Submission ID: SDA996E47

Submission by Kanara Fishery Ltd (Title Number: HP819173)
1. Interest in the Land & Access I am writing as a director and owner of Kanara Fishery Ltd. Our company owns the land containing the stretch of the River Itchen under which Southern Water plans to lay the pipeline leading to Construction Compound M-1 (plan attached). This land is private and is neither accessible nor visible via public rights of way.
2. Core Geological Concern: London Clay vs. Chalk Aquifers Our primary concern is geological. Based on Southern Water's own earlier documentation (such as the Scheme Development Summary 2022), construction work and pipeline crossings should ideally be located within the impermeable London Clay stratum, below the alluvium and above the chalk bed that supports groundwater abstraction. If the pipeline fails to pass through adequate London Clay, the chalk bed and local aquifers could be severely compromised, threatening water quality and the success of the project.
3. Alternative Alignment Proposal Southern Water's exact crossing point remains unclear and appears suboptimal. We suggest that laying the pipe approximately 100 meters downstream on the boundary between Kanara Fishery land and the Bishopstoke Fishing Club would significantly reduce the risk of damage to the chalk bed, as the clay stratum is thicker further south, the river is shallower and the river bed is firmer. While we recognise this requires a curved rather than straight alignment of the pipe and is therefore more expensive, we think the long-term environmental safety of the chalk stream justifies the adjustment.
4. Request for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) Because this stretch of land is entirely private and inaccessible to the public, we formally request that the Examining Authority undertake an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) of this specific area. The precise positioning of the pipeline under the River Itchen is critical, and we suggest a physical inspection is necessary to appreciate the local topography.
I have attached a letter from me to Isobel Pitt of Dalcour McLaren sent by email on 15 November 2024. This gives more detail on my concern.

[redacted]

BY EMAIL ONLY

Date: 15 November 2024
Subject: Hampshire Water Transfer & Water Recycling Project (HWTRP)
Site Visit Kanara Fishery Ltd 01 November 2024

Dear Izzy,

Thank you to you, Alice and Ken for the site visit on Friday 1 November 2024. I hope you found it useful to see the site. I have given some thought to the matters discussed and would like to raise some concerns.

In my letter of 19 September 2024 to Southern Water (SW) I wrote that my chief concern about the positioning of the pipe is that it should pass though an impermeable clay stratum (of "London clay"). Ken's presentation showed that SW shares this concern and this is borne out also by SW's own documentation. The Scheme Development Summary produced in the summer of 2022 (SDS 2022) says that in general:

> "Construction work related to the crossing would be preferable within the London Clay, below the alluvium that supports the river and above the chalk that supports the groundwater abstraction." (Table 29 – Corridor Section Z constraints overview: Water Quality p.68, SDS 2022)

Ken also said that the clay gets thicker going downstream i.e. southwards. This is again borne out by SW's documentation.

> "This [Route Z4] ... provides a greater number of crossing opportunities of the River Itchen, with a view to increase the distance from the chalk aquifer which ground water is abstracted from. The further south the crossing is made, the more likely the crossing can be made through the impermeable clay strata which will offer protection to the nearby groundwater resources." (Table 29 – Corridor Section Z constraints overview: Constructability, p.68, SDS 2022)

It was not clear when we met where exactly SW wants the pipe to cross the River. You thought the pipe would cross at the deepest point of the Kanara stretch on a left hand bend where I told you salmon lie up before swimming further upstream. I thought the pipe would cross 30 metres or so upstream of this point at another deep section of the River opposite the slipway from the Navigation into the River based on the Book of Plans of 29 May 2024 Section L and M Sheet 25 of 30 on p.31. Both crossing points seem to me unsatisfactory. Laying the pipe at deep points of the River is unnecessary. Laying the pipe on the left hand bend might disturb the movement patterns of migrating salmon. The slipway, which was built in 2012 and is not on your maps and which runs west to east, seems to me also best avoided.

Figure 44 – Section M pipeline options at the River Itchen (p.104 SDS 2022) shows a number of

crossing opportunities. The most northerly option seems to cross at about the level of Common Hatch (the main hatch halfway down the Kanara stretch which lets water into the River from the Navigation). The most southerly option crosses the River and a leat a few yards into BFC (Bishopstoke Fishing Club) land. The map you showed me and the plan of Section L and M of 29 May 2024 however show only the one option.

SW gives no reason in its documentation why other options considered in the SDS 2022 have apparently been discounted in 2024. Ken said the reason is to avoid some trees on the other side of the railway. He may have been referring to Otterbourne Park Wood shown on the plan of Section L and M of 29.05.24. It seems to me that any trees here can be avoided by curving the pipe short of the wood in line with Figure 44 – Section M pipeline options at the River Itchen (p.104 SDS 2022) or laying the pipe under the root system of any outlying trees just as SW is planning to do in the wood owned by Mr Keith Purse (LR plan HP11807) on the left (eastern) bank of the River.

In my opinion, a much better place to cross the River is at the bottom of the Kanara stretch at the point where Kanara's ownership of the left (eastern) half of the river bed and bank extends about 10 metres further than the BFC's ownership of the right (western) half of the river bed and bank. This is a natural break point in the topography of the River which will cause the least disturbance to the River. The suitability of this point is reflected in the history of this part of the River. Originally each bank of the River all the way from Bram Bridge to High Bridge was owned by two separate people. In 1979 ownership of the whole stretch of River was split into two halves and swapped so that each owner had one half of both banks of the River. Kanara then became the owner of the top half and the BFC of the bottom half. Kanara has deep water above the border point and the BFC has the big “Lone Tree” pool below the border point.

There also seems to me an advantage for the pipe to be laid as originally envisaged in a curve and cross the River at the border of Kanara and BFC land from a construction point of view. This is that a more southerly crossing point would cross the railway line at a more perpendicular angle.

I thus do not believe that SW has properly thought through where the pipe should cross the River. I also point out that SW has not asked me where I think the pipe should be laid. I therefore intend to continue to withhold my permission for SW to lay the pipe on Kanara land. I will also not agree to the easements you said SW wants to send me in the new year until I know and have agreed where SW intends to lay the pipe.

I said to you when we met that I am sceptical about SW's performance and reliability. One reason is the flooding of sewage from the manhole in front of the Garden Centre into the River at Bram Bridge (SW drain number 7201). This occurred regularly over the years when there is heavy rain. There was heavy flooding again at the end of 2022. Local councillor for Colden Common and Twyford Sue Cook brought the flooding to the attention of local television and press. See “Brambridge: Flooding and sewage flows into River Itchen again” of 15th January 2023 https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/23251843.brambridge-flooding-sewage-flows-river-itchen/. SW reacted firstly by bringing waste water away by truck. I have a circular from SW dated 23 August 2023 which says the flooding is caused by surface water pipes incorrectly connected to the waste water sewer. I imagine therefore that SW has done some work since then to prevent the flooding of sewage from the Kiln Lane manhole but do not yet feel confident that its work has been effective. Another reason is the very off-putting smell that comes periodically from an overflow tank for waste from the Garden Center (which has a restaurant) and possibly Bridge Cottage. The tank is located in the corner of Garden Centre land nearest Bram Bridge. I have reported this to SW but the smell has gone by the time SW technicians arrive. Ken thought this might be an issue for the Garden Centre only and not SW's responsibility at all. If that is the case a confirmation from SW would be useful so that I can take the matter up with the Garden Centre.

Ken also said that SW no longer plans to put treated water back into the River (Option B1) but to distribute it mixed with water from the Itchen and ground water to consumers from Otterbourne WSW (Water Supply Works). This earlier B1 option was rejected because of environmental concerns following consultation in 2021. Nonetheless it seems likely to me that SW would want the operational freedom to deposit treated water into the Itchen if in exceptional circumstances it wanted to or felt it needed to. Can you find out what commitments has SW made not to put treated water back into the River?

If the water distributed from Otterbourne WSW is no longer abstracted from groundwater sources nearby, this should mean that the water level in the River will be higher. I told you when we met that the bottom left (east) bank of Kanara's land can become extremely boggy. As you saw, the bank became boggy again following heavy rain prior to your visit and over the winter 2023/24. Previous occasions when the bank became extremely boggy occurred was at Easter 2018 and in the winter of 2013/14. I asked you whether SW would consider co-sponsoring and co-financing a project to make the bottom right (western) bank of the Kanara stretch passable again for fishermen to fish from the right (eastern) bank instead of the left. The main difficulties to do this are (1) that the slipway constructed in 2012 has breached the right (eastern) bank and wooden bridges would be needed to cross the breaches and (2) a wooden walkway in front of the reed bed would be needed opposite the left hand kink. These improvements would require Environment Agency approval and could be quite expensive. I guess the total cost would be about £25,000 of which I hoped SW would consider financing 50%.

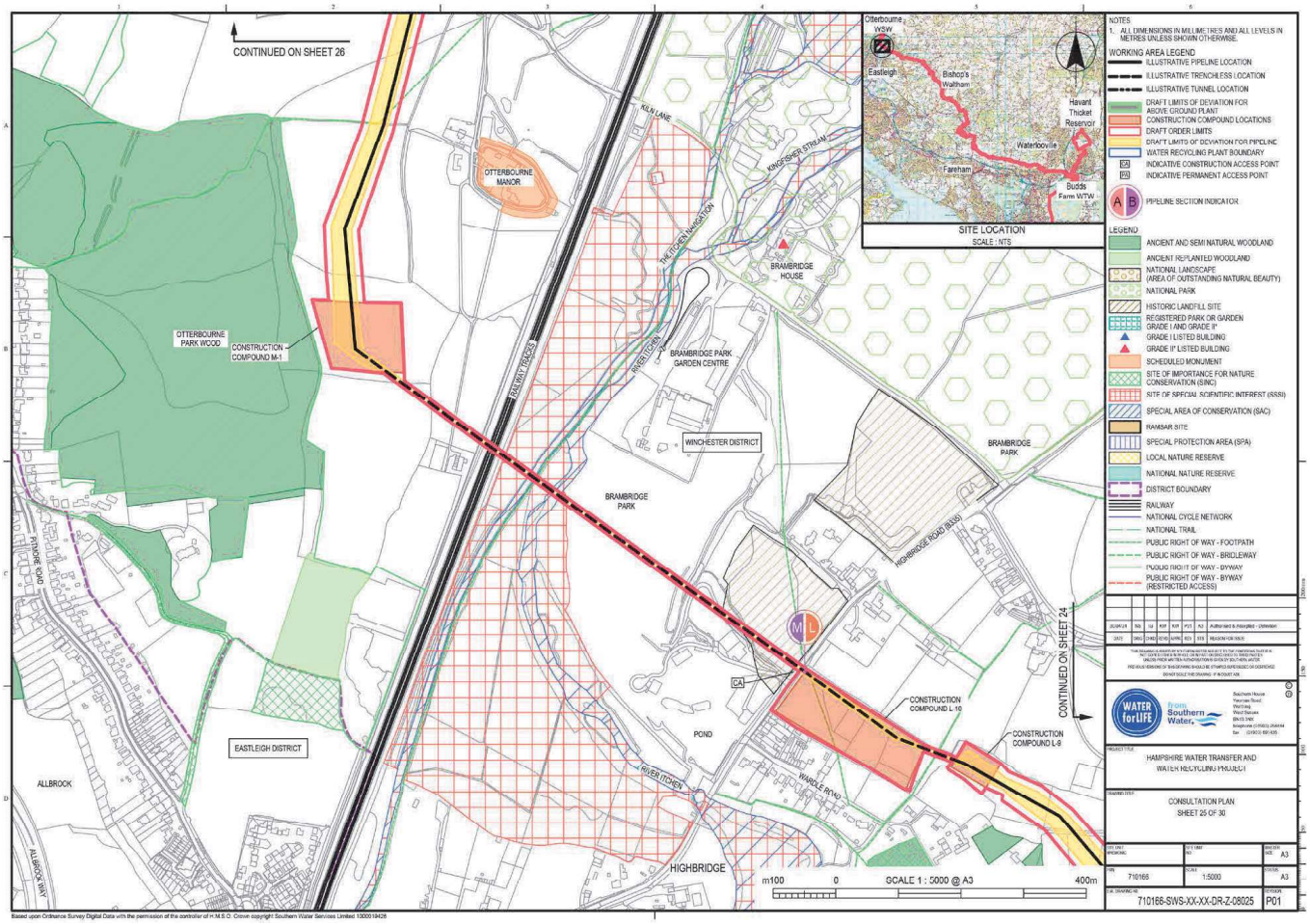
Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Regards

HT

[redacted]
Director, Kanara Fishery Ltd
Company Number 10901137 registered in England and Wales
[redacted]

Section L and M



Sheet 25 of 30

Where colours of some designations may appear distorted due to multiple overlaying designations, please refer to the interactive map where designations can be turned on and off