To: The Examining Authority, Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (WA010002)

From: Joanna Edwards **22nd November 2026**

Written representation: Construction Compound L-10, land east of Highbridge Road (B3335) and north of Wardle Road, Highbridge

Summary: I object to Construction Compound L-10 next to homes on Highbridge Road. Neighbours were never told about it directly. It would bring up to 75 HGV movements a day onto a fast, flood-prone road, possible night working for 17 months or more, and risks to bats, the River Itchen and historic landfill.

The row of cottages - 24-30 Brambridge - is a protected roosting nursery for long eared brown bats that are a protected species and must not be disturbed.

I ask for the compound to be relocated or reduced. If it does go ahead, you will need to consult bat conservationists. in addition to full investigation and consultation for binding limits in the DCO, a site inspection, landfill and pollution information, and a voluntary compensation scheme for neighbouring homes.

2. Why I am writing now

I first learned that a compound would be built next to my home in November 2006, by word of mouth from neighbours. I have not been sent correspondence regarding the proposed compound and I therefore did not submit a Relevant Representation by August 2026. I ask the Examining Authority to accept this representation and to register me as a an Interested Party.

3. Consultation did not reach the people most affected

Southern Water's own report, *Construction Compound L-10 Overview and Background* (October 2026), written after a site meeting with residents on 13 October 2026, confirms that:

- the compound was first shown in the Summer 2024 consultation, within a Book of Plans (para 3.3.4);
- in that consultation only landowners within the draft Order Limits received letters; most of Colden Common received leaflets, posters, newspaper notices or social media posts (para 4.4.3);
- the compound was first proposed west of Highbridge Road and was moved to its current site, beside homes, after engagement with Natural England and the Environment Agency (para 3.4.4);
- Colden Common residents were not consulted at all in Spring 2026 (para 4.4.6).

The family who occupy the field allowed survey access for three years without being told it would become a compound (Relevant Representation of [redacted] 21 August 2026). If they did not know, neighbouring households could not be expected to. I ask the Examining Authority to require Southern Water to explain when and how residents next to L-10 were told about the compound and its move east of the road.

4. Construction traffic and road safety on the B3335

Southern Water forecasts the following for L-10 (its report, Table 1, drawn from the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-414]):

Vehicles	Average two-way trips per day	Peak two-way trips per day
Light goods vehicles	119	260 (for 4 months)
Heavy goods vehicles	19	75 (for 4 months)

The works would last 17 months. All HGVs would travel from M3 Junction 11 along the B3335, and the site access would cross the footway and bus stop on the east side of Highbridge Road, managed by a single traffic marshal (paras 2.4.4 to 2.4.5). Brambridge and Highbridge Road are heavily used at peak times and are small windy B roads and it has been horribly chaotic over the last few years whenever the road is obstructed due to work taking place or because of flooding. I do not consider one marshal adequate mitigation for up to 75 HGV movements a day on this road.

5. Working hours, noise, light and night working

Standard hours would be 07:00 to 19:00 on summer weekdays, 07:00 to 17:30 in winter, and 07:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays (para 2.2.1). Southern Water says overnight, Sunday and bank holiday working may be needed for tunnelling, with the council only notified in advance (para 2.2.2). L-10 is the launch shaft for the tunnel under the River Itchen, so continuous working here is likely.

6. Duration and uncertainty

Southern Water expects L-10 to be used for 17 months but says this depends on the detailed programme (para 2.3.2), within a five-year build starting from 2028. The shaft's position is not fixed and could be moved closer to Highbridge Road (para 2.1.5). Residents cannot judge the impact when the main source of noise may move nearer their homes.

7. Environment and the land

- Southern Water's surveys class the hedgerow on the western side of the compound as an important hedgerow (ES Figure 8.9 [APP-239]). I ask it to confirm how much would be removed to form the access, and how it would be replaced.
- Its bat survey identifies trees by the compound with roosting features suitable for multiple bats, possibly a maternity colony, yet relies on a 10-metre buffer (paras 5.2.1 to 5.2.2). Night-time activity surveys and strict lighting controls should be required.
- The River Itchen is a protected chalk river (a Special Area of Conservation and SSSI). Pollution could reach it from the compound through run-off, drilling fluid, fuel or chemical spills and disturbed landfill, via the stream on the eastern boundary of the site. Pollution prevention measures and water-quality monitoring should be secured in the Development Consent Order, not left to later plans.
- Residents report that run-off from these fields already contributes to flooding on Highbridge Road, which is sometimes closed as a result. Replacing grassland with hardstanding, compacted ground and spoil heaps will make this worse. Southern Water should show how surface water from the compound will be held back so that run-off onto the road is no greater than today.

- Residents report historic landfill on both sides of Highbridge Road, including at L-10. The application documents say very little about the pollution risk from these deposits. Digging the launch shaft and running heavy plant over former landfill could release contaminants and ground gas. Southern Water should publish its records of historic landfill, including Environment Agency data, and any ground investigation or contamination assessment for L-10 and the land either side of the road. It should also explain why this risk does not favour returning to the original 2022 route to the north, which would avoid these areas.

8. Effect on homes and property

A long-term construction compound next door is likely to deter buyers and depress prices, both while the scheme is pending and during construction. Owners who need to move may only be able to sell at a loss. Southern Water's land agent has told at least one neighbouring owner that homes outside the Order Limits may be treated as "Category 3" interests, which may be entitled to claim compensation. Yet the Funding Statement (Doc 4.2, para 3.6.4) says Southern Water has not yet identified any interest it considers eligible in relation to blight. I ask Southern Water to:

- confirm in writing whether my household is treated as a Category 3 interest, and which rights, if any, it seeks over 28 BRAMBRIDGE.
- explain how it has assessed blight and loss of value for homes next to L-10, including those outside the Order Limits;
- set out what statutory compensation it says is available to neighbours, including under section 152 of the Planning Act 2008 and Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973; and
- commit to a voluntary compensation scheme, as offered on other major infrastructure projects, covering loss of value and allowing owners who need to sell to do so at an unblighted price.

9. Other representations

I support the Relevant Representation of [redacted], who occupy the field.

10. What I am asking for

1. Relocate the compound away from homes, or reduce it to the minimum needed for the shaft, with a full comparison of alternatives that includes a smaller footprint, the alternative sites A to D in Southern Water's L-10 report, and a return to the original 2022 route to the north.
2. Require Southern Water to explain why residents adjoining L-10 were never directly notified.
3. If L-10 remains, secure the following as requirements in the Development Consent Order:
    a. a maximum period of use at L-10;
    b. a fixed shaft location, or a minimum distance from homes;
    c. no night, Sunday or bank holiday working except defined tunnelling operations, with advance notice to residents;
    d. noise, vibration, dust and lighting limits, monitored at the nearest homes;
    e. HGV restrictions outside school and peak hours, a reduced speed limit, a safe pedestrian crossing and a relocated bus stop;
    f. acoustic hoarding, a named community liaison officer and a 24-hour contact line;
    g. pollution prevention and water-quality monitoring to protect the River Itchen;

    h. surface water drainage so that run-off onto Highbridge Road is no greater than now;
    i. full reinstatement of the land.
4. Include L-10 and Highbridge Road in the Examining Authority's accompanied site inspection.
5. Require Southern Water to publish its historic landfill records and any contamination assessment for L-10 and the land either side of Highbridge Road.
6. Notify every household within 500 metres of L-10 directly at each future stage.
7. If the compound remains, require Southern Water to commit to a voluntary compensation scheme for neighbouring households, covering disruption, loss of amenity and any fall in property value while the scheme is pending and during construction, secured in the Development Consent Order rather than left to later negotiation.

Use of AI: This representation was prepared from a template drafted with Claude, an AI assistant made by Anthropic, using Southern Water's L-10 report (October 2026), its Funding Statement (Doc 4.2), the published representation of [redacted] and points raised by the Southern Water Action Group. I have checked, edited and personalised it, and the facts about my household are my own.

Sincerely,

Joanna Edwards