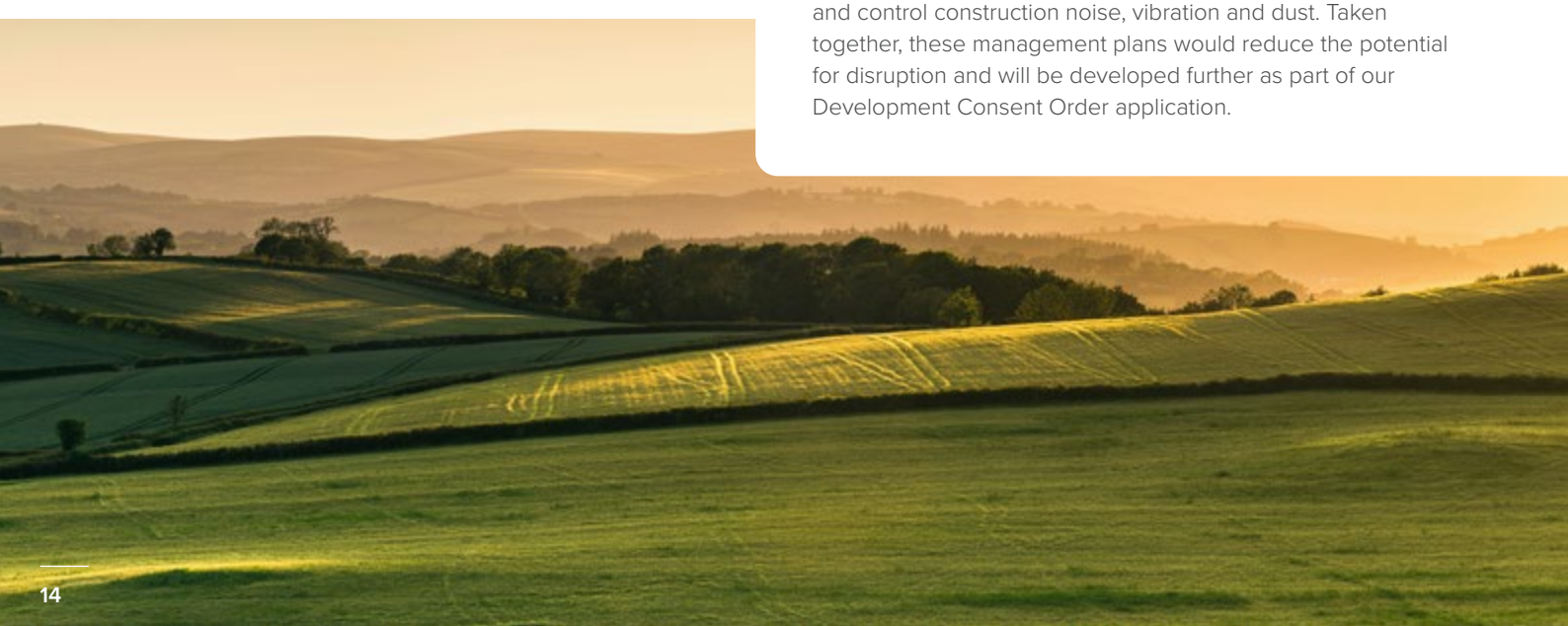
Our response

Throughout the development of the Project, especially the pipeline routes, we have carefully considered potential impacts on land use, including community facilities, green spaces and agricultural land. .

We have undertaken comprehensive environmental studies, including agricultural land classification surveys, and have sought to avoid the permanent loss of agricultural land wherever possible. Feedback from stakeholders and potentially affected landowners has also been considered to help identify proposed pipeline routes that minimise potential impacts on the environment, community facilities, businesses and land interests. We will continue to engage with landowners as the design of the Project is refined and will set out a full assessment of the likely impact of the Project on agricultural land and agricultural businesses in the Environmental Statement. An initial assessment of impacts on agricultural land is outlined in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report.

The working width required for construction of the pipelines has been carefully informed by the dimensions of the pipeline, trench width, size of plant required to dig the trench and lay the pipe, haul road for safe access and storage of soil, pipes and other construction related equipment. The standard working width, for open trench construction in rural areas, will typically be 40m. However, this would be reduced to 20m where the pipelines intersect sensitive areas to minimise effects and disruption. A Reinstatement Plan (which will be contained in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan) will be prepared and submitted with our Development Consent Order application setting out seeding and planting specifications, including plant mixes.

Good construction practices are set out in the preliminary Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan and Draft Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan to manage the effects of construction on land use and agriculture, as well as any disruption to agricultural activities. These comprise measures to reduce the duration and footprint of construction activity, reduce construction traffic impacts and control construction noise, vibration and dust. Taken together, these management plans would reduce the potential for disruption and will be developed further as part of our Development Consent Order application.



Landscape and visual impact

Comments raised during consultation

Points were raised about the landscape and visual impacts of the permanent above ground plant and proposed water recycling plant and the potential for the combined landscape impacts across the whole Project to be significant, particularly given the proximity to the South Downs National Park. We were asked to consider mitigation opportunities as a whole and in sensitive areas, such as Park Place and Wintershill Hall (noted as Historic Gardens) and near to residential properties.

It was requested that if permanent maintenance tracks are required, their impact on the landscape character is assessed.

Numerous respondents noted concerns about the loss of trees and hedgerows giving rise to landscape and visual impacts.

Our response

We have prepared a comprehensive preliminary landscape and visual impact assessment informed by extensive fieldwork. Understandably, this recognises that there is potential for the Project to give rise to combined landscape impacts across a wide area, and also local impacts, especially during the construction phase.

To minimise such impacts, consideration of landscape and visual impacts have informed the development of each section of the proposed pipelineroutes, including where the routes cross existing landscape features and the location of proposed construction compounds. This has resulted in trenchless construction techniques being proposed for sensitive sections, to avoid and retain mature trees and woodland and to narrow the working width where practicable, for example.

Development of the pipeline route to Otterbourne has included choosing a route that is located entirely outside of the South Downs National Park and minimises impacts on its setting, ensuring that there will be no permanent impacts on the National Park or its special qualities.

The emerging results of the landscape and visual impact assessment have also informed the design of the permanent above ground plant and water recycling plant, for example, by carefully siting these features to maximise landscape integration and visual screening. In the case of Break Pressure Tank K at Wintershill Hall, the careful siting of the proposed structures within the existing landscape will help integrate the structure within the existing topography such that only a small part would be above ground. This will minimise its impact on the local landscape and on people's views. Similarly, in the case of Intermediate Pumping Station G at Park Place, the location has been selected because it locates the proposed structures with existing buildings of a similar size to the south and existing vegetation provides screening which can be enhanced through further planting.

We have considered the potential for visual impacts, including on residents and users of public rights of way, with reference to over 100 viewpoints. Design changes to avoid or reduce visual impacts have included moving the location of Break Pressure Tank/Intermediate Pumping Station E on Portsdown Hill so that mature trees form a backdrop in views from the north. Proposed mitigation includes localised land reprofiling and native tree and shrub planting to screen and filter views. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report concludes that the majority of visual impacts would reduce over time as a result of these measures.

Ongoing detailed studies of the features and characteristics of the landscape will inform the landscape and visual impact assessment to be included in the Environmental Statement and will outline best practice measures, such as those to protect mature and veteran trees, and hedgerows.

An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan will be submitted with the Development Consent Order application, which will set out the requirements for the retention, protection and enhancement of existing habitats and for new planting. This will be supported by an illustrative Environmental Masterplan, which will set out the extent and functions of the proposed protection and mitigation measures to support the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and wider Environmental Net Gain opportunities. An illustrative draft Outline Environmental Masterplan is shared as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation.

Marine biodiversity and water quality

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made about the impacts on the shoreline and marine biodiversity by the prospect of releasing 'reject water' from the water recycling plant into the sea. Some respondents made comments about impacts on the marine water quality from the reject water released via the Eastney Long Sea Outfall into the Solent and they wanted to know about the nature of the reject water. Respondents pointed out that there are a number of classified shellfish beds located in Langstone Harbour and requested that we provide justification for the use of the survey data that would be used to inform baseline conditions.

Comments were made about potential adverse impacts on marine habitats in the Hermitage Stream, Langstone Harbour and the Solent, which are all European designated sites under the Habitats Regulations. Comments were made that modelling had not been undertaken to understand if there are any impacts to Langstone Harbour.

Concerns were expressed that in the event of a fracture in the connecting pipeline under Langstone Harbour, there is potential for a leak of treated wastewater from Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works into the harbour, which is a protected area, and that the water recycling plant is too close to it.

Our response

Areas of ecological sensitivity (for example Hermitage Stream and Langstone Harbour) are identified and assessed within the marine biodiversity assessment as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. This considers impacts of the Project on marine ecology and fisheries, including commercially sensitive fish and shellfish species. A Habitats Regulations Assessment is also being undertaken and appropriate mitigation is being identified, where necessary.

Appropriate surveys are being carried out in Langstone Harbour to enable the understanding of the baseline habitats and species to allow any potential impacts from the Project to be identified. The specification of these surveys has been discussed with the Natural England, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation. Modelling of water dispersion is also ongoing for Eastney Long Sea Outfall which will help to identify if and where any changes in water quality may occur and what mitigation measures may be required. This information will be reported in the Environmental Statement.

The pipeline under Hermitage Stream would be constructed using trenchless techniques. It would comply with all required design standards, ensuring the risk of leaks is very low. In addition, the pipeline would be buried at a sufficient depth that would ensure any impacts to water quality would be minimised in the very unlikely event of a leak. We have a standard Incident Management Plan for responding to a water quality failure or pipe rupture during operation, including immediate detection of a rupture through monitoring equipment resulting in the flow through the pipelines being cut off.

The Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works already releases highly treated wastewater into the marine environment from the existing Eastney Long Sea Outfall. The only change as a result of the Project will be that the water containing impurities removed through the water recycling process (known as reject water) will be released at the same location. As a result, the volume of treated wastewater released at Eastney Long Sea Outfall will be reduced (as some of the treated wastewater from Budds Farm will have been diverted to the proposed water recycling plant to be turned into purified recycled water) and will be slightly more saline, though still below full marine salinity. This means that the new treated wastewater composition will be closer to the conditions of the marine environment in which it is being released, in comparison to the existing release. The salinity results are provided in a modelling report presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The final outcomes of our assessment on any change on habitats and species will be set out in the Environmental Statement following completion of surveys.

Noise and vibration

Comments raised during consultation

Concerns were raised about potential impacts from noise and vibration associated with construction and operation of the Project, in particular from tunnelling activities between the water recycling plant and Portsdown Hill.

Our response

Noise and vibration effects during both construction and operation of the Project have been considered as part of the Project's design and are being assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Preliminary information on likely significant effects is presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report available as part of our Summer 2024 Consultation. Our assessment shows that there could be the potential for significant temporary noise and vibration impacts on the closest receptors to tunnelling works. The potential for temporary construction noise and vibration impacts is dependent on the construction activities being undertaken, however.

Mitigation measures have been included as part of the Project's design to minimise and manage noise and vibration effects. This has included consideration of noise and vibration impacts in the options appraisal process and development of the Project to reduce noise and vibration impacts at sensitive receptors by maximising the distance from sources of potentially high noise and vibration levels where practicable and using existing landforms or structures to provide screening. Best practice control measures will also be applied during construction, such as scheduling works to minimise disruption during sensitive times and selecting quiet construction plant and working methods where feasible. These are included in the preliminary Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan that is being shared at the Summer 2024 Consultation . Assessment and mitigation design work is ongoing and will be reported in the Environmental Statement, with final mitigation measures to be set out in the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan produced by the contractor, which will be in accordance with the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to be submitted with the Development Consent Order application.

Socio-economics, tourism, and recreation

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made about the impacts of construction activities on communities and on recreational and community areas such as allotments, schools, nurseries, community facilities (e.g. medical centres), open space and visitor attractions relevant for tourism. The loss of potential employment at the site of the proposed water recycling plant was raised.

Comments also related to the impacts on potential recreational activities at Havant Thicket Reservoir due to the presence of recycled water in the reservoir.

We were asked to look at the feasibility of whether other community infrastructure improvements could be completed in line with the Project, such as building cycle routes on the route of the pipeline to connect settlements in the south of the district.

Our response

A preliminary assessment of effects of the construction and operation of the Project on socio-economics, tourism, and recreational receptors is provided within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. This provides information on the likely direction and duration of effects and whether these effects are likely to be significant prior to reporting on the full assessment in the Environmental Statement which will be submitted with our Development Consent Order application.

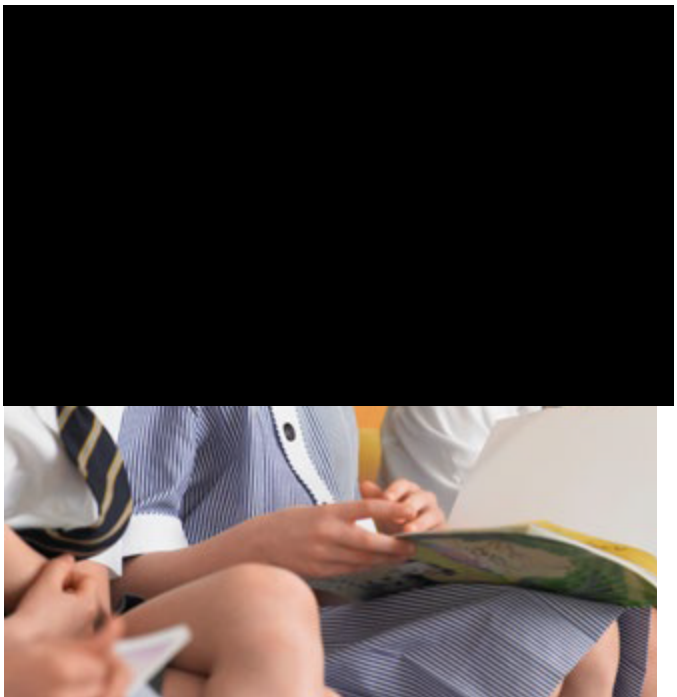
The proposed underground pipeline will mainly be below ground and when developing the route we have sought to avoid sensitive receptors including local businesses, wherever practicable.

Based on the findings of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, the effects of the Project on local communities are likely to be experienced predominantly during construction. As part of our Development Consent Order application, we will include proposed design measures to mitigate or avoid effects of the Project from construction, operation and decommissioning, as well as a suite of relevant management plans that will include measures and commitments to manage construction activities.

The corridors presented at the Summer 2022 Consultation were developed to avoid residential properties and private gardens as far as practicable. We considered potential impacts on communities through the options appraisal process, which included impacts on the road network, community facilities, public rights of way, as well as noise, vibration and air quality effects. Further work to understand, assess and mitigate these impacts will be undertaken as part of the ongoing Project development and environmental assessment processes.

In relation to potential impacts on recreational activities at Havant Thicket Reservoir, the Project is not expected to compromise the delivery of any of the amenity provisions secured through the reservoir planning permission for which Portsmouth Water is responsible for delivering.Regarding the loss of employment at the proposed water recycling plant site, the proposed water recycling plant is broadly consistent with the site allocation for employment use and would support some employment on site. No existing employment is being lost from the site as it is undeveloped, although it is recognised that the proposed water recycling plant will not create as many jobs on site as an alternative commercial or warehousing development. The construction of the Project in its entirety, however, has the potential to generate several hundred construction jobs across Hampshire during the construction period.

In relation to the potential for undertaking other community infrastructure projects alongside the Project, we are engaging with stakeholders to explore potential opportunities for delivering both environmental and community benefits and improvements. However, it will not be possible to create new cycle routes or footpaths along the pipeline route given that this predominantly crosses through private land. The majority of land above the trenched sections of pipeline will be restored to its original use prior to construction works.



Traffic and transport

Comments raised during consultation

We received comments about the need for a Transport Assessment to be undertaken due to the scale of the construction activities associated with our Project. Respondents such as the local highways authorities provided comments on planning requirements, interface with other developments under construction and clarity was sought on our proposed construction methodologies for crossing specific roads.

Respondents made comments around construction traffic, highlighting to us that the local area has many narrow roads that they view as being unsuitable for an increase in traffic, the need for disruptions to the road network to be kept to a minimum, safety on roads from construction traffic, impact on amenities and emergency routes and Royal Mail operations.

Our response

A Transport Assessment is being undertaken to assess impacts to the road network and users of public rights of way and will be submitted alongside our Development Consent Order application. Engagement with local highway authorities and other stakeholders regarding the Transport Assessment is also ongoing. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report also considers the potential for traffic and transport impacts during the construction and operation phases of the Project. This includes potential effects resulting from delays to road users, and the potential for reductions in safety and amenity as a result of construction vehicle movements because of the Project.

Whilst there will be some short-term temporary effects on road users during construction, measures are being embedded into the Project design to avoid and minimise impacts where practicable, including crossing all motorways, A roads and railways using trenchless construction. Where we need to close a road or footpath, this would be done for as short a time as possible to reduce impacts on local communities. It is anticipated that any road closures could last up to two weeks but be no more than one month.

A number of plans will be prepared to minimise impacts during construction, including a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan, a draft of which is shared as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation. This plan will provide detail on the routes that would be designated for use by construction vehicles, and detail of construction traffic management measures that would be implemented to mitigate any impacts and/or disruption that may arise during the construction phase. Any necessary road or lane closures will be kept to a minimum and managed in consultation with the relevant highway authority. Other management plans that will be secured in the Development Consent Order include a Framework Construction Worker Travel Plan, Framework Traffic Management Strategy and Rights of Way Management Plan.

Walking, cycling and horse riding

Comments raised during consultation

Respondents asked about what impacts construction might have on recreational routes, public rights of way network, bridleways and footpaths along the pipeline route, the safety and amenity of horse riders on alternative busier routes and the requirement to engage with Hampshire County Council to authorise any closures of public rights of way.

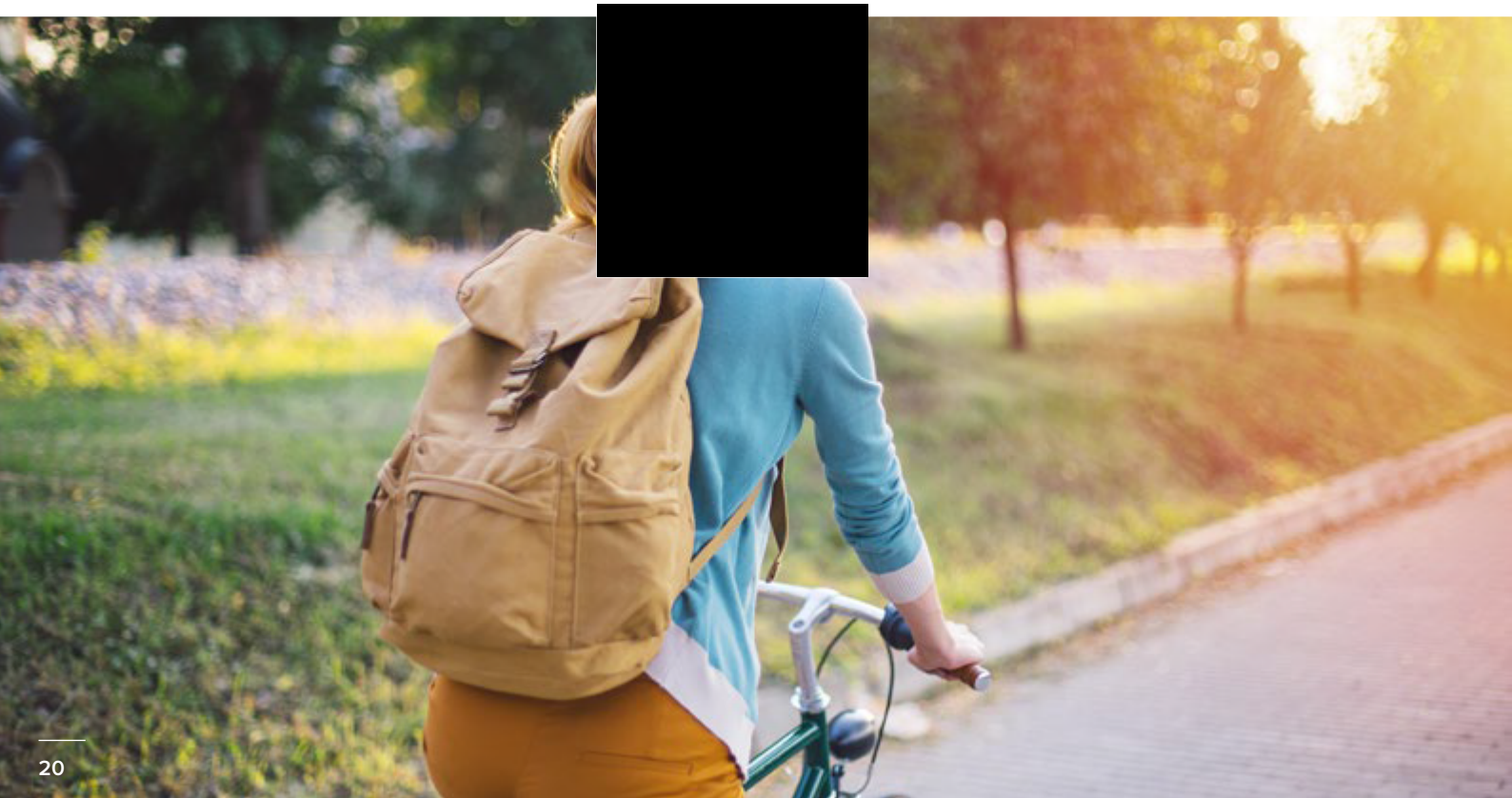
Suggestions were made to create pedestrian and cycle access along the pipeline route and provide links to other footpaths.

Our response

As part of the design process, we have been identifying each Public Right of Way in the area of our proposed construction works. During the construction phase, some of these may need to be temporarily closed or diverted to facilitate the construction of the Project. We will minimise disruption either through use of specific construction techniques, provision of alternative routes or by careful timing of construction activities. As explained in Section 3.14 above, a Ri ghts of Way Management Plan will be prepared and submitted as part of the Development Consent Order application. This document will outline any temporary closures or diversions that may be required during the construction phase of the Project and provide detail on the measures we will use to notify the public when a Public Right of Way may be impacted, and if there are alternative routes available.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report considers how the amenity of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders may be impacted by temporary increases in traffic on the surrounding road network during construction.

Although we are engaging with stakeholders to explore potential opportunities for delivering both environmental and community benefits and improvements, it will not be possible to create new cycle routes or footpaths along the pipeline route given that this predominantly crosses through private land. The majority of land above the trenched sections of pipeline will be restored to its original use prior to construction works.



Water resources and flood risk

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made relating to the risk and impacts of tunnelling through the chalk aquifer on the drinking water source at Havant and Bedhampton Springs and adverse impact on water quality in the streams below the reservoir.

Points were raised around flood risk, for example avoiding locating above ground plant in areas of high or medium surface water flood risk, requiring appropriate drainage for any new impermeable surfaces and measures to avoid displacing water to other locations.

Our response

We understand that the chalk aquifer that supports Portsmouth Water's drinking water abstraction at Havant and Bedhampton Springs is sensitive. The tunnel design process is being undertaken in close consultation with Portsmouth Water to carefully review the risk of the tunnel near Havant and Bedhampton Springs impacting groundwater flows. A detailed Hydrogeological Risk Assessment is being undertaken to inform the design of the tunnel and develop any site-specific mitigation measures that might be required to manage risks to public water supply.

Water entering the new Havant Thicket Reservoir will predominantly come from spring water from Bedhampton Springs and purified recycled water from the water recycling plant. Other lesser sources of water will come from rainwater and streams flowing into the reservoir. Extensive water quality modelling is being undertaken in collaboration with Portsmouth Water to investigate the effects of adding recycled water on the reservoir water quality and downstream watercourses, including Riders Lane Stream, Hermitage Stream and Langstone Harbour. The outputs of the modelling and assessment of effects on the reservoir and its associated watercourses, together with any required mitigation, will be reported in the Environmental Statement to be submitted with our Development Consent Order application.

Impacts on flood risk have been considered as part of the design of the Project. Where possible, above ground infrastructure has been located to avoid areas of high or medium flood risk. Where this is not practicable, above ground infrastructure will be designed and managed to ensure its resilience and to avoid increasing off-site flood risk. Suitable measures to prevent impacts during construction and operation are being developed in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. A drainage strategy which conforms to the Lead Local Flood Authority's guidance will be developed for each site and presented as part of the Flood Risk Assessment submitted with the Development Consent Order application.

4. Construction

Comments raised during consultation

A number of comments were made requesting more detail relating to construction methods, where compounds could be sited and working hours. Some comments said the width for the working area was excessive, and queried how disruption would impact the amenity of the local community and potentially cause traffic, noise, odour problems, and how these impacts would be addressed.

Some landowners queried the ability to use land once the ground is reinstated following open cut pipeline installation methods.

Our response

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have progressed from preferred pipeline corridors to identify proposed pipeline routes and sites for above ground plant. As part of our Summer 2024 Consultation, we have set out the construction methods that are likely to be used to construct these pipelines. This includes providing details of the locations where trenchless and tunnelled construction would be used. We have also set out the number and location of construction compounds that would be required to facilitate construction of the pipelines, water recycling plant and above ground plant.

To construct the proposed pipeline routes, we will require a working width along the length of the proposed pipeline routes as well as construction compounds at intervals to provide material storage and welfare facilities. We have developed the proposed pipeline routes and construction compounds to minimise impact on residential properties by moving the draft Order Limits away from residential properties, where practicable. This will ensure that effects including noise, vibration and dust are reduced. As the Environmental Impact Assessment process progresses, we will also develop further mitigation measures to reduce these effects.

The typical working width for construction of the proposed pipeline routes using open cut construction would be 40 metres. This has been determined by considering the size of the pipeline, the trench width, the space required to store materials and the machinery needed. In some locations the working width could be reduced further, for example when the proposed pipeline routes intersect areas of vegetation, such as hedgerows or trees.

Following installation of the proposed pipelines, the majority of land above them can be returned to its original use where practicable. Permanent land rights would be sought with landowners to allow us to access the pipeline if maintenance is required or if there is an emergency. Building over the pipeline will not be allowed, and we may restrict the planting of certain plant species above and in proximity of the pipelines to ensure that roots do not damage them.

The typical working hours for construction of the Project will be as follows:

- Monday to Friday: 07:00 to 19:00 in summer and 07:00 to 17:30 in winter
- Saturday: 07:00 to 17:00

Works outside these typical working hours or overnight (including Sundays and bank holidays) may be required for the construction of some aspects of the Project, including, but not restricted to, trenchless crossings and tunnelling, construction works within or near highways and railways and abnormal load deliveries. This may be as a result of ground conditions that require continuous working or works within highways to minimise traffic disruption.

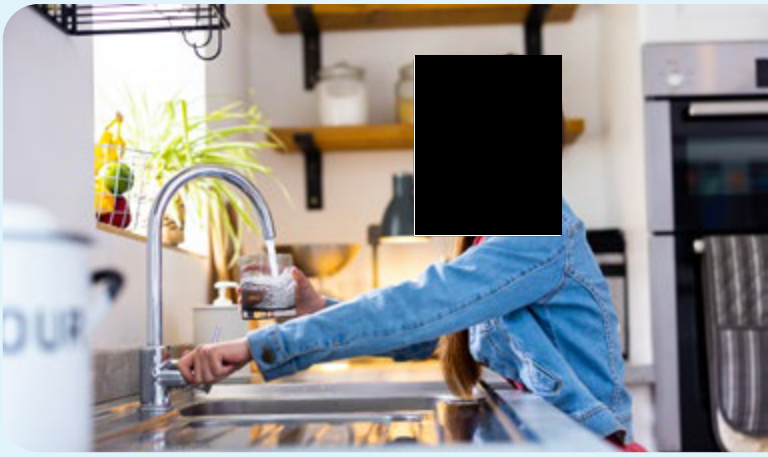
The location of the proposed pipeline routes, above ground plant sites and construction compounds can be found in the Book of Plans included as part of our Summer 2024 Consultation. These also show the draft Limits of Deviation for both the pipelines and above ground plant, which shows the area within which the pipeline and above ground plant would be located permanently. The Book of Plans also shows the temporary access points that would be used by construction vehicles, and permanent access points.

Details on the process we have undertaken to develop the proposed pipeline routes, above ground plant and construction compounds is set out in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary. As the Project has developed, we have engaged with relevant stakeholders (including landowners, local authorities and statutory environmental bodies) on the location of the proposed pipeline routes, above ground plant and construction compounds.

We have developed a preliminary Outline Construction Environment Management Plan that provides a framework to manage construction activities and mitigate impacts. We have also developed a Draft Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan that will support the management of traffic related impacts that may arise during construction to inform the preparation of detailed management plans prior to construction. A Framework Transport Management Strategy, detailing how and when works will be completed in the public highway, will also be a prepared.

In addition, a Framework Construction Worker Travel Plan will be prepared for submission with the Development Consent Order application, detailing measures to reduce car trips during construction.

5. Infrastructure



Pipelines

Comments raised during consultation

At the Summer 2022 Consultation, we presented our preferred pipeline corridor which was a wider area of land within which the proposed pipeline routes would be located.

We received feedback about the development of the pipelines, including how potential effects on the environment, nearby residents and roads have been considered in selecting the preferred pipeline corridor. Some comments also asked why we had discounted more direct pipeline routes that intersected with the South Downs National Park.

There were responses that supported the selection of a tunnel to connect the water recycling plant and Havant Thicket Reservoir over an open cut option that would be within the road network. There were also responses questioning whether the pipelines to the reservoir that we were proposing could be combined with Portsmouth Water's pipelines between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Two tunnelled pipeline route options were presented to connect the water recycling plant to the ridge of Portsdown Hill. Whilst the majority of responses had no preference of route option, of those who did, the southern route was preferred over the northern route.

Two options were also shown at Fisher's Pond, near Eastleigh. The majority of respondents had no preference but of those who did, most preferred the southern route.

We also presented two options for the crossing of the River Itchen near Brambridge. Most respondents did not indicate a preference, but of those who did the preference was split equally between the northern and southern options.

We received feedback on the intersection of the preferred pipeline corridor with Welborne Garden Village and the potential for effects on the delivery of this development which is providing 6,000 homes north of Fareham.

Comments were made on the anticipated flows through the pipelines and the capacity of the water recycling plant. Respondents asked what measures would be taken to limit leakage from the proposed pipelines. Feedback was also received asking whether additional infrastructure would be required at Otterbourne Water Supply Works.

Our response

The preferred pipeline corridors presented as part of our Summer 2022 Consultation were selected in line with a set of criteria that was developed to ensure that effects on the environment were reduced. We selected pipeline corridor options that did not intersect with the South Downs National Park because of the protection that planning and environmental policy gives to the sensitive environmental and landscape qualities of the National Park. Pipeline corridors that were a greater distance from residential properties were generally selected.

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have developed the preferred pipeline corridor into proposed pipeline routes, taking into account the potential effects on the environment and residential properties. We have also considered the intersections of the proposed pipeline route with roads to ensure that effects on key transport routes are minimised. The 2024 Scheme Development Summary sets out the process we have undertaken to develop the proposed pipeline routes.

Open cut (trenched) installation methods would be used for constructing the majority of the proposed pipelines. For some sections of the pipeline routes, there would be some crossings that would not be suited to open cut installation. Examples of these could be roads, railways, waterways, sensitive environmental areas and other areas where construction could be restricted.

In relation to the pipelines between the water recycling plant and Havant Thicket Reservoir, which pass through Havant, our preferred option is to connect into pipelines that are being proposed by Portsmouth Water between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir. This would require us to develop pipelines between the water recycling plant and Bedhampton Springs to connect into these. In the event that Portsmouth Water's pipelines between Bedhampton Springs and the reservoir are not consented and delivered, we are still progressing our own tunnelled option which we are consulting on as part of our Summer 2024 Consultation. Further information on these options is provided within the Consultation Brochure and in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary.

For the pipeline between the water recycling plant and Portsdown Hill, we undertook further investigations and evaluations following the Summer 2022 Consultation to consider the two tunnelled options. We selected the southern option as the northern option was considered to have a greater impact on groundwater and the required intermediate shafts would be located within open space. The southern option would also integrate better with the location of Break Pressure Tank/Intermediate Pumping Station E. Further information on the process undertaken is provided in Section D, page 41 of the Consultation Brochure and in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary.

Following the Summer 2022 Consultation, we also undertook further investigations and evaluations of the two options at Fisher's Pond. We selected the southern option, as the northern option would have resulted in major transport impacts. This was because the northern option was located within Portsmouth Road (B2177) and Winchester Road (B3354). Further information on the process undertaken is provided in Section L, page 48 of the Consultation Brochure and in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary.

At the crossing of the River Itchen, we considered further the two options for the crossing of the watercourse. The southern option was selected, as the northern option was located within the chalk aquifer and the South Downs National Park, whereas the southern option was outside of these areas. Further information on the process undertaken is provided in Section M, page 49 of the Consultation Brochure and in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary.

In relation to the pipelines between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works and the water recycling plant, these pipelines would be located at a suitable depth below the Hermitage Stream to ensure that no direct effects are likely to the watercourse during the construction phase.

All the pipelines would use materials and be designed in line with the relevant standards and industry guidelines. At this stage we have not confirmed the materials that would be used, as these will be determined following the appointment of a contractor to undertake the Project if our Development Consent Order application is approved. Leak detection technology would be implemented along the proposed pipeline routes, to ensure that leaks are identified. Valves would also be implemented along the proposed pipeline routes to limit the volume of water that could leak from the pipelines. A programme of inspection would be required in order to maintain and inspect the pipelines. This includes surveys, security and maintenance visits, pipeline testing, and condition assessments.

Our preferred pipeline corridor that we presented at the Summer 2022 Consultation passed through the site of Welborne Garden Village. As we have developed the Project, we have been engaging with the developer of Welborne Garden Village as well as Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. This engagement highlighted challenges relating to coinciding construction programmes, and that the proposed pipeline route may be constructed in close proximity to residential properties delivered by Welborne Garden Village. As a result, we considered a range of different pipeline route options, and selected a route that did not intersect with Welborne Garden Village. Further information on the process undertaken is provided in Section F, page 43 of the Consultation Brochure and in the 2024 Scheme Development Summary.

The Project is currently only anticipated to operate at maximum flows during a drought. In this scenario, the water recycling plant would produce approximately 60 million litres per day of recycled water which would be transferred to Havant Thicket Reservoir. Approximately 90 million litres per day of source water would be transferred from the reservoir to Otterbourne Water Supply Works during a drought. Outside of a drought, the water recycling plant could be required to produce approximately 20 million litres per day, however the output could be decreased or increased depending on need for water at Otterbourne or the reservoir. The average expected flow to Otterbourne is 30 million litres per day. Further information on the flows of the Project can be found in Section 3, page 16 of the Consultation Brochure and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

Upgrades to Otterbourne Water Supply Works are currently planned to address Drinking Water Inspectorate water treatment requirements and would facilitate the treatment of flows provided by the Project. These upgrades are expected to be completed by 2030 well in advance of the operation of the Project. Any upgrades to Otterbourne Water Supply Works would be subject to a separate consenting process.

Above Ground Plant

Comments raised during consultation

At the Summer 2022 Consultation we presented wider zones for the above ground plant and explained that we would site the above ground plant within those zones following further site selection after the consultation. We also explained that the above ground plant for the Project consisted of intermediate pumping stations and break pressure tanks.

We received comments requesting further detail on the location and design of the above ground plant, as well as information on the infrastructure required at the above ground plant sites.

Comments were made on the emissions, vehicle movements and access arrangements for the above ground plant.

Our response

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have undertaken further development of the proposed pipeline routes, enabling us to further understand the above ground plant that would be required to support the flow of water within the pipelines. We have also undertaken site selection of the above ground plant, to select sites within the wider zones.

The sites for above ground plant are summarised below, more detail is set out in the Consultation Brochure.

- Break Pressure Tank/Intermediate Pumping Station E which is located north of Portsmouth.
- Intermediate Pumping Station F which is located south of Crockerhill
- Intermediate Pumping Station G which is located west of Wickham.
- Break Pressure Tank K which is located north of Durley Street and west of Lower Upham.

The 2024 Scheme Development Summary sets out the process that has been undertaken to develop the above ground plant and select sites.

Since the Summer 2022 Consultation, we have also developed indicative designs and layouts for the above ground plant. The Book of Plans illustrate what the above ground plant could look like. Detailed design for the above ground plant would be developed following the approval of our Development Consent Order application. To ensure good design we have developed a draft illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan which sets out initial design principles. We have also established maximum size parameters for the above ground plant.

Permanent access points for the above ground plant are shown in the Book of Plans.

Once operational, minimal impacts from emissions and vehicle movements are anticipated at the above ground plant sites given the low level of use. Further detail can be found in Chapter 3 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, its associated Non-Technical Summary and the Consultation Brochure as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation.

Water Recycling Plant site

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made on the rationale to select Site 72 (at Harts Farm Way in Havant) as the proposed location for the water recycling plant with respondents asking questions on the site selection process set out in the 2022 Scheme Development Summary presented at the Summer 2022 Consultation and citing the current planning permission on the site for the development of new employment units.

As a former landfill site, comments were made about risk of landfill gas, danger of leaching into the Hermitage Stream and Langstone Harbour, the need for screening and landscaping.

We also received feedback on the water recycling process, the safety of recycled water as a source for drinking water, and the impact of recycled water on water quality within Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Our response

Site 72 was selected following a detailed site selection process, which considered a number of different options for the Water Recycling Plant, as set out in the 2022 Scheme Development Summary. Site 72 is allocated in the relevant local plan for general industrial uses, meaning that the principle of development is considered to be acceptable for the proposed Water Recycling Plant.

Following the Summer 2022 Consultation we also undertook a further review of the site selection process that reconsidered a range of sites for the water recycling plant and assessed these using up-to-date information. This review reaffirmed that Site 72 continued to be the most preferred site for the proposed water recycling plant. Further information on this process is provided in the Consultation Brochure and the 2024 Scheme Development Summary. We have been engaging with Havant Borough Council, the local planning authority, throughout this process.

We are undertaking investigations and developing mitigation measures to ensure that construction of the water recycling plant and associated pipelines would minimise any impacts associated with the landfill. Our current proposals for the water recycling plant site are to locate development predominantly on the western part of the site where the landfill is of a more inert nature, and to ensure any tunnelling works in other areas of landfill follow best practice engineering methods to contain any contamination, The proposed design for tunnel shafts will also ensure ground gas and leachate are unable to penetrate through shaft walls. The connecting pipelines between the water recycling plant and Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works will also be below the depth of the landfill.

Construction within the landfill would be undertaken in line with relevant guidance and standards and would be controlled by management plans that would form part of our Development Consent Order application. We are also continuing to engage with key stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Havant Borough Council on our approach to construction of the water recycling plant. A preliminary assessment of the environmental effects is set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

Water recycling is used around the world as a safe and sustainable source of drinking water supplies. The Project is one of ten water recycling schemes currently being developed in the UK. Currently, the water that comes out of your taps is taken from the environment and treated to a high standard to be safe to drink. After you've used it, we collect and treat the wastewater and return it to the environment once more. The cycle then repeats. When water is in the environment, natural processes such as filtration through soil and dilution with other water sources reduce impurities. Water recycling technology speeds this up and improves the natural process. Water recycling plants use advanced treatment techniques to turn treated wastewater into purified recycled water. Special membranes are used to remove salts and a range of other impurities. In fact, so much is removed from the water that some essential minerals such as calcium and magnesium have to be added back in.

Water entering the new Havant Thicket Reservoir will predominantly come from spring water from Bedhampton Springs and purified recycled water from the water recycling plant. Other lesser sources of water will come from rainwater and streams flowing into the reservoir. Extensive water quality modelling is being undertaken in collaboration with Portsmouth Water to investigate the effects of the addition of recycled water on reservoir water quality. The outputs of the modelling, together with any required mitigation, will be fully reported in the Environmental Statement to be submitted with our Development Consent Order application.

6. Land ownership

Comments raised during consultation

Comments were made by landowners, business owners and operators who could be affected by the Project, including comments relating to loss of value, subsidence in tunnel sections, and compensation.

Our response

We will need to access, use and acquire land either on a temporary or permanent basis to construct and operate the Project. This involves securing interests in land to deliver the Project.

Freehold land interests will be required on a permanent basis to construct and operate the water recycling plant and above ground plant, such as pumping stations and break pressure tanks, which, upon completion of the work, will be fenced off for security and operational reasons. Access rights will also be required to construct and maintain the pipelines. We may also need land for environmental mitigation and enhancements.

We are already undertaking the necessary engagement with potentially affected land interests and this will continue throughout the consenting process. Where land interests are affected by the Project, entitlement to compensation will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the nature of the interest and how that interest is impacted.

In relation to subsidence, the proposed tunnels are at a substantial depths (20-80m), significantly reducing the likelihood of potential impact. An extensive programme of ground investigation is aimed at informing the design and construction of the project and ensuring ground condition risks are understood and minimised. In any locations where there is a potential risk of settlement, buildings, will be assessed and measures undertaken, including pre and post construction condition surveys and monitoring, where deemed necessary, to manage this.

7. Planning

Need for the Project

Comments raised during consultation

Many respondents supported the need for the Project and were broadly supportive of using water recycling technology to supply future needs. The benefit to the future sustainability of the River Itchen was also supported by some respondents, as was the potential to increase resilience within the wider water network.

Some respondents questioned whether the Project is the appropriate way to deliver safe drinking water in an environmentally responsible way.

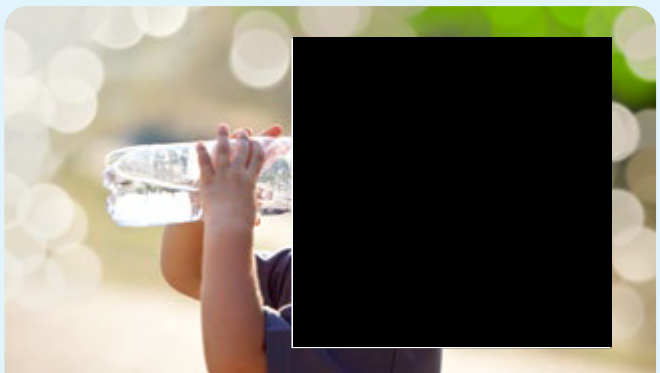
Further information was requested to demonstrate why water recycling is needed, as opposed to other solutions.

It was commented that the Development Consent Order should be drafted to provide the necessary consents to allow a pipeline to be operating by 2029 and that all best endeavours must be used to stop abstractions in droughts by 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Our response

As a water company, it is our responsibility to provide our customers with a reliable and wholesome supply of water while also protecting the environment. Hampshire has always depended on its chalk stream rivers, including the River Test and River Itchen, as well as the underground chalk aquifers that feed them, to supply its water.

Reductions in the amount of water Southern Water can take from the River Test and River Itchen (and the aquifers that feed them) were significantly reduced by the Environment Agency in 2018 to protect these rare and sensitive chalk stream environments. These reductions resulted in a significant deficit in the availability of water supplies for customers, which, when coupled with other factors, amounts to a current shortfall during a drought of around 166 million litres of water a day. This situation is made more challenging by our growing population and changing climate. Droughts are becoming more frequent and severe, and continuing to take water from these rivers when flows are already low poses a real risk to these precious ecosystems. All this means that we have to find new sustainable sources of water for our communities and the local economy.



A combination of demand management measures, such as policies aim at reducing the amount of water that customers each use, increased targets to reduce leakage in our existing network and new water resource infrastructure are needed to make up this shortfall. Our current Water Resources Management Plan established the need for a major new strategic water resource solution in Hampshire to address the significant water supply shortfall. Our investigation of this solution through the RAPID regulatory process identified the Project as the preferred solution to help tackle this shortfall.

The Project is identified as a key strategic solution in our new draft Water Resources Management Plan and is also selected within the strategic regional water resources plan (awaiting publication) prepared by Water Resources South East, as a new regional water resource solution to be in use by 2035. Water recycling is emerging in water company Water Resources Management Plans as a key approach in providing new water supplies, which doesn't involve taking new water supplies from the environment that we are trying to protect.

Regarding comments around timing for our Development Consent Order application and operation of the scheme, we are working hard to secure consent and deliver the Project at the earliest opportunity, but it is crucial that we follow the necessary consenting, environmental assessment, regulatory and other processes to deliver this complex project effectively and in the right way.

Alternative solutions

Comments raised during consultation

Numerous comments were received that suggested we look at other options to meet the supply deficit. Comments were received that considered desalination as a better solution to address water supply shortages and the perception that not enough research has gone into future needs. Some respondents said that the old power station at Fawley should be used, and the resulting salt used as a by-product rather than pumping it back into the sea in a high concentration. Comments suggested whether alternative water recycling solutions had been considered and why we were not progressing these. This included using Peel Common Wastewater Treatment Works located south of Fareham as a source of treated wastewater for water recycling. Additionally, there were comments asking whether recycled water could be released to the River Itchen before abstraction from the lower Itchen, rather than using Havant Thicket Reservoir as an environmental buffer for recycled water.

On the use of multiple smaller schemes, suggestions included using sustainable drainage systems to reintroduce water into the local aquifer, storing excess winter water from rivers in underground aquifers for later abstraction and creating more storage areas/reservoirs.

Regarding demand management measures, some respondents thought more challenging targets could be set to achieve greater leakage reduction or a more ambitious programme for mains renewal implemented. Comments also expressed that the Project should be more ambitious and utilise the pipeline to also receive run-off rainwater and stormwater from areas it is routed through. It should also be a source of lower grade water supply for agricultural, industrial and recreational (for example watering sports fields or large commercial or council gardens) use. Other initiatives should also be introduced and promoted such as the introduction by Southern Water of water butts and the government scheme for farmers to install large rain catchment devices.

There were comments raised that water recycling could be a very expensive option, especially as a drought resilience asset and that it was considered better to initiate a national strategic review of water provision.

Some comments were made regarding a perceived lack of transparency with key information redacted in the RAPID Gate 2 documents; the scoring of options is not visible or available to challenge.

Our response

The Project would help to protect Hampshire's iconic chalk streams by reducing our reliance on rivers. This means we'll be able to take less water from the environment during a drought when nature needs it most. This new source of water will not solve Hampshire's water resources challenge alone and we are developing a range of solutions to help meet the shortfall we face. These include reducing leakage (by up to 50% by 2050) and improving water efficiency to ensure we're all using water wisely.

An extensive options appraisals process was undertaken to consider alternatives. This considered a range of factors including impact on the environmental, deliverability and best-value. The Project was selected as it had a greater level of resilience to future droughts, a greater level of flexibility and fewer environmental impacts in comparison to other options considered. Further information about the options appraisal process undertaken to date to select the Project as our preferred solution can be foundin our 2022 Scheme Development Summary published as part of our Summer 2022 Consultation. An updated 2024 Scheme Development Summary is also provided with our Summer 2024 Consultation to show how the Project has developed so far.

Desalination at Fawley in the New Forest National Park was considered as an option, but our investigations, and feedback from Natural England and the Environment Agency, showed that this was not the right solution for this area given its potential for adverse impacts on designated ecological sites in the Solent and the New Forest National Park. Section 3 of the 2022 Scheme Development Summary details the options considered and appraisal process undertaken which resulted in the desalination option not being progressed. Our updated 2024 Scheme Development Summary also summarises this process.

We also considered a range of different water recycling options, including using Peel Common Wastewater Treatment Works as a source for water recycling. On its own, Peel Common would not be able to provide the required volume of treated wastewater for recycling during a drought. Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works was selected at it is one of our largest wastewater treatment works and therefore could provide the required volume of treated wastewater. Additionally, the Project supplements recycled water with spring water from Havant Thicket Reservoir, and therefore is not wholly reliant on producing recycled water. In response to suggestions to pump drinking water into aquifers for later abstraction, this is not feasible at the scale required in Hampshire as the aquifers are "not confined", this means that water put into them would not stay there therefore negating their use as storage for future supplies.

The option of releasing recycled water to the River Itchen was considered but rejected at an early stage due to concerns about its potential impact on the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest and its ability to produce the required volume of water.

8. Consultation process

Comments raised during consultation

Numerous comments were received stating a perceived lack of information available and questioning whether the consultation had received the type of attention or coverage expected of a major change to how drinking water is stored and produced. Respondents commented that they would like to see more drop-in sessions; some of the consultation documents were too complicated, and the maps could have been easier to read. Some felt that the consultation was insufficiently publicised, as it was felt that advertisements and posters did not have a wide enough reach. Several comments were expressed about not knowing the impacts of the Project and the exact pipeline routes.

Our response

Our Summer 2022 Consultation was undertaken at an early stage of project design so we could seek views on our initial emerging proposals. The information presented was necessarily high-level in many respects as it was provided well before we had undertaken more detailed development of our proposals and related assessments. It is generally accepted good practice to consult early when a project is at a formative stage, so feedback can help inform its development. That's why we consulted on options for where pipelines could broadly be located (i.e. corridors) rather than a pipeline route that had already been fixed.

Our consultations on this Project should also be viewed alongside the long-term strategies in our published and draft Water Resources Management Plans that provide information and consulted on the need for a new water resource. Additionally, further engagement with customers on any new source of drinking water would take place much closer to when that source is expected to enter supply.

In terms of coverage and promotion of our Summer 2022 Consultation, we ran a six-week, non-statutory consultation, sending out almost 30,000 letters to those in the primary consultation zone around the Project. We placed half-page colour adverts over three weeks in the Southern Daily Echo, Hampshire Chronicle and The News (Portsmouth), and ran a social media outreach programme that ran throughout the six weeks of the Consultation. We sent posters to parish councils, and other social hubs like churches, community centres and libraries. In 2022, we also launched a dedicated website which hosted a virtual room. The virtual room afforded the public with the opportunity to view consultation materials without needing to attend an in-person event. We hosted six in person events in proximity to the pipeline corridors and three online sessions across three consecutive weeks at different times to accommodate for different groups. Reference copies of the consultation materials were also located at 9 different deposit points including libraries and community hubs. We made sure to accommodate those who did and did not have access to either the internet or appropriate viewing technology.

Our Summer 2024 statutory Consultation will be eight weeks in length. As part of this, we have produced a suite of documents that provide a substantial amount of information about the project and how it has been developed since the 2022 Consultation. We hope that our consultation materials provide the right balance of high-level information with more detailed technical content to cater for people's different interests and requirements.

Our Summer 2024 Consultation has used a range of approaches and media to maximise awareness of the Project and the consultation. These are more extensive than the Summer 2022 Consultation and have been discussed with host local authorities through the Statement of Community Consultation formal consultation process to ensure that the Consultation is as accessible and comprehensive as possible. These approaches have been designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the Consultation in a way that is accessible and convenient to them, including:

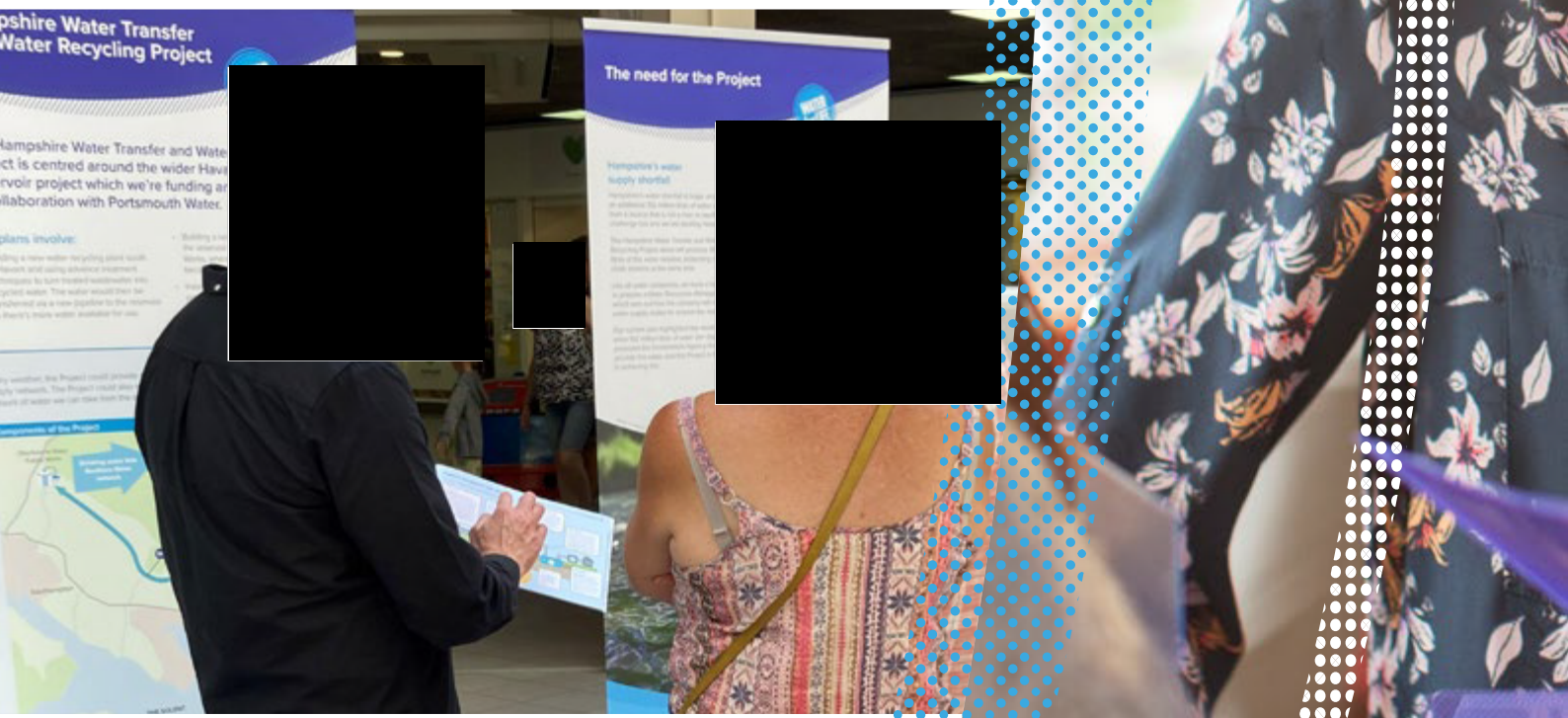
- Letters sent to landowners, tenants and businesses within the draft Order Limits, stakeholders and those with an interest in the Project
- Leaflets sent directly to residents living within the vicinity of the proposed pipeline routes
- Posters sent to parish council offices and other community hubs such as community centres and libraries
- Adverts and statutory notices published in the following publications: Hampshire Chronicle, Hampshire Independent, The News (Portsmouth), and Southern Daily Echo
- Promotion using various Social Media channels such as Facebook and Instagram
- Nine Deposit Locations where all consultation documents can be viewed
- Six Public consultation events at locations across the extent of the Project
- A dedicated Consultation Website.

9. What happens next

Considering responses raised during the Summer 2024 Consultation

Once the Summer 2024 Consultation has closed, we will collate and analyse the responses received. We will carefully consider all issues raised and will have regard to this feedback when finalising the proposed application. As part of the Development Consent Order 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 comments raised in the Consultation and our response to them.

We will continue to update the public and other stakeholders on our proposals at appropriate milestones throughout the Project and keep them informed of changes through the various communication channels available to us such as email and through stakeholder engagement activities. We will also keep our Project website up to date with the latest information.



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