Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Hearing Transcript

Project:	Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Hearing:	Recording of Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)
Date:	11 November 2026

Please note: This document is intended to assist Interested Parties.

It is not a verbatim text of what was said at the above hearing. The content was produced using artificial intelligence voice to text software. It may, therefore, include errors and should be assumed to be unedited.

The video recording published on the Planning Inspectorate project page is the primary record of the hearing.

Simon Says

Transcript Export

HW_11NOV_OFH1_REDACTED
Created on: 2026-11-12 13:19:08
Project Length: 01:35:27
Account Holder: Ryan Ross

File Name: HW_11NOV_OFH1_PT1.mp3
File Length: 01:35:27

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:05:14 - 00:00:37:07
Good afternoon, everyone. It's now two thirty and time for this hearing to begin. I'd like to welcome you all to this open floor hearing, which is being held in connection with an application made by Southern Water Services Limited for an order for development consent for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project. Before I go further, please, can I check that everyone can hear me clearly? Perhaps somebody could even thank you very much, sir.

00:00:38:03 - 00:00:49:10
And can I also confirm with the case manager, missus Norris, that the live streaming and recording of this event has begun? Thank you.

00:00:50:28 - 00:01:08:08
My name is Wendy McKay. I'm a bachelor of law and nonpracticing solicitor, and I've been appointed by the secretary of state to be lead member of the panel to examine the application. I'll now ask my other colleagues on the panel to introduce themselves to you.

00:01:09:14 - 00:01:20:11
Good afternoon. My name is Maria Rokitska. I'm a chartered scientist and a chartered environmentalist, and I have also been appointed by the secretary of state to examine this application.

00:01:22:23 - 00:01:33:27
Good afternoon. My name is Sharon Bennett Matthews. I hold an LLB, and I am a non practicing solicitor, and I have also been appointed by the Secretary of State as a member of the panel to examine this application.

00:01:35:13 - 00:02:13:26
Thank you. Together, we constitute the examining authority for this application. We also have one other planning inspector, Delphine Byford, who is here today at the venue purely for training purposes and to observe the process. I'd also like to introduce the members of the planning inspectorate's case team who are supporting us today. We have missus Norris, who is the case team manager for the

project, and Lulu Pattellano here in the venue, along with Ramil Birney, who is dealing with the virtual side of the event.

00:02:14:21 - 00:02:48:14
The case team will be able to answer any questions you may have about today's event and the process in general. I'll now explain a few housekeeping matters for those attending in person. Please cannot ask you to turn off your... Or set to silent all mobile phones or other devices so as not to disturb anyone who may be speaking. The toilets are located just outside this room to the left and then immediately to the right.

00:02:49:03 - 00:03:17:05
There is no fire alarm testing scheduled during the the hearing today. Therefore, if the fire alarm does sound, please leave the building by the nearest clear exit and do not reenter the building until instructed to do so by staff. The assembly point is in the rear car park by the wooden building. Is there an on present who might need assistance in the event of a far or other emergency?

00:03:21:00 - 00:03:58:28
Now today's hearing is being undertaken in a hybrid way, meaning some of you are present with us at the hearing venue, and some of you are joining us virtually using Microsoft Teams. We will make sure that however you have decided to attend today, you will be given a fair opportunity to participate. A recording of today's hearing will be made available on the Hampshire water transfer and water recycling project page of the national infrastructure planning website as soon as practicable after the hearing is finished, and the event is also being livestreamed.

00:03:59:15 - 00:04:33:00
The only official record of the hearing will be the digital recording placed on the project page of the planning inspectorate's website. Any social media or similar communications arising out of the hearing will not be accepted as evidence in the examination of the application. With this in mind, please ensure that you speak clearly into a microphone stating your name and who you are representing each time you speak.

00:04:34:03 - 00:05:16:07
If you are at a table with a microphone, please note there is an on off feature, and microphones should be turned off unless you are speaking. There is also a roving microphone, so please wait for one of those to be brought to you if you need it before you speak. Now a link to the planning inspectorate's privacy notice was provided in the notification of this hearing. We assume that everybody here today has familiarized themselves with this document, which establishes how the personal data of our customers is handled in accordance with the principles set out in data protection law.

00:05:16:28 - 00:05:21:26
Please speak to the case manager if you have any questions about this.

00:05:23:26 - 00:06:04:29
On another topic, we are aware of the separate criminal proceedings involving Southern Water and former employees about environmental compliance matters. As the criminal proceedings remain ongoing, it is important that nothing is said during the course of this hearing that risks prejudicing

those proceedings or their outcome. The examining authority must therefore ensure that submissions made during this public event do not create a risk of interfering with the proper administration of justice, and you should not make references to individuals involved in those separate proceedings.

00:06:06:12 - 00:06:41:10
You may still raise matters such as the question of when and where environmental data was collected and how it was checked if you think it is relevant to the examination. If you wish to do so, then at this stage in the examination, we request that you put any such comments in writing at deadline one, identifying the evidence you are referring to and explaining why you consider it matters to the issues under consideration. We will then decide whether it is important and relevant and how to examine it during the examination.

00:06:42:08 - 00:07:06:22
You should note that the examining authority will intervene when necessary to ensure that a submission does not stray into ongoing criminal proceedings and may redact any references to them before publication. Now I will now ask my colleague, missus Bennett Matthews, to explain the purpose of the open floor hearing.

00:07:09:15 - 00:07:10:09
Thank you.

00:07:12:02 - 00:07:48:29
Let me briefly explain the purpose of this open floor hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to hear representations of interested parties who have registered to make oral representations. The open floor hearing provides an opportunity for interested parties to make their oral submissions to the panel. It also gives the panel an opportunity to ask speakers questions about the evidence that they have presented. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing by participants.

00:07:49:16 - 00:07:58:16
However, we have already those read written submissions, and they will be considered alongside the oral submissions.

00:08:00:04 - 00:08:14:20
Therefore, we are not looking for written submissions to be repeated. Instead, this is an opportunity to provide further detail and explanation to help us understand and fully appreciate the case you are seeking to make.

00:08:17:06 - 00:08:51:23
I would now like to set out the process for participating in today's hearing, which is necessary to help the hearing run efficiently and in an orderly manner. Due to the large numbers of people wishing to speak today, we will keep to the published agenda and speaking times as far as possible, subject to any amendments to the registered speakers. The maximum time, speaking time, which will be allowed will be three minutes for an individual and five minutes for a person speaking on behalf of a group or organization.

00:08:53:01 - 00:09:04:07
A digital timer will display the time remaining for each oral representation, and I will notify you when you have reached one minute remaining of your speaking time.

00:09:08:15 - 00:09:22:18
Anyone who is unable to make all of their oral oral submissions within the time allocated or before the close of the hearing may provide any additional points in writing in accordance with the examination timetable.

00:09:24:20 - 00:09:44:21
The procedure we will follow is to hear first from the interested parties who have notified us in advance that they wish to speak and who are listed in Annex A to the agenda, as I've said, subject to any amendments. These are the participants who registered their wish to speak by procedural deadline A.

00:09:46:13 - 00:10:01:29
If time permits, once all those who have registered to speak have completed their submissions, I will consider whether to exercise my discretion to invite a brief contribution from anyone present who did not register to speak in advance.

00:10:03:20 - 00:10:13:22
I should emphasize that this will depend on the time available, and there is no guarantee that we will be able to accommodate additional oral submissions.

00:10:15:21 - 00:10:54:19
As I have already explained, the examination is principally a written process. Anyone who's not able to speak today may still make a written submission, which will be considered alongside the oral submissions made at these hearings. Once all the registered speakers and any additional speakers invited at the panel's discretion have completed their submission, the applicant will be given the opportunity to respond orally to matters raised. If any matters require more detailed response, the panel may also request that is provided in writing by procedural deadline one

00:10:58:08 - 00:11:05:23
or such other deadline considered by the EXA. This will assist in the efficient running of the hearing.

00:11:08:08 - 00:11:17:24
It is my intention to conclude the oral submissions and applicants' final response by sixteen thirty PM. We will then move to closing remarks.

00:11:19:22 - 00:12:22:02
Finally, I would I would ask for those present not to interrupt whilst another person who is making their submission, even though you may disagree strongly with it... With what is being said, sorry. It's important that everyone has a fair opportunity to put their case without interruption or other distraction. would I also like to remind you that Section ninety four, subsection eight of the two thousand and eight Planning Act, gives the examination authority the power to disallow representations to be made at this hearing if the examination authority considers that the

representations are irrelevant, flexacious or frivolous, relates to the merits of policy set out in national policy statements, repeat other representations already made in any form and by any person, or relate to compensation for compulsory acquisition or land or of any interest in or right over land.

00:12:23:12 - 00:12:36:08
Additionally, the examination authority may request that any person behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing or to remain only if that person complies with specific conditions.

00:12:41:16 - 00:12:56:05
In the interest of efficiency, I'm going to group the first four speakers on my list and ask them to come forward, which you already have done, and speak in turn, followed by the next four speakers and so on.

00:12:58:03 - 00:13:17:05
I will request submissions from those physically present in the room first, dealing firstly with submissions from representors, then individuals present, than the virtual speakers in that same order. The digital timer will start when you start to speak, and I will indicate when you have one minute left of your speaking time.

00:13:19:23 - 00:13:43:06
So I have the speakers. Can I just confirm the names, please, on my list? I have Susan Cook. Thank you. I have Henry Bryce. Thank you. I have Ronald Tate. That was this morning. That's fine. I'll cross that off. And Paul Bemi.

00:13:44:22 - 00:13:48:11
I think that's that's the first four. Thank you. Can I can I

00:13:50:25 - 00:13:58:20
start with Susan Cook, please? Can I ask you to? I've said your name, but can I ask you to introduce who you're representing, please? Thank you.

00:13:58:22 - 00:14:07:14
Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Susan Cook, counselor Cook, and I'm duly elected as a councilor for the parish of Colden Common and Twyford, and I am representing the residents.

00:14:12:13 - 00:14:14:27
You can start your speaking time. Thank you very much.

00:14:15:29 - 00:15:00:16
In this capacity, I am representing the views of the residents of Wardle Road, Highbridge Hampshire, and the wider risk... Residents in the locality. I am here because the applicant has applied for a development consent order for construction of the pipeline and a hub compound referenced as l ten. This is Greenfield land bounded by the residents of Wardle Road and Highbridge Road. The land has been occupied and used for grazing purposes for over twenty five years. I was approached by one of the residents of Wardle Road on the twenty sixth of September twenty twenty six to ask if I was aware

of the proposals for the pipeline and the particular sighting of the compound in the field designated compound l ten.

00:15:01:10 - 00:15:40:25
This was the first time I had heard about these proposals despite being the local councilor and then made inquiries with other residents, none of whom had been made aware by the applicant that the compound was being located next to their properties. My first point of concern is the obvious and deliberate lack of direct consultation by the applicant with those residents whose would lives be severely and potentially irrefutably refutably harmed by the proposal. Due to the lack of meaningful consultation, the residents have not been provided with enough information or time to properly represent their interests and to influence the draft DCO.

00:15:41:16 - 00:16:15:28
Wardle Road and Hybrid Road residents include a number of elderly and frail people, some of whom have lived in their whole life on the road. In addition, the area attracts younger fit people who have moved into a semi rural location to raise families and have a good quality of life. The applicant's proposals will have a huge negative impact for years to come. It is the considered view of the residents that suitable alternative locations are available on brownfield sites. I will leave that to my colleague, fellow ward councilor, Liam Bailey Morgan, to speak about when he speaks.

00:16:16:12 - 00:16:50:08
We also ask the applicant to consider tunneling from the opposite direction to reduce the need to use the entire field. The residents, therefore, object to the examination timeline as they have not had the opportunity to participate in a meaningful consultation process. My second point is a result of my intervention, a site visit was arranged on the thirteenth of October with representatives of the applicant. This visit was arranged to allow some residents to ask questions concerning the choice of location, duration, and likely traffic and working arrangements.

00:16:50:10 - 00:17:30:14
The applicant subsequently issued a document called... Titled the construction compound l ten overview and background. The residents are digesting this document, but the consensus view is that the applicant has not addressed all answered of the questions posed by them, and the residents will provide a request for a more detailed response. Further to the point I raised about the lack of meaningful consultation, I also request the applicant provides detailed responses to the further requests from the residents. The residents are rightfully concerned the by safety implications associated with the works, artificial lighting, traffic movements, extended working hours, and general construction activity.

00:17:31:05 - 00:18:03:06
The requested hours of work are totally unreasonable, and they would affect on residents' health and well-being. The residents responsibly request there are no permitted working hours. On a Sunday, bank holidays. And as for Saturday, shorten the working day to thirteen hundred hours. For weekdays in the summer months, the end of the working day should be seventeen thirty to... For at least the nearby residents to enjoy their outdoor space. I am also aware from the residents that the chosen construction site is directly under the approach flight path to Southampton Airport.

00:18:03:16 - 00:18:18:17
Temporary buildings should be no higher than a standard container, not eight meters as put in the plans, and there should be no floodlights. Wildlife can be affected by the use of artificial lighting. It is convenient that the size of the available green site

00:18:18:21 - 00:18:19:27
Max totally how many

00:18:20:05 - 00:19:02:09
Thank you. Needs for the construction compound. My third point is that the residents do not believe a full environmental assessment has been undertaken specifically regarding the impact on the riv... The nearby River Richton. The applicant is requested to fully disclose the studies undertaken. My fourth point concerns the request made by one of the residents for an accompanied site visit in twenty twenty seven. I request that the examiners visit the site to assess the impact that this development will have on their lives. My final point concerns the need for discussions regarding compensation payments due to the residents as a result of the inevitable disruption, property devaluation, and the likely damage to properties.

00:19:02:21 - 00:19:16:10
We understand that the applicant proposes to hold compensation discussions at the end of the project, which is unreasonable. Thank you for listening, and we look forward to a constructive examination process. Thank you.

00:19:17:00 - 00:19:20:22
Thank you, miss Cook. Can I move now to the next speaker?

00:19:20:24 - 00:19:35:13
Could I just ask if you have any further details or explanation that you want to put in, specifically in relation to your tunneling suggestion, suggestion. Can you put that in writing at deadline one?

00:19:36:24 - 00:19:39:06
We most certainly will do. Thank you very much.

00:19:40:19 - 00:19:45:07
Thank you for that. Can I move to the next speaker, please? Henry Bryce?

00:19:45:29 - 00:20:17:11
Afternoon. My name is Henry Bryce, partner of A and Judd and Partners, land agent in Charles River based in Bishops Waltham. We act for around thirty five landowners and occupiers affected by the proposed pipeline route, including farmers, agricultural tenants, smallholders and private landowners. I do not intend to repeat our written presentations, but I'd like to highlight several of the key concerns regarding the compulsory acquisition powers being sought. Firstly, the landowners I represent do not oppose for investment in water infrastructure.

00:20:17:13 - 00:20:53:17

They recognize the need for new infrastructure and understand its wider public benefit. However, there's a significant difference between supporting a project in principle and accepting the approach taken to deliver it. One of our most significant concerns is the applicant's approach to engagement and negotiations. Throughout this process, many effective landowners have felt that meaningful discussion has been replaced by reliance on statutory powers. The applicant has been inflexible. In our experience, meaningful negotiation has been limited, and many concerns raised by effective landowners have not been adequately addressed.

00:20:53:21 - 00:21:29:14
This is not what we'd expect from a competent acquiring authority. The compulsory acquisition guidance makes it clear that compulsory purchase should be the last resort, and the applicant should seek to acquire rights by negotiation wherever practical. Southern Water's chosen approach has failed to build the trust and corporation that a project of this scale requires. Secondly, there remains a lack of certainty regarding the detailed design and construction methodology. Landowners have repeatedly raised concerns about the route alignment, working with construction impacts and land requirements.

00:21:29:26 - 00:22:04:17
However, responses often suggest that these matters will be determined at a later stage. At the same time, the applicant is seeking broad compulsory purchase powers over a significantly wider area of land. This leads directly to the question of whether the extent of land sought is justified. In many locations, the order limits and proposed working widths are widely excessive. There is insufficient evidence before us to demonstrate why all of this land is reasonably required. The same concerns apply to temporary compounds, where the justification for compulsory acquisition remains unclear.

00:22:05:01 - 00:22:43:22
Route selection is another important issue. Many of the affected properties are small, fragmented landholdings, where the impact on individual owners would be considerable. There also appears to be a total disregard to local knowledge regarding ground conditions. Part of route, part of the route, is regularly waterlogged for much of the year. Ultimately, the issue is whether the applicant has demonstrated that compulsory acquisition powers being sought are necessary, proportionate, and no more extensive than reasonably required, whether they can evidence how they're going to use the land and whether all reasonable alternatives to compulsory acquisition have been fully explored.

00:22:44:01 - 00:23:01:17
It is our view, significant uncertainty remains. We do not believe there is significant justification for the full extent of the powers being sought, and we respectfully ask that these powers are scrutinized very carefully before recommendations is made to sector state. Thank you.

00:23:03:28 - 00:23:07:09
Thank you, mister Bryce. Can I move to the next speaker?

00:23:10:00 - 00:23:47:22
My name is Paul Vigneo. I'm the executive director of the Test and Itching Association. Our members include riparian owners, managers, and river keepers of these globally rare and iconic chalk streams together with anglers and many other concerned citizens, a number of whom volunteer to monitor the rivers and the wildlife. The applicant clearly sets out the need for this project in relation to reducing

environmentally damaging obstruction from the chalk streams. However, aside from brief references within the habitats regulation assessment, I found relatively little explanation of why overabstraction is so damaging to the flora and fauna that depend upon these rivers much beyond the zone of influence.

00:23:48:01 - 00:24:25:07
I wish to make comments to draw out these impacts across our rivers. Time does not permit me to cover all the species affected nor the complex ecological relationships between them. Instead, I will illustrate the point through the example of Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon are both a keystone species and an indicator species. Their abundance influences the wider river ecosystem, whilst their life cycle depends upon plenty of clean, cold and well oxygenated water. It is widely accepted that if conditions are suitable for salmon, they are generally suitable for the wider community of fish, invertebrates, and aquatic plants.

00:24:26:03 - 00:24:57:16
Recent research undertaken by Exeter University has confirmed that the Hampshire basin supports a genetically distinct population of Atlantic salmon that has evolved unique adaptions to chalk stream conditions. The salmon in the rivers Test, Itchen and Meion form a distinct meta population. The researchers concluded that this group represents one, if not the most important branch of Atlantic salmon biodiversity, and its genetic loss would be particularly damaging to the long term survival of the whole species.

00:24:57:23 - 00:25:28:00
They are proposing that this should be listed as a subspecies, Salmo salar calciensis. These salmon are classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature on their red list. Returns of salmon to the test and itching continue to decline and are well below their conservation limit, the threshold considered necessary to sustain a viable population. Put simply, these populations are now perilously close to local extinction.

00:25:28:21 - 00:26:00:23
Chalk streams are naturally low energy river systems fed largely by groundwater from the chalk aquifer. Over centuries, many have been modified, straightened, otherwise altered, and reducing their natural function. Considerable effort is now being invested in restoring channel form and habitat, but flow remains the most important component of a healthy river. Flow provides energy, it oxygenates the river, shapes habitats, supports aquatic vegetation, and sustains the invertebrate populations that underpin the food web.

00:26:01:07 - 00:26:33:00
Overabstraction removes that flow, particularly during summer and autumn when rivers are already under pressure. At the same time, increasing temperatures, increasing demand for water and poorer groundwater recharge are placing further pressures on the aquifer itself. The consequence for salmon are significant. Adult salmon rely upon adequate flow to trigger migration upstream to spawning grounds. This year, low flows delayed migration and fish remained in the lower reaches of river for longer than normal.

00:26:34:00 - 00:27:04:12

As a result, they will have expended valuable energy before reaching spawning areas, they are less able to pass barriers, and are exposed for longer periods to predation by seals, cormorants, and sadly, to poachers. Spawning success in these circumstances is greatly diminished. Juvenile salmon are also affected. Lower flows mean higher water temperatures, reduced dilution of pollutants, and the loss of refuge habitats As water levels the

00:27:06:14 - 00:27:30:07
levels in the rivers fall, habitats become fragmented and young fish become increasingly vulnerable to predation and environmental stress. Much of this project is rightly being considered through the lens of water supply resilience. That resilience is essential for our local economy and will help rebuild public confidence in water supplies at a time when customers are being asked to use water more efficiently.

00:27:31:24 - 00:27:35:24
The National Risk Register identifies seared drought as a relatively low likelihood...

00:27:35:26 - 00:27:37:14
Mr. Feeney, you have one minute left.

00:27:37:16 - 00:28:15:09
Understood. Thank you. But very high consequence risk. Whilst communities and businesses may recover relatively quickly once rainfall returns, the same is not necessarily true for nature. For an endangered salmon population that is already below its conservation limit, a severely disrupted spawning season or a failed smolt migration could have consequences lasting many years. Successive droughts could be catastrophic to the species. This is why this proposed scheme is so important by helping to maintain supplies to have them thicket reservoir while reducing environmentally damaged extraction, especially during droughts.

00:28:15:28 - 00:28:38:04
The project offers tangible benefits for some of the most globally significant river ecosystems in the world. It is a vital part of Atlantic salmon species recovery and many other protected species on these rivers. I would therefore ask the examining authority to ensure these ecological benefits, particularly for Atlantic salmon and the wider chalk stream environment, are fully considered and tested with the relevant regulatory authorities during

00:28:38:06 - 00:28:40:28
the second That's five minutes. Thank you. Thank you.

00:28:53:07 - 00:29:02:18
Thank you. I'd like to call the next speakers I have on my list, Martin Burton,

00:29:04:22 - 00:29:11:00
Bianca Carr, Bethel Howden, and Philip Ireland. Thank you.

00:29:31:27 - 00:29:37:24
Can I start with Martin If you'd like to introduce yourself and who you're representing? Thank you.

00:29:37:26 - 00:30:17:17
Good afternoon. I'm Doctor Martin Burton. I represent the water the I'm a water resources management specialist representing the Upper Richland restoration community interest company. I'm a water just some background, which sets this in context, my my statements. I'm a water resources management specialist with over forty years' experience in water resource development and management, both internationally and in the UK. I have experience in preparing large scale water resources assessments and projects overseas for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, notably in Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and India, particularly Madhya Pradesh.

00:30:18:08 - 00:30:53:27
I lectured and supervised research in irrigation and water resources management at the University of Southampton for fifteen years and actively engaged in water resource management in Hampshire over the last thirty years, initially through the Hampshire Water Partnership, then the Upper Richland Initiative and currently as a Director of the Upper Richland Restoration Interest Company. I was actively engaged through the Upper Richland initiative in a discussion with the Environment Agency and others in twenty seventeen-eighteen, which led to Southern Water accepting the license changes on the lower test and Itchen and the Candover Brook.

00:30:54:20 - 00:31:31:06
This action led to Southern Water seeking new sources of water, including working with Portsmouth Water to develop Havant Thicket reservoir. My contribution to the discussions today. I have four key areas that I would like the examining authority to pay particular attention to regarding the proposed project. Water scarcity. Due to population density and relatively low rainfall, the southeast of England is designated as a water scarce and water stressed region. Other than desalination and water recycling, we have no additional sources of water available to meet increasing population growth and climate change.

00:31:32:00 - 00:32:02:05
On the Thest and Ischin, we have suffered three droughts shown here in the last seven years, in twenty twenty two, twenty twenty five and twenty twenty six. Without substantial rainfall this winter and spring, we will likely suffer a further drought in twenty twenty seven. Groundwater levels are currently lower than the long term average and lower than this time last year. We need rain desperately. Water balance.

00:32:03:18 - 00:32:35:01
The test and itching catchments have been in water deficit for some twenty years, and I point to this document, Environment Agency's two thousand and six test and itching catchment abstraction management plan, which stated at that time that twenty water resources management units in Hampshire, three of the twenty water resource management units in Hampshire, three were overabstracted, three overlicensed and fourteen had no water available. So that and the situation has only got worse since that time.

00:32:35:27 - 00:32:44:19
We need more water coming into these river basins, especially during drought periods if the aquatic environment is not to suffer serious damage.

00:32:46:24 - 00:32:55:18
The need for the project, and I alluded to this earlier this morning. Much of the documentation that I have

00:32:57:04 - 00:33:33:00
submitted to you refers to potential issues facing the project rather than the benefits. Insufficient tension is given to the need for the project and its outcome, namely to provide additional sustainable water resources into the Testanichen catchment to alleviate the severe pressure that the Testinichen rivers and groundwaters are currently facing, and Paul has alluded to that. Failure to proceed with the project places these rivers and their unique ecosystems in severe risk. It must not be forgotten that Testnichsen are iconic internationally renowned aquatic ecosystems.

00:33:33:02 - 00:33:53:27
There are only two eighty chalk streams in the world, eighty five percent of them in England, and three of the most renowned ones, the Testnichsen and Meehan, are in Hampshire. We must protect these unique ecosystems. Southern Water have made the case for the project in AP fifty seven in section five point six, but that may not be expressed strongly enough.

00:33:53:29 - 00:33:55:13
Mr. Burton, you have one minute.

00:33:55:15 - 00:34:30:15
Thank you. The Environment Agency in APP sixty seven Table three-one does a good job supporting the project and points to significant lack of water resources resilience in Hampshire and the need to look for large scale water supply options. The EA states that there's a lack of viable alternatives to the proposed project to provide the necessary scale of water supply resilience needed in the time frame required. And amongst the other local authorities, there are issues only Winchester City Council in AP66 highlights the need for the project.

00:34:32:01 - 00:35:03:22
And for Eastleigh Borough Council AP59, there's no reference to pollution issues in their stretch of the itch and the need to leave water in the river for... In a drought to dilute the chemical load coming from sewage works. Consequence of the project is not proceed, I cannot find any discussion of issues that face the test that facing the test niche in the groundwater if this project does not proceed. These issues may not be a good deal greater may be a good deal greater and more harmful to the environment than the issues raised in this documentation.

00:35:03:24 - 00:35:04:16
Thank you very much.

00:35:04:18 - 00:35:05:03
Thank you.

00:35:07:01 - 00:35:11:25
I'll call the next speaker, Bianca Carr. Can you introduce

00:35:12:02 - 00:35:14:02
Hello. Hi. Yeah. Thank

00:35:14:19 - 00:35:22:00
you. I'm Bianca Carr, and I'm the founder of Final Straw Foundation. I'm speaking on behalf of Save Our South Coast Alliance and the wider community.

00:35:23:29 - 00:35:54:26
For our community, this comes down to trust, the consequences when that trust is lost and the indirect effects of effluent recycling that have not been assessed. I welcome the inclusion of public confidence in the proposed treatment process as a principal issue under the health and well-being in the examination. That confidence matters when you're asking people to drink water mixed with recycled effluent. I know from leading citizen science projects locally that people do not trust southern water.

00:35:55:08 - 00:36:41:19
No wonder, with concerns about lack of maintenance, repeated plant failures, and human error leading to pollution for our... Of our harbors, including another major incident in Langston Harbor this summer. If pollution gets into the confined environment of the reservoir, it cannot be removed, and emerging contaminants of concern will build up over time, something the applicant has not properly assessed. Our work with Portsmouth University and the Clean Harbors Partnership has demonstrated the build of contaminants over time in the environment, with the published research identifying a hundred and five different compounds across samples, including pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and recreational drugs, including at a site close to Bud's Farm, the sewage works that would supply the recycling plant.

00:36:42:08 - 00:37:23:18
This has raised awareness in the community over concerns about persistent forever chemicals, polluting our waters waters and bioaccumulating, which is the driving the call for independently verified published evidence showing what the proposed treatment plant removes, what remains, and how performance will be maintained over the lifetime of the scheme. Recent research published on PFAS and transformation products shows concerns are justified. Southern Water admits that forty percent of emerging contaminants of concern tested for were found above detection limits after their pilot treatment plan...

00:37:23:20 - 00:37:55:10
Plant, and they have not quantitatively assessed the impact of emerging contaminants of concern. What about the many contaminants and breakdown products that they've not tested for? Meeting current environmental quality standards and drinking water standards is not enough to give confidence when there are no current standards for many of the emerging contaminants of concern, such as TFA. It takes years in the UK to introduce new legislation, standards and guidelines.

00:37:56:03 - 00:38:26:04
Look at the standards look at how the standards for lead has changed over the last twenty years. What was considered safe to drink in the two in two thousand has not been updated has had to be updated, sorry, in twenty thirteen and will change again in two thousand and thirty six. With the inevitable time

lag in developing standards, people are concerned about the impact of increased background exposure to forever chemicals and pharmaceuticals. So this brings us back to trust.

00:38:26:16 - 00:39:00:03
Public acceptance cannot simply be assumed. The consequences of people losing confidence in their tap water and turning to bottled water go beyond the quality of the treated water and have not been assessed. This is not speculation. In a published survey of two thousand Thames water customers, the share who said they would drink straight from the tap fell by thirty three percent if recycled water were introduced. Whether their concerns are ultimately supported by the treatment evidence or not, that change in behavior could have real consequences.

00:39:00:24 - 00:39:25:19
So we estimate over a million people could receive the recycled effluent from this project at their taps. If just ten thousand people, say one percent, lost confidence in their tap water and brought one two liter plastic bottle every day, that could potentially generate three point six five million plastic bottles every year. The impacts of increased use of bottled water are far ranging.

00:39:25:21 - 00:39:26:27
You have one minute left.

00:39:28:15 - 00:40:00:09
Thank you. From manufacturing and transport of bottles, water obstruction, additional collection, and waste management costs for councils, the carbon impacts for families buying drinking water could become another expense that they feel they have to meet. The most vulnerable in our society, the people with the least money would have the fewest choices. Then there's the potential health effects if people drink less water and turn to sugary drinks. Research commissioned by the drinking water inspector in twenty twenty two indicated that there may be unintended behavioral outcomes from supplying recycled water.

00:40:00:19 - 00:40:26:15
The EIA regulations require indirect effects to be assessed. I ask the examining authority for four things. Number one, in your first written questions, ask the applicant to identify exactly where they have assessed rejection of tap water, bottled water use, and increase in treatment... Increase in home treatment. If not, require that assessment. Two, require the full monitoring data from its pilot at Buds Farm and Peel Common, including detection limits and process failures.

00:40:26:20 - 00:40:38:26
Thank you. That's that's the five minutes. Can I just add if you've got anything additional that you you were going to submit orally, you you can put that in writing, and the AXA will consider that? Okay. Thank you.

00:40:38:28 - 00:40:39:13
Thank you.

00:40:39:15 - 00:40:40:09
Thank you very much.

00:40:46:21 - 00:40:51:29
Sorry. If you'd like to introduce the organization that you're speaking on behalf of as well. Okay.

00:40:52:23 - 00:40:59:00
My name is Beth Horton, and I'm representing myself, and I'm also representing Havant Water Matters.

00:41:01:03 - 00:41:40:22
Thank you for letting me speak. I have worked in toxicology environmental and chemistry since nineteen eighty seven at universities including Portsmouth, California, Rutgers, and Singapore. As a key chemist in California Muscle Watch, studying trace organics, tracking pharmaceuticals in UK rivers, and managing large toxicology and microbiology laboratories. I am very familiar with reserve... Reverse osmosis on the use level. I object to this problem as there is no robust assessment of risks from the Ketzu or catchment or what transformation and treatment products can form.

00:41:41:02 - 00:42:19:09
The treatment methods proposed do not remove all the contaminants. The data and modeling provided is not adequate and does not consider all the contaminants of concern or the risks. I am really concerned about the buildup of persistent contaminants in the reservoir and offshore, as well as the leachate mobilization construction on the the landfill. And it makes no sense to have such a complex, expensive, high energy process when there have been so few other water solutions explored sufficiently.

00:42:19:26 - 00:42:41:05
But now I want to focus on the impacts on water quality and the potential for harm. Reverse osmosis works. We use it in the lab all the time but it is a technical process requiring constant monitoring, washing of membranes, and replacement of membranes before they start to fail. Is Southern Water capable of this? Their history says otherwise.

00:42:43:16 - 00:42:54:05
Test... Their test results have showed too much missing data. The red bars on here is missing data, and that's just one page.

00:42:56:03 - 00:43:27:02
This is not acceptable. The large number of compounds of every type made it through their their system from antibiotics to metals to contrast media and more. I can't address all the recalcitrant compounds as there's there's such a large number. I will focus on a few. A painkiller, Ketelerak, antibiotics, polyfluorinated compounds or forever compounds, and contrast media, which are also forever. Ketelerak, the painkiller, got through Southern Waters reverse osmosis.

00:43:27:04 - 00:44:01:22
It is not well removed by granulated activated carbon. It bioaccumulates, and it has detrimental ecological effect... Ecological effects. This is just example of just one pain killer that a lot and a lot more got through. Antibiotic resistant micro... Microorganisms is an ever growing problem in the UK

and the rest of the world. There were two main antibiotics that got through Southern Waters reverse osmosis, sulfathiazole and trimethoprim, both compounds of concern that are regularly monitored.

00:44:02:01 - 00:44:33:09
While trimethoprim is removed well by granulated activated carbon, sulfathiazole is not only moderately so, so it will remain and in... Possibly include resistant anti... Microbes resistant to antibiotics. This introduce... Introduces another problem. Southern Water states that any compound not reverse... Removed by reverse osmosis will be removed by granulated activated carbon. However, studies reveal that this is not a perfect solution, and it depends on a variety of conditions.

00:44:33:22 - 00:45:05:02
And in some cases, like sulfathiazole, only moderately successful. And in the cases of perfluoro octanoic acid, a forever compound, again, just moderately removed. PFOA does not break down and biochemulates easily. This means that only trace amounts can cause long term problems, and it is only moderate... Moderately... Moderately removed by carbon. And finally, contrast media.

00:45:05:04 - 00:45:36:27
They get through the membrane and are not removed by carbon. They are inert by design, which means they will sit in the... They can sit in the reservoir, possibly sticking to sediments and settling. Luckily, because being inert means they don't bioaccumulate easily. However, they also don't break down, so they could slowly accumulate, but in the reservoir, and when exposed to traditional water purification techniques such as ozone and chlorine, can transform into highly toxic compounds. During times of drought and low dilution, this could become a real problem.

00:45:37:17 - 00:46:06:07
Some of these contrast media are not even tested for, such as types of gadolinium, a contrast medium I was given for a recent heart MRI. These compounds are released in urine when the patient goes home, so even controlled... Controlling hospital wastes will not answer this issue. These compounds are generally not removed by carbon much at all. But I can't go into detail into detail into the toxo... Toxicology and potential impact of all the compounds.

00:46:06:22 - 00:46:18:03
Thank you. That... That's that's five minutes. Again, if if you have anything additional, you could put that in written representations to us for the next deadline. Thank you.

00:46:18:05 - 00:46:30:23
And can I also reassure those that didn't quite finish that we will look very closely at your written submissions? I know I know it's incredibly tight, so thank you for trying.

00:46:31:17 - 00:46:33:00
Thank you very much.

00:46:38:08 - 00:46:50:23
The next speaker that I have is mister Philip Ireland, and he is virtual. Do we have mister mister Ireland? Yes. Virtually. Thank you. Thank you, mister Ireland.

00:46:51:20 - 00:47:38:28
Yes. Introducing myself. I'm Philip Ireland. I'm here in a private capacity. I am a chartered mechanical engineer with significant experience in safety cases and products that fall within the auspices of the UKCA and EU machineries direct... Regulation. My comments are in support of my written submission in that the safety case has not been adequately set out by the applicant and method of determining whether operation the of the reverse osmosis system can be determined as safe when the science of this is not available and what are the long term safe levels of forever chemicals, PFAS, and many others, especially short chain PFAS.

00:47:39:00 - 00:48:04:07
I would also note, if you look at the worldwide position, the only operation that is considered safe of a reserve osmosis is for use in large commercial shipping where the bulk feed of that water is in It seemed to work fine, Don. A type of water that has very low concentrations of forever chemicals.

00:48:05:25 - 00:48:16:07
As this will be recycled through the haven't thicket reservoir, there will be a natural bioaccumulation of these PFAS chemicals.

00:48:18:06 - 00:48:28:21
And you've been asked to make a judgment on this when there is no way to actually determine whether the case is safe.

00:48:33:07 - 00:48:39:09
Thank you. Does that complete your submission? Yeah. Thank you very much. Thank you.

00:48:44:20 - 00:48:52:25
I'd like to call forward the next speakers I have on my list, Howard Smith, Andrew Newberry, Edward

00:48:54:13 - 00:48:58:23
Chedwin Stapleton, and Lara McCulloch.

00:49:13:04 - 00:49:21:02
Thank you. Can I please call first mister Howard Smith? Next time, Alice. Thank you. Yes.

00:49:25:21 - 00:49:58:08
Shall I start? My name is Howard Smith. My house is in a water tank. I live in a water tank underground. It's seven meters underground. Any noise through the ground will be heard. I'm an expert in it, I live in it, so don't argue. I've been negotiating with Southern Water for a few years since the project was first started. I've got a lot of concerns about this because they don't communicate with me at all. My main concerns are noise, while it's been built, and when it's operating.

00:49:58:10 - 00:50:30:19
They will not confirm whether it'll make a noise when it's been built, or when it's been run. Vibration. Same thing. They can't confirm it. They say they can't do that until they get their full planning and they've already gone in for compulsory purchase, then they will do their full engineering drawings.

That's not good enough. If you've ever tried to sell a house, or ever ever tried to get insurance on a house with a four meter pipe underneath it, just think what it's like.

00:50:31:05 - 00:51:14:08
When I said to Southern Water, do you think it affected the value of my house? Oh, we don't think so. We've done a few checks. They've done damn ore. They're not good at it. They'd like to make it easy for themselves. I've asked three RICs, fully qualified surveyors, what my house valuation will be affected by a four meter pipe under it. Everyone confirms it will be valued down. Have you ever tried to get insurance? Has anybody ever got a new insurance? One question comes up, has anything changed recently? Oh, I've got a four meter pipe under my house, southern waters say, Oh, that won't cause any problems.

00:51:14:25 - 00:51:34:26
I'm afraid I'm not happy with their way, and they won't talk to me about compensation. I've asked them to make a legal indemnity to pay for any losses that I have. Nothing. They don't want to talk about it. Now, I'm not talking about just my house, I'm in a worse state because I live underground, so I'm closer to the pipe.

00:51:34:28 - 00:51:36:11
Mr. Howells, you have one minute.

00:51:36:13 - 00:52:04:02
There's lots of other people that are living under houses that don't appreciate that, and I think Southern Water are just sidewalling it until they get their planning permission. Now, if Southern Water won't talk to me or won't agree to that, I've actually spoken to various legal people, and I can go to the high court and put an injunction about this whole planning application. Bluntly, I can afford it, but I'm not prepared to be walked over by Southern Water. Thank you.

00:52:06:07 - 00:52:07:03
Thank you.

00:52:08:24 - 00:52:11:25
Can I call the next speaker, Mr? Andrew

00:52:12:28 - 00:52:48:16
Good afternoon. My name is Andrew Newbury. Until I retired fairly recently, I was consistently ranked as a leading lawyer in the water sector nationally and internationally. And I was previously head of commercial on the for Thames Water on the Thames Tideway Tunnel. Thank you for the Chair's comments on trust and transparency at the beginning. We'll certainly be picking up the when and the where on data. Data, as we've just heard from Bethel and Bianca, is a massive issue for us. We can't just trust Southern Water to interpret the data that they've got.

00:52:48:18 - 00:53:22:18
We want the actual source data. We've mentioned that this morning for the benefit of those people here. We have repeatedly asked in EIRs and FOIs, not only from Southern Water, but also from Brighton University on whom Southern Water relies for one of their experts. So we'd like that data.

We'd like that transparency. The second thing I'd like to talk about is the Gateshead principle, which broadly is that you shouldn't go near where there is already regulation.

00:53:22:20 - 00:53:52:26
Just as a reminder, the DCO disapplies nearly all relevant environmental legislation, so it cuts both ways. The Gateshead principle really doesn't apply here when all development legislation and regulation is disapplied. And any... In in any event, as we've just heard from two of the speakers, and I'm sure you'll hear again tomorrow, there is not duplication because this area, a lot of this area is not regulated at all and things are moving quickly.

00:53:52:28 - 00:54:28:02
There are DCOs that fill the gap, and there is a gap here, and we're going to invite you to look at that as part of this DCO. And I would just also just draw your attention to the nineteen point eight of APP ninety eight, para 19.6.8. Due this is Southern Water's comment. Due to the current absence of agreed water quality standards for the majority of CECs, contaminants of emerging concern.

00:54:28:21 - 00:54:51:28
Substances have not been considered quantitatively within the assessment presented in the Section nineteen point eight, so that's Southern Water's own admission. We also think that the... There is a need for independent audit and controls, and we, again, will be asking throughout these hearings to have that addressed in the DCO. Thank you very

00:54:52:00 - 00:54:54:02
much. Thank you.

00:54:56:24 - 00:55:06:19
I'd like to call the next speakers. I have virtually Edward Chedwin Stapleton, who should be available virtually.

00:55:13:16 - 00:55:15:06
Do I have mister Stapleton?

00:55:19:06 - 00:55:30:04
Right. I'll move on, in that case, to the next speaker that I have. Perhaps mister Stapleton, Chedwin Stapleton may join later, is Laura McCulloch, and she's also virtual.

00:55:34:16 - 00:55:35:24
Good afternoon, Laura.

00:55:35:26 - 00:55:38:18
Do I have mister mister Chedwin Stapleton?

00:55:39:13 - 00:55:52:07
No. I'm actually... I'm James Hammond on behalf of Hampshire County Council. My colleague, Laura McCulloch, like myself, is registered to participate in today's hearing, but I'm being designated as as the speaker.

00:55:53:00 - 00:55:56:16
Okay. Thank thank you very much for clarifying that. Thank you.

00:55:56:28 - 00:56:29:15
Thank you. I'll I'll be very brief. Hampshire County Council are intending to participate in the examination, hence our attendance at both of today's hearings. However, as I said, whilst we've registered to participate in today's open floor hearing, we don't intend to make any oral representations today, and we'll instead be submitting our position to the examining authority in in our written submissions in accordance with the timetable when when published.

00:56:30:06 - 00:56:33:17
So nothing further from me today. Thank you.

00:56:35:10 - 00:56:44:18
Thank you very much for that that submission. We don't appear to have Edward Chedwin Stapleton, so I'm gonna move on to the next

00:56:46:11 - 00:56:49:29
virtual speakers. I have down on my list James Hammond,

00:56:51:23 - 00:56:58:19
Ben Clifton, the right honorable Swellah Baravaman, and Ben Bailey.

00:57:00:09 - 00:57:03:27
I'll take James Hammond. Do I have James Hammond virtually?

00:57:06:08 - 00:57:22:00
Hi, pal. I'm good. Yes. James Hammond on behalf of Hampshire County Council. As I say, myself and my colleagues, people are all registered, but I was designated as So I believe... Yes. You're on to the next the next speaker.

00:57:22:02 - 00:57:30:12
Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. I do... I wasn't sure whether you had another point to make on behalf of the organization. So can I call the next

00:57:32:02 - 00:57:36:29
speaker? I have Ben Clifton. Do I have Ben Clifton?

00:57:39:20 - 00:57:45:08
If not, can I move on to the right honorable Sweila Braavaman? MP?

00:57:48:09 - 00:57:50:28
Hello? Can you see me?

00:57:51:05 - 00:57:53:03
I can indeed see you. Thank you very much.

00:57:53:05 - 00:57:54:28
And you can hear me. Fantastic.

00:57:55:00 - 00:57:56:18
I can. I can hear you.

00:57:58:06 - 00:58:00:09
Thank you very much. Can I start?

00:58:01:14 - 00:58:04:04
Yes. You can. Yes. You can start. Thank you.

00:58:04:06 - 00:58:46:08
Thank you, madam chairman. I'm the elected member of parliament for Fairham Waterlooville, elected to represent Fairham in twenty fifteen, and Fairham Waterlooville in twenty twenty four. Prior to serving as a member of parliament, I worked as a barrister for ten years with a specialism in town and country planning. And I'm making these representations today on behalf of hundreds of local residents who've signed my petition opposing this application. Therefore, to make it clear, I object to this application. I've raised concerns directly with Southern Water at a public meeting that I convened earlier this year in January twenty twenty six with about a hundred local residents and managers from Southern Water.

00:58:46:27 - 00:59:27:08
Secondly, in August of this year in writing to this examination, and, through various communications with Southern Water and the government. The company has never properly assessed the alternatives to the scheme. Other options have not been developed to an appropriate level of detail to enable a fair comparison or nor have alternative packages been explored. So just by way of background, on the thirteenth of August twenty twenty six, the Secretary of State for the Environment directed Southern Water to improve its plan, said it had screened out options on criteria the regulators did not agree to, and ordered Southern Water to look again at the options that it had dismissed.

00:59:27:26 - 01:00:02:09
That work to update the options assessment is not due until August twenty twenty seven after, crucially, this examination has closed. Southern Water took nearly three months to file that letter with you. When it did, it was to argue that need should not be examined at all once its plan is published in December. My constituents and groups like the Water Matters community wrote their representations in August without the benefit of that letter, without knowing that the secretary of state had already put the same fundamental concerns to the company herself.

01:00:02:19 - 01:00:38:18
Southern Water had the letter in its hands the whole time and told this examination nothing until it suited it. An applicant that asked the public to trust it owes the public candor. Southern Water has shown none. Equivalent recycling is a fundamental change to the resource of my constituents drinking

water, a material change that they should have been consulted upon. Southern Water chose this scheme in December twenty twenty one, yet the first consultation engaging my constituents on the project came the following summer on the design after the decision, not before.

01:00:39:02 - 01:01:10:08
That is not consultation. That is a fete accompli. So I ask you, firstly, to examine the need and the alternatives in full as you've already decided to do. And secondly, when Southern Water publishes its plan next month and tells you that the matter is settled, give that plan little wait. The government has already sent it back for rewriting, which brings me to the question of trust. At that public meeting earlier this year in January twenty twenty six in Waterlooville, my constituents made it clear to Southern Water that they do not trust it with this technology.

01:01:10:17 - 01:01:23:26
They gave good reason, plant failures, poor maintenance, prosecutions, and fines year after year. In July alone, a seven million pound fine for repeated illegal sewage discharges and a guilty plea for polluting the river test.

01:01:23:28 - 01:01:36:01
Miss Bravamer, we've already mentioned at the beginning of the hearing that we were not to discuss the criminal proceedings. Okay. I'm sorry. I'd be grateful if you don't strain to those matters. Fine. Fine. Thank you for that guidance.

01:01:36:22 - 01:02:08:05
On the seventh of October, Hammond Borough Council passed a vote of no confidence in Southern Water, unanimously supported by councilors across every party. It asked its inspectors to pause the recycling component until Southern Water can demonstrate an unbroken track record of regulatory compliance and environmental safety. Southern Water says, don't judge us on the past, judge us on now. Very well. Last month, the environment agency rated Southern Water as star one out of four, the lowest possible rating.

01:02:08:07 - 01:02:09:25
You have one minute remaining.

01:02:10:05 - 01:02:41:26
With three hundred and one pollution incidents in twenty twenty five, twelve of them seriously. They've also failed to meet leakage targets. More than two thousand five hundred local people and groups, including local community groups, object to this proposal. We ask that the inspector backs local people and the community, and we ask that that this this untested novel and un... Frankly, I'm afraid, project by a company that no one can trust locally does not proceed.

01:02:45:15 - 01:02:55:17
Thank you. Could I just ask, in terms of alternatives, is there any specific alternative that you are putting forward?

01:02:57:01 - 01:03:01:28

There have been alternatives. Well, there are all... Not myself personally. I'm... I don't have the expertise.

01:03:02:00 - 01:03:05:06
I mean, on on behalf of your your constituents.

01:03:05:09 - 01:03:18:08
No. I I don't have the expertise to put forward an alternative, but there are various alternatives which could be and should be seriously considered by the government and by experts in the field.

01:03:19:21 - 01:03:35:15
And can I also ask, in terms of trust that you've mentioned, is there any specific evidence in terms of the process that might restore that trust or relay concerns?

01:03:36:08 - 01:03:47:16
That's a good question. I think, unfortunately and regrettably... I mean, people, including myself, are desperate to trust Southern Water. I'm afraid right now it's very, very hard to

01:03:49:10 - 01:04:23:26
to to to suggest any particular ideas because the the breach of trust has been so deep and so considerable and so long standing. Local people are frustrated and angry and fed up to the back teeth. They see bills rising year after year, and they see more and more problems being caused by Southern Water. I believe there needs to be an overall change of leadership at the top of the company. There needs to be a wholesale change in policy and practice within Southern Water, and there needs to be a review of how it's actually conducting its business.

01:04:25:26 - 01:04:26:13
Thank you.

01:04:29:26 - 01:04:38:27
Thank you. Thank you, miss Bravarman. Next participant I have on my list is Christopher Stanley, who is also virtual.

01:04:39:14 - 01:04:39:29
Okay.

01:04:44:25 - 01:04:49:07
Don't appear to have mister Stanley. Hello? Hello? Can you hear me? I do.

01:04:51:12 - 01:04:54:08
I've just tried put the camera on. Can you see me?

01:04:54:10 - 01:04:56:20
I can see you, and I can hear you. Thank you.

01:04:57:12 - 01:05:02:04
Okay. Thank you very much. I have a five minute time script to deliver.

01:05:02:23 - 01:05:03:17
Thank you.

01:05:03:29 - 01:05:05:03
Shall I start?

01:05:05:05 - 01:05:06:21
Yes. Yes. Thank you.

01:05:06:28 - 01:05:41:13
I'm Chris Stanley, chairman of Rollins Castle Parish Council, representing the council and our wider community. We consider this is the wrong solution to address water shortage in the south, hugely expensive, damaging to the environment, risks poorly understood, and like h s two, a white elephant in the making. Better options were never properly developed and considered to allow a fair comparison, moving river abstractions to the tidal limit to protect all the rivers far more cheaply, storing more rainfall in reservoirs, fixing leaks much faster, doing more to help people and businesses use less.

01:05:41:18 - 01:06:13:12
On the thirteenth of August, the secretary of state directed Southern Water to reassess the options it rejected, saying long lead times alone are not valid grounds for rejection and to justify its choice on the safety of recycled water, high cost, and carbon emission. The options this council put forward are on her list, r r two seven seven refers. Our points in August are now the secretary of states, and she specifically refers to options not being rejected without a full appraisal and fair comparison of risks and benefits against other options.

01:06:13:28 - 01:06:44:06
Half of the reservoir sits in our parish. We supported accepted the loss of thirteen hectares of ancient woodland for a chalk water spring fed reservoir. Nobody asked us whether we'd accept recycled effluent instead. The chronology is important here. The project was not in Southern Water's twenty nineteen plan. Southern Waters' own gate two report recognized, one, the lead case for an alternative solution is not beyond challenge because it does not explicitly feature in WRMP nineteen as being a preferred solution.

01:06:44:21 - 01:07:16:04
Two, that choosing this option in December twenty one was a material change in circumstances requiring an updated plan. When consultation began in summer twenty two, it was on the design of a scheme already chosen. The plan that was meant to justify that choice was not consulted on until November twenty two, nearly a year after the choice had already been made. The national policy statement says alternatives must be considered in the earliest stages of scheme evolution. Hence, or rather here, the choice of option came first.

01:07:17:02 - 01:07:52:18

Publishing that plan five years later does not change the order in which things happened. Before it chose the scheme in twenty twenty one, Southern Water did not consult with this parish council, nor did it consult Portsmouth Water customers who will receive water from the reservoir at their taps. The Forley parishes and waterside community were consulted for years on desalination. We were not consulted at all on what replaced it. Southern Water's own twenty twenty one brochure said the haven't thicket option would represent a separate scheme which changes the way the reservoir is used and that full consultation would be required.

01:07:52:20 - 01:08:22:23
That never happened before the choice was made. Our inadequacy of consultation report document seven two three pages one zero five to one five eight sets out the timeline at appendix a and our concerns. The applicant even refused a request to establish a community stakeholder group to discuss our concerns. The community feel let down and ignored by Southern Water. So I ask you to, one, consider the lack of public consultation and alternative option appraisal in twenty twenty one as a principal issue.

01:08:22:27 - 01:08:59:01
Two, examine under alternatives whether there was a fair comparison of risks and benefits against other options and whether alternatives were considered and consulted on at the earliest stage, taking our report as evidence. Three, ask the applicant why the full consultation it promised in twenty twenty one never took place before choosing this option. Also, please examine the concerning powers this order takes for southern water over Portsmouth Water's reservoir, articles five, forty six, and schedule lake prefer, and the statement of common ground with Portsmouth Water that we have still not seen very worrying.

01:08:59:16 - 01:09:11:23
Our community objects due to many concerns, but here are six. One, impacts on water quality and ecology in the reservoir and the buildup over time of persistent contaminants already mentioned by earlier speaker and their breakdown

01:09:12:00 - 01:09:13:08
Stanley, you have one minute.

01:09:13:16 - 01:09:43:20
Thank you. Not properly assessed. Two, treating and pumping millions of liters of water forty kilometers every day when it's not needed with the energy and emissions that entails when rain falls for free. Carbon and energy should be a principal issue. Three, concentrated reject water pumped into the solvent and what accumulates there, not adequately assessed. Four, nobody trusts Southern Water to run or maintain this plant adequately without incident. People will turn to bottled water and the single use plastics that come with it.

01:09:44:06 - 01:10:03:28
Ofwat have confirmed that the cost of this option to manufacture drinking water from effluent spiraled has since twenty twenty one. We do not believe it is the best value option. Customers will pay for it for decades. The secretary of state has raised in annex two of her letter a challenge on justifying best value. This scheme should be stopped in its tracks. Thank you.

01:10:05:27 - 01:10:06:21
Thank you.

01:10:10:07 - 01:10:21:02
I'd like... I'd just like to, just double check that I... I've I've covered all the speakers virtually. Can I just double check whether I had Ben Clifton at all virtually?

01:10:24:18 - 01:10:27:00
And I'd just like to check whether I have Ben Bailey.

01:10:32:26 - 01:10:34:12
James. I'm gonna... Hello?

01:10:34:14 - 01:10:49:22
Sorry. If if it's of assistance... So it's James Hammond on behalf of Hampshire County Council. Along with myself, registered to speak with my colleagues, Laura McCulloch and Ben Clifton, and I've been designated speaker. So

01:10:49:27 - 01:11:05:11
Okay. Either Laura That's fine. Thank you. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you. I'm gonna move on to the next person on my list. I'm gonna check if they're present virtually, Maggie Hill. Do I have Maggie Hill virtually?

01:11:16:07 - 01:11:17:10
Just bear with me one...

01:11:30:12 - 01:11:38:20
Sorry. Just seeking clarification. The next person I have is Liam Bailey Morgan virtually.

01:11:41:18 - 01:11:42:05
Thank you.

01:11:43:15 - 01:11:44:00
Can you

01:11:44:02 - 01:11:44:23
see me okay?

01:11:45:00 - 01:11:49:10
I think I can see... Yes. I can see you now. Thank you. Thank you very much.

01:11:49:15 - 01:12:20:06
Thank you. Yeah. My name is Liam Bailey Morgan, Winchester City Councillor for Cold and Common at Twyford. Alongside Councillor Sue Cook, I speak for the residents of Wardle Road,

Lordswood, and Highbridge Road, who live beside the proposed construction compound l ten, one of the largest compounds on the entire route. I've met with residents and Southern Water on-site and separately a large group of residents who are now organizing themselves to take part in this examination. I will endeavor not to repeat councillor Cook's points. I want to start with Winchester City Council's position.

01:12:20:11 - 01:12:51:29
Its relevant representation made no specific objection to l ten on the basis of appropriate mitigation, and the draft statement of common ground records support for l ten relying on the outline construction environmental management plan. I want to stress that position was reached before the households next to the site or we, as their local councilors, knew the compound was planned here. The statement is not finalized, and the council has now confirmed the offices... Officers are reviewing the proposals with its environmental specialists and will consider residents' concerns in its local impact report.

01:12:52:15 - 01:13:25:17
Councillor Cook and I are pressing the council not to support l ten in its current location. I therefore ask the panel not to treat the council's position as settled. I now wish to turn attention to alternative locations for the compound, which I do not feel have been seriously explored. The only account of alternatives we have seen is a short report Southern Water produced last month in response to our questions after we met them on-site. It dismisses four possible options in a few paragraphs. None of those options were compared on disruption to people's lives, distance from homes, noise, lighting, traffic, or duration.

01:13:25:24 - 01:14:02:02
There are also other options not mentioned in this document, such as the corner of Highbridge Road in Kiln Lane, where Southern Water's own holding tanks stood for a number of years that need properly exploring. And we are not aware if Southern Water is considered driving the tunnel from the other side of the river. I imagine a reception shaft would need far less space than a launch shaft, so that alone could greatly reduce the size of the proposed compound here. The proposed compound takes the whole field, and it would be a quite coincidence if the compound needs exactly that much space. Southern Water has also not shown yet how much space the shaft itself needs and how much is storage, parking, site offices, and staff of facilities that could go elsewhere.

01:14:02:20 - 01:14:34:20
Southern Water says the compound will be used for around seventeen months. We all know that projects of this kind can can run much longer than planned, and I believe the draft order sets no maximum period. Turning to ground conditions, the compound field regularly waterlogs, and Southern Water's own plans mark a potential source of contamination on the site, infilled former marshland that may contain fill or unknown material. From here, the tunnel will run beneath the Riverich into Otterborn close to historic landfill at Bugle Farm, an unlined infilled gravel pit of unknown waste that lies within the work's boundary.

01:14:34:25 - 01:15:15:13
Yet Southern Water says the landfill is of limited relevance because the tunnel will sit deep in clay below the waste, even though the shafts must be dug down through the shallow wet ground, and it acknowledges that gas monitoring has not been carried out near the landfill. The question is whether

Southern Water has properly assessed the risk of tunneling near unlined waste in wet ground beside the River Itch in a special area of conservation. Therefore, I fully support councillor Cook's request, including that the examiners visit the site and alternative site options. In addition, I ask the panel to require Southern Water to firstly provide a genuine side by side comparison of compound options judged on the effects on residents as well as the environment.

01:15:15:17 - 01:15:54:18
It should cover the four alternatives in Southern Water's report to us, the site at the corner of Highbridge Road and Kiln Lane, launching the tunnel from the other side of the Itchen, and a smaller compound at l ten with some of its infrastructure spread across another site or sites. The aim should be a location that minimizes the impact on both the environment and residents' lives and homes. And secondly, a site specific assessment of ground conditions at l ten and along the tunnel route, setting out the borehole results for this area, investigating the infilled ground on the compound site, completing gas monitoring near the Bugle Farm landfill, and showing how far

01:15:54:23 - 01:15:56:04
You have one minute left.

01:15:56:09 - 01:16:23:19
Thank you. And showing how far the tunnel will pass below the waste and the risk of contaminants reaching groundwater and the itching. The resident's position, which I fully support, is that the site for l ten should not be used in its current form. A whole field beside people's homes has been chosen without the alternatives being properly as... Assessed. I ask the panel to require Southern Water to do that work now and come back with a better solution before this location is fixed in the order. Thank you.

01:16:25:21 - 01:16:41:17
Thank you. Sorry. Can I just ask, you've spoken about alternative options? What would be your preferred option of the ones that you've mentioned or at least from your point of view, the least worst option?

01:16:42:16 - 01:17:10:10
I don't think we're in a position to say that at the moment, but this is all still relatively new new for us. We did have a conversation with a number of residents just last week, and we we we said this exact question. I I... At this point, we're not at a stage where we would recommend one or the other. I mean, we want to we want to see... We believe there are, as I've as I've outlined here, probably four, five, six options at least, and we'd like to see them set out properly so we can all make an informed decision. But we're not we're not at a stage to be able to do that yet. Thank you.

01:17:12:28 - 01:17:13:24
Thank you.

01:17:14:11 - 01:17:28:14
Thank you so much. Can I call the next virtual speaker that I've got on my list? And I've got down David Snoswell. Actually, mister Snoswell is present. Thank you.

01:17:38:08 - 01:17:40:05
If you press the button. Thank you.

01:17:40:10 - 01:17:40:29
Right.

01:17:42:22 - 01:18:14:24
Right. Am I starting now? Right. I'm doctor David Snoswell. I live in Waller Road, Colton Common, and opposite the proposed site for the compound l ten, which we... You've just heard my counselor colleague colleague talk about. I'm speaking particularly from the heart of the residents of Wardle Road and Highbridge Road on which this compound would be based. They're very anxious. Three things. Firstly, the level of consultation and transparency shown by Southern Water.

01:18:14:26 - 01:18:45:21
These have been practically nonexistent despite the rubbish that's written in one of their books. Secondly, a possible alternative location for the compound has been completely ignored as we've just heard in their latest report. Thirdly, the human and environmental impact on the compound have been given scant attention as we have heard from other scientific experts. Consultation and transparency. My wife and I have not been living on planet Zog.

01:18:45:23 - 01:19:18:18
We take an active interest in village affairs. We are not here hermits, yet we cannot remember seeing a single leaflet letter conversation about the compound until October twenty six when we learned about the proposal quite by chance. We have had no direct contact at all from Southern Water. Why not? When we know that the proposal has been in the making for four years as we heard about earlier. Alternative location, we've heard a bit about that previously.

01:19:18:20 - 01:19:50:22
The document produced by Southern Water, which was a response to the site meeting on the thirteenth of October, present when an alternative site was put forward, Kiln Lane and Highbridge Road junction, is the most logical for many reasons, not least of all because Southern Water already rent it. This suggestion has not received any response in the report while the four sites proposed by Southern Water are analyzed in detail. Why is this? Southern Water should give us a deep...

01:19:50:24 - 01:20:27:11
An explanation. Impact, the many families adjacent to the compound face years of disruption and disturbance, hundreds of extra vehicle movements a day, unbelievable on that road, which is if the M3 is blocked, it's the other way, the hundreds of traffic goes. Not to mention the light perilution for six and a half days a week. Would you like to live there? And how on earth can they be expected to enjoy a normal family life? As for the environmental impact, which we've heard about, I'm told Sothermore to have done their own assessment, but won't make it public.

01:20:27:25 - 01:20:39:12
Why is that? How's the environmental impact of the SSI at the bottom of the gardens in Wardle Road been considered? I've seen nothing on it, nor have my colleague residents.

01:20:41:12 - 01:20:54:04
Patterns of birds will be disrupted by the noise, dust vehicle movements, lights from the compound. As we've heard, the nearby river itching is an SAC, the most highly protected environmental agency.

01:20:54:06 - 01:20:57:17
Thank you. That's that's five minutes.

01:20:59:12 - 01:21:02:04
Three minutes. That's your three minutes. Thank you.

01:21:03:00 - 01:21:07:03
They're superficial, selective, and unacceptable.

01:21:07:20 - 01:21:21:22
And I'll just remind you, sorry, you that do have the opportunities for anything that you haven't had the chance... Submissions that you haven't had the chance to make orally in writing, and it will be considered by the examination authority alongside any

01:21:23:20 - 01:21:26:24
other oral submissions in the same way.

01:21:27:08 - 01:21:30:09
The deadline for that, the twenty third of November?

01:21:30:11 - 01:21:32:24
That's the deadline for deadline one. Yes. It is.

01:21:32:26 - 01:21:33:13
Thank you very much.

01:21:33:15 - 01:21:35:25
Thank you very much for your submission and your time. Thank you.

01:21:40:14 - 01:21:45:11
I've now heard from all the the the speakers who have registered to speak.

01:21:47:01 - 01:21:50:02
Can I? Both both physically in the room and virtually.

01:21:52:24 - 01:21:54:17
Can I ask, is there anybody?

01:21:58:29 - 01:22:05:09
Thank you. I was gonna ask if is there anybody else in the room that would like to make a submission?

01:22:06:24 - 01:22:09:11
I'm just gonna pass the mic to somebody here.

01:22:09:13 - 01:22:10:21
Yes. Thank you.

01:22:12:12 - 01:22:14:26
Sorry for that. But Just say your name. My

01:22:15:13 - 01:22:15:28
name is

01:22:16:00 - 01:22:17:27
Laura Cooper. I'm representing myself.

01:22:19:14 - 01:22:54:18
I am the tenant, since two thousand eleven, of the Portsmouth City Council's Farlington grazing fields on the slopes of Portsdownhill. Not only do I care for my ponies, but also for the thriving flora and fauna in the fields. My concerns are that the route, the pipeline, may affect on the surface the only vehicle access to the fields. The pipeline will travel from Farlington Avenue across the pavement and access to the field. This entrance is in daily use by myself as well as the general public on a footpath that runs for the...

01:22:54:20 - 01:23:33:25
To the George Inn. The entrance is also an entrance to the fire brigade to the surrounding slopes in case of fire. Please, can you reassure me that during the process, I will be able to gain access and that consideration of the environment will not be impacted? Addendum. Yesterday, I received a phone call from Delco McLaren in response to my email to register on the tenth of July two thousand and twenty six to Alec to allay my concerns and that wall clovers on the surface would not restrict the access.

01:23:34:17 - 01:23:35:11
Thank you.

01:23:38:03 - 01:23:46:07
Thank you, miss Cooper. Can I ask again, is there anybody else in the room that would like to make submissions?

01:24:01:08 - 01:24:04:12
Just wanted to check, is there anybody else in the room that would like to make submissions?

01:24:11:25 - 01:24:18:07
Can I ask, would the applicants like to respond to any of the submissions that have been made today?

01:24:19:28 - 01:24:24:12

Thank you, madam Alastair Paul, on behalf of Southern Water.

01:24:26:22 - 01:24:48:16
I'd firstly like to thank everyone for their submissions today. They are listened to and appreciated, and the applicant team is grateful to everyone for taking the time today to make make their submissions. I know that it's not easy, and it's it's not easy speaking in public either. So we we do appreciate it.

01:24:50:14 - 01:25:08:26
In respect of the majority of the submissions today, we will be responding in writing in due course in our responses to relevant representations. Those are obviously due on deadline one and many of those responses are already substantially drafted.

01:25:10:18 - 01:25:43:19
In terms of the matters raised by various parties this afternoon in relation to the water environment, I'm conscious that tomorrow we have an issue specific hearing that covers a number of those topics. And then also this morning at the preliminary meeting, there was some discussion around a second issue specific hearing in relation to water matters. And so I don't propose to respond on many of those points.

01:25:44:17 - 01:25:50:03
There are a few points that I would like to pick up on, though, if that's okay.

01:25:55:08 - 01:26:01:24
So firstly, the representations from councilor Cook,

01:26:03:13 - 01:26:19:17
mister Bailey Morgan, and mister Snoswell in relation to the construction compound l ten. I would just like to make a few remarks on the submissions in relation to consultation, if that's okay.

01:26:22:29 - 01:26:27:06
The applicant consulted in twenty twenty two

01:26:29:01 - 01:27:02:23
all of the cold cold and common, and it fell... And they fell into the secondary consultation zone. And they received posters and adverts and newspapers. Then residents and landowners that were within approximately five hundred meters from the pipeline corridors also fell into the primary consultation zone and additionally received letters. The consultation event was held in Colgan Common Community Centre on the twenty second of July twenty twenty two, which had one hundred and seventy nine attendees.

01:27:04:04 - 01:27:30:11
For the twenty twenty four consultation, the primary and secondary consultation zones were further refined into what were termed zones a, b, c, and d. Much of cold and common fell into zones b, c, and d, which received project leaflets, posters, notices in papers, and social media campaigns. So landowners within the project draft order limits would have additionally received letters as well.

01:27:31:29 - 01:27:41:08
There was a consultation event held in the Cullen Common Community Center on the twenty seventh June of twenty twenty four, which had one hundred and thirty eight attendees.

01:27:42:24 - 01:27:49:08
All of these activities are set out in the consultation report, which is APP o two nine.

01:27:51:06 - 01:28:03:22
Notwithstanding that as background, the applicant team has been engaging with local residents on on these matters, and the the meeting October was noted by a number of the the submissions this afternoon. And

01:28:05:11 - 01:28:06:00
the

01:28:07:28 - 01:28:13:21
the applicant team is keen to continue engagement on on these matters with with with the Golden Common residents.

01:28:17:27 - 01:28:32:07
The the next point I'd like to just pick up on if that's okay is just this... In terms of mister Bryce's representations. It's just as... Just one of the points I wanted to pick up on, which was there was a comment on

01:28:33:22 - 01:28:58:25
the fact that ground conditions hadn't been considered. I just wanted to flag that in the outlined soil resources and management plan as Appendix B, which is in the outlined construction and environment management plan examination reference APP412 to APP414. That does address handling of soils, storage of soils, reinstatement.

01:29:05:04 - 01:29:29:13
The next point I'd just like to pick up on is mister Newbury. A reference was made to the Gateshead principle. And the the... I think the statement was that the DCO just applies all environmental regulation. I'd just like to clarify if possible that the DCO does not propose to just supply all relevant legislation.

01:29:31:06 - 01:29:47:29
The schedule eight drafting modifies or proposes to modify the abstraction licensing regime, and it's not a full dissapplication. I'm conscious that we will go into more detail on that possibly at tomorrow's issue specific hearing, so I won't make any further comments on that for now.

01:29:56:23 - 01:30:31:28
The next point I'd just like to pick up on is Suala Braavman MP made a point around the permission to publish letter which we appended to the WRMP, that's Water Resource Management Plan twenty four position statement, which is reference PDA four. Ms. Brabman, I think, said that there would be a full rewrite of the WRMP twenty four post publication, I'd just like to clarify a couple of points on that.

01:30:32:17 - 01:30:54:12
Annex two of the permission to publish letter sets up a series of actions that DEFRA wishes the applicant to address in the twelve months following publication. The applicant will progress this work, but in the meantime, that does nothing to affect the status of WRMP twenty four once published. Publication of WRMP twenty four, as we briefly discussed yesterday,

01:30:56:15 - 01:31:00:24
establishes need under the national policy statement for water resources infrastructure.

01:31:03:06 - 01:31:34:19
It's not considered that the actions in Annex two will result in any reduction in the need for additional water resources, I. E. The supply demand balance deficit within the applicant's western area, and the need may in fact increase in the short term. In relation to the project, the actions will not reduce the need for the project, nor will they alter its selection as part of the preferred pathway in the final WRMP. The project will remain identified as an essential part of the WRMP solution.

01:31:36:02 - 01:32:09:12
The last two actions require the applicant to prioritize additional options appraisal activity given the WRMP's extended reliance on drought options to address the significant and immediate supply demand balance deficits, particularly in the Western area. The options appraisal is focused on interim measures until the project is delivered, not alternatives to the project. As part of this, the applicant will reassess interim options rejected as part of the WRMP process, including for reasons relating to delivery timescales and potential environmental impacts. These options would all be in addition to the project.

01:32:10:03 - 01:32:26:12
This work is required to be completed by the twelfth of August twenty twenty seven, although some outcomes may be reported in the WRMP annual review process if completed before June twenty twenty seven, and all outcomes will feed into work for the next WRMP cycle, WRMP twenty nine.

01:32:36:10 - 01:32:37:11
I think...

01:32:40:27 - 01:32:49:04
Yes. There was just one more point I think to come back on, and that was in response to Mr. Stanley of Rollins Parish Council.

01:32:52:02 - 01:32:52:22
Just

01:32:55:04 - 01:33:28:12
to clarify, know this came up at the preliminary meeting as well, just in relation to the selection of the project in twenty twenty one. So Southern Water confirmed in its WRMP annual review twenty twenty to twenty twenty one that selection of the project instead of desalination did not represent a material change to WRMP nineteen, and therefore reconsultation on the plan was not required.

Consultation on draft WRNP24 provided an opportunity for feedback on the selection of the project, including the DCO consultation in summer twenty twenty two.

01:33:29:13 - 01:33:39:25
So it's really just a point around there's been a significant amount of consultation on the projects, both in the WRMP context and in the DCO process.

01:33:43:04 - 01:33:46:00
I think that completes the applicant's submissions.

01:33:46:12 - 01:33:47:28
Thank you very much.

01:33:50:24 - 01:34:20:14
For those who have made oral submissions, Deb, I'd like to thank you very much for your time. It's greatly appreciated. Thank you. May I remind you, for those that have made oral submissions, that the timetable for this examination requires that the parties provide any post hearing documents, if you refer to them, including any written summaries individuals who spoke today, if possible, on or before the deadline of the... Deadline one, which is twenty third of November twenty twenty six.

01:34:22:02 - 01:34:38:09
For those who didn't feel that they could speak to that today or didn't have the opportunity to complete their oral submission, you still have the the opportunity to also make your submissions in writing in accordance with the the examination timetable.

01:34:41:09 - 01:35:11:15
The next event is issue specific hearing, which will take place tomorrow. I've got down at ten ten AM. Details of the agenda can be found on the rules six letter on the planning inspectorate's website. If there are no other matters that anyone wishes to raise, I shall now close the hearing. Thank you. And I will hand back to my colleague, Wendy... Miss McKay. Sorry.

01:35:12:23 - 01:35:18:07
Well, perfect. Thank you. The the open floor hearing is now closed. Thank you.