Planning Inspectorate

**Planning Act 2008 – Section 91**

**Application by Southern Water Services Limited for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project.**

**Agenda for issue specific hearing 1 (ISH1) on water environment.**

| Hearing | Date and Time | Location |
|---|---|---|
| **Issue specific hearing 1**<br>(water environment) | Thursday 12 November 2026<br>Seating available at venue from 9.30am<br>Virtual registration process from 9.30am<br>Hearing starts at 10.00am | Fareham Innovation Centre, Merlin House, 4 Meteor Way, Fareham, Lee-on-the Solent, PO13 9FU<br>and<br>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams |

**Purpose of ISH1:**

This issue specific hearing is being held to examine matters relating to the water environment that the Examining Authority (ExA) has identified through its review of the submissions received to date. Having regard to the relevant representations, the ExA considers that these matters would benefit from early questioning and oral submissions. Matters relating to flood risk and groundwater, while forming part of the wider water environment topic, will not be the focus at this initial hearing.

The hearing will consider the scope of the applicant's assessments, how it interfaces with other assets and regulatory regimes, and the arrangements proposed to manage relevant effects. Its purpose is to ensure that these matters are clearly explained and understood.

The hearing will be limited to the matters identified in the agenda.
It will not consider other effects of the proposed development in detail. There are likely to be further issue specific hearings on the specific effects of the proposed development as the examination progresses, along with the opportunity for written representations from any interested party and local impact reports from any local authority at **deadline 1, scheduled for 23 November 2026**.

| Agenda for issue specific hearing 1<br><br>Water environment | |
|---|---|
| **Item 1** | **Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing** |
| **Item 2** | **Purpose of the hearing** |
| **Item 3** | **Scope and content of the applicant's assessments of the water environment**<br><br>The ExA will ask the applicant initial questions about the scope and content of its assessments and the baseline data used, including:<br><br>• the principles and operation of the water recycling process<br>• impacts on water quality and the potential for harm from introducing recycled water to Havant Thicket Reservoir<br>• monitoring, adaptive management and contingency measures<br>• any other relevant matters |
| **Item 4** | **Regulatory roles, responsibilities and compliance**<br>The ExA will examine the roles and responsibilities of the relevant water regulators and how the applicant proposes to meet the applicable regulatory requirements. This will include consideration of:<br>• role of the Environment Agency (EA)<br>• role of the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI)<br>• role of the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)<br>• role of the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID)<br>• any other relevant matters |
| **Item 5** | **Responsibilities for interfaces with Portsmouth Water's assets**<br><br>The ExA will examine how Southern Water and Portsmouth Water propose to allocate responsibilities for the construction, use, operation and management of those interfaces, including matters related to:<br><br>• proposed construction and operational arrangements<br>• how those arrangements would be secured<br>• arrangements for achieving regulatory compliance in relation to those interfaces<br>• any other relevant matters |
| **Item 6** | **Actions, next steps and closing remarks** |

We are likely to be referring to the following documents:

- ES chapter 19 Water environment [APP-098]
- ES chapter 17 Socio-economics tourism and health [APP-096]
- ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development [APP-082]
- ES Figure 1.1 Location of the Proposed Development and Order Limits [APP-210]
- Other Consents and Licences Position Statement [APP-055]
- Works plans: [APP-012], [APP-013], [APP-014]
- Relevant representations including but not limited to: [RR-102], [RR-232], [RR-052], [RR-127], [RR-121], [RR-114], [RR-104], [RR-090], [RR-089], [RR-119], [RR-252], [RR-253], [RR-129], [RR-130], [RR-306], [RR-355]

**Attendees**

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this hearing:

- Applicant
- Portsmouth Water Limited
- The Environment Agency
- The Drinking Water Inspectorate
- Ofwat
- RAPID
- Local Authorities

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All interested parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

Anyone wishing to attend the hearing in person, who has not already advised the case team of this, must register by completing the event participation form by 2 November 2026.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the hearing can therefore view and listen to the hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

**Registration process**

Parties who have registered to speak (in person or virtually) will receive a joining instruction email shortly before the hearing which will include a link to the virtual

event on Microsoft Teams, and a telephone number should they experience any issues joining the virtual event. To enable the hearing to start on time at **10:00am** those attending virtually should join promptly at **9:30am** to ensure that all virtual attendees can complete the registration process in good time.

**Procedure at ISH**

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at hearings. It is for the ExA to determine how hearings are to be conducted, including the time allowed at the hearing for the making of a person's representations. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

All participants are advised that written summaries of their oral submissions at this hearing should be submitted at **deadline 1, scheduled for 23 November 2026**.