

M3 Junction 9 Improvement Project

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Unique Reference: [REDACTED]

Questions re surface water and river pollution

A recent [article in the Guardian](#) refers¹ to results of FoIA requests to NH in respect of outfalls from its road schemes to rivers:

Last month, National Highways reported it had assessed its discharge points and found 1,236 outfalls and soakaways had “a potential high risk of pollution”. Of these, “145 have a verified high risk of pollution and require mitigation” while the remaining 1,091 had a “potential high risk” of “polluting the water environment”.

We have obtained the data to which the Guardian article refers and there are two outlets at risk at one location within the Application boundary:

1	Area/DBF O	Road (scheme)	Overall Risk Status	Verification Status	Easting	Northing	Asset Reference Number	Outfall Verified as High Risk	Service Grade	Structural Grade
540	3	M27,M271,M3	B (High)	Baseline assessment carried out	445911	115381	SU4515_9138j	No	0	0
541	3	M3	A (Very High)	Field Study complete	498508	166011	SU9866_5001c	Yes	#N/A	#N/A
542	3	M3	B (High)	Desk Study complete - field study requirec	450092	132279	SU5032_0927d	No	#N/A	#N/A
543	3	M3	B (High)	Field Study complete	444493	120158	SU4420_4915g	Yes	#N/A	#N/A
544	3	M3	A (Very High)	Desk Study complete - field study requirec	498508	166011	SU9866_5001a	No	0	0
545	3	M3	B (High)	Field Study complete	450092	132279	SU5032_0927a	Yes	0	0
546	3	M3	A (Very High)	Desk Study complete - field study requirec	496729	164672	SU9664_7267c	No	#N/A	#N/A

The location appears to be where the M3 crosses the Itchen to the north of Easton Down and west of Easton. In the Chapter 13 document (6.1) I can find no reference to these outfalls or to any problem outfalls within the Application Boundary. At §13.6.20 there is the statement:

The HADDMS shows the condition status of all existing highway soakaways as ‘low risk’ or ‘risk addressed’.

In the light of the above data, this needs explaining.

Questions:

- 1) Has a field study been made of the outfalls identified above and, if so, what were the results?
- 2) How many outfalls are there in the application area and into what water elements do they ultimately drain (e.g. Itchen, Nuns Walk Stream)?
- 3) How much soil from the ditches in the area has been designated as hazardous waste?
- 4) What results exist from testing the land, soil & water in and around the soakaways and outfalls?

¹ The photograph used by the Guardian, coincidentally, is of Compton Lock to the south of Winchester