WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (WA010002)

Construction Compound L-10, Highbridge Road/Wardle Road and associated works

To	The Examining Authority
From	Jane Worner-Gibbs and Steve Worner
Address	[redacted]
Interested Party reference	
Date	23 November 2026

1. Who we are and how we are affected

We live at [redacted]

Although our property lies just outside the area likely to experience the greatest direct impact from Construction Compound L-10, we live [redacted] itself and are part of the immediate Highbridge community through which the effects of this development will be experienced.

We are therefore concerned not simply about the proximity of the compound to individual properties, but about the wider impact of the proposed works on residents of Wardle Road and Highbridge, the local road network, the rural environment and, importantly, the River Itchen and its surrounding environment.

We recognise the importance of securing resilient water supplies for Hampshire. Our objection is not to that objective. Our concern is whether the construction arrangements proposed to achieve it have sufficiently considered and minimised the effects upon the particular community and environment in which we live.

2. Construction Compound L-10 and our community

Construction Compound L-10 is proposed on land east of Highbridge Road (B3335) and north of Wardle Road.

Southern Water anticipates that the compound would operate for approximately 17 months, although this depends upon the detailed construction programme.

For residents, 17 months is a substantial period. The effect of a construction compound cannot reasonably be considered purely in terms of the properties immediately adjoining its boundary.

People living elsewhere on Wardle Road and in Highbridge will share the same roads, junctions and surrounding environment and will experience the cumulative effects of construction traffic, noise, lighting and general construction activity.

We therefore ask the Examining Authority to consider the impact of L-10 upon the Highbridge and Wardle Road community as a whole, rather than assessing impact solely according to distance between individual properties and the boundary of the compound.

3. Construction traffic and the local road network

One of our principal concerns is construction traffic.

Southern Water's published information for L-10 forecasts an average of 119 two-way light goods vehicle movements and 19 two-way HGV movements per day, rising during the four-month peak period to 260 light goods vehicle movements and 75 HGV movements per day.

The proposal is for HGVs to travel from M3 Junction 11 along the B3335 to the compound.

These figures are significant for this location.

We live [redacted] and use the surrounding roads routinely. The B3335 through Highbridge is not an isolated industrial access road. It forms part of the everyday local road network and is used by residents alongside other traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users.

There will inevitably also be interaction between construction activity and Wardle Road because the compound itself lies immediately to the north of it.

We are concerned that assessing individual traffic movements or junctions in isolation risks understating what residents will actually experience. The relevant issue is the cumulative change in the character and use of these roads throughout a prolonged construction period.

We ask that robust traffic controls are secured, including:

- defined HGV routes;
- restrictions at particularly sensitive times;
- appropriate speed controls;
- protection for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users;
- effective management of the compound entrance;
- measures to prevent construction vehicles waiting or parking on local roads; and
- active monitoring and enforcement throughout construction.

4. Noise, lighting and working hours

The published proposals provide for standard working hours extending from 07:00 to 19:00 on summer weekdays, 07:00 to 17:30 in winter and 07:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays.

Provision is also made for some overnight, Sunday and bank-holiday working associated with tunnelling.

This is particularly important at L-10 because it is associated with the proposed shaft and tunnel beneath the River Itchen.

Although Cobbitts is not one of the properties immediately adjoining the compound, noise and artificial lighting do not stop at a mapped impact boundary.

The predominantly rural character of the area and its existing night-time environment need to be properly considered when assessing the effects of prolonged construction and any night working.

We ask that night, Sunday and bank-holiday working at L-10 should be limited to operations for which it is genuinely necessary and that residents who may be affected receive reasonable advance notification.

Noise and lighting limits should be measurable and enforceable and should protect the wider residential and rural environment, not simply properties immediately adjoining the compound.

5. The River Itchen and the natural environment

Our concerns extend beyond the immediate effect upon our own property.

The River Itchen and its surrounding landscape are an exceptionally important part of the local environment. The fact that the proposed works involve tunnelling beneath the river makes protection of the river and its associated habitats particularly important.

We are concerned about both direct and indirect effects arising from construction, including disturbance, artificial lighting, noise, construction activity, drainage and run-off, and the potential for accidental pollution.

The environmental consequences of an incident affecting the river could extend considerably beyond the immediate construction site.

We therefore ask the Examining Authority to satisfy itself that the proposed method of construction, pollution prevention measures, monitoring arrangements and emergency procedures provide a suitably precautionary level of protection for the River Itchen and its associated environment.

Where monitoring indicates an unexpected effect, there should be clear thresholds requiring action rather than reliance upon retrospective investigation after environmental harm has occurred.

6. Hedgerows, wildlife and the rural environment

The effects upon the wider Highbridge environment also concern us.

Southern Water's environmental information identifies an important hedgerow [redacted] and trees in the vicinity with features suitable for roosting bats.

These are not simply isolated environmental features. They form part of the interconnected rural landscape around Highbridge, Wardle Road and the River Itchen.

Lighting associated with a substantial construction compound, particularly if activities occur at night, also has the potential to affect wildlife beyond the physical boundary of the site.

We therefore ask that:

- existing mature trees and hedgerows are retained wherever reasonably practicable;
- unnecessary vegetation clearance is avoided;
- lighting is kept to the minimum necessary for safe operation and designed to minimise light spill;
- appropriate ecological monitoring continues throughout construction;
- any loss of habitat is properly restored; and
- reinstatement is monitored sufficiently long after construction to demonstrate that it has actually succeeded.

7. The cumulative impact on Highbridge and Wardle Road

We consider this particularly important.

The effect upon our community should not be assessed simply by drawing a boundary around those properties considered to experience the greatest direct effect.

We may live just outside that area, but we live [redacted].

We use these roads. We live within this environment. We will experience changes in traffic and construction activity, and we share the landscape and natural environment which will be affected.

The relevant question should therefore not simply be whether Cobbitts, or another individual property, falls within a particular impact zone. It should also be whether the combined and prolonged effect of the works is reasonable for the community that has to live alongside them.

A modest impact experienced briefly is very different from numerous impacts experienced repeatedly over 17 months.

We therefore ask the Examining Authority to consider the combined effect of construction traffic, noise, lighting, road disruption, ecological disturbance and construction activity rather than considering each impact independently.

8. Communication with residents

People living on Wardle Road and in the surrounding Highbridge community should receive clear information about works likely to affect them.

This should not be restricted to households falling inside a narrowly defined impact boundary.

Residents should receive reasonable advance notice of:

- particularly disruptive works;
- changes to construction traffic arrangements;
- night or weekend working;
- temporary traffic controls or road disruption; and
- significant changes to the construction programme.

There should also be a named community liaison contact and an effective means of reporting urgent construction, highways or environmental problems.

Residents should not have to continually monitor a project website in order to discover significant changes affecting the area in which they live.

9. What we are asking the Examining Authority to do

1. Examine whether Construction Compound L-10 can be relocated, reduced in size or otherwise altered to reduce its impact on the Highbridge and Wardle Road community.

2. Consider the cumulative impact upon the whole local community, rather than concentrating solely upon properties closest to the compound boundary.

3. Ensure that construction traffic arrangements adequately protect residents and other road users on the B3335, Wardle Road and surrounding roads.

4. Secure meaningful restrictions and monitoring of HGV movements, construction traffic, noise, vibration, dust and artificial lighting.

5. Limit night, Sunday and bank-holiday working to activities where it is genuinely necessary and require reasonable advance notification to residents.

6. Ensure that the River Itchen and its associated environment receive the highest level of practicable protection during construction, including effective pollution prevention, monitoring and emergency response arrangements.

7. Protect existing trees, hedgerows, bats and other wildlife and require effective long-term reinstatement and monitoring.

8. Require Southern Water to communicate directly with the wider Highbridge and Wardle Road community about works likely to affect them.

9. Include Construction Compound L-10, Wardle Road, Highbridge Road and the surrounding area within any appropriate site inspection undertaken by the Examining Authority.

10. Ensure that important mitigation measures are secured through enforceable requirements rather than being left solely to arrangements made after development consent has been granted.

10. Conclusion

We understand why Hampshire's future water supply needs to be addressed and we do not underestimate the scale of the infrastructure required to do so.

However, a project of strategic importance must still be delivered in a way that properly protects the communities and environment through which it passes.

Our home may sit just outside the area identified as experiencing the greatest direct impact from L-10, but that does not mean that the impacts stop at that boundary.

We live[redacted]. The construction traffic will use our local road network. The construction activity will take place within our local environment. The River Itchen and the surrounding countryside are part of the place in which we live.

We therefore ask the Examining Authority to look beyond the immediate site boundary and ensure that the cumulative impacts upon Highbridge, Wardle Road, the River Itchen and the wider environment are properly considered and that appropriate, enforceable protection is secured.

Statement on drafting assistance

We used Microsoft Copilot to assist in structuring and drafting this representation, using published project information and the existing Highbridge neighbour representation as source material. We have reviewed and personalised the representation. Statements concerning our home, circumstances and local experience are our own.

Signed: Jane Worner-Gibbs

Signed: Steve Worner

Address: [redacted]