



Meeting note

Project name	Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
File reference	WA010002
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	11 July 2023
Meeting with	Southern Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Scoping Update

Summary of recent Pre-Scoping EIA Working Group meetings

The Applicant explained that three rounds of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Working Group (WG) meetings had been held to date. The Applicant confirmed it had good levels of engagement with the group members, which had been fed into the drafting of the Applicant's EIA Scoping Report.

The Applicant confirmed five EIA WGs had been set up for the Proposed Development, as follows:

- Biodiversity and Water Environment
- Community
- Historic Environment and Landscape
- Resilience
- Emissions & Transport

The Planning Inspectorate asked the Applicant to expand on the members of the EIA WGs. The Applicant advised that the WGs have included Local Authorities, and statutory bodies such as Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. A separate Wildlife and Water Group has been established to engage with non-statutory bodies.



EIA Scoping Report

The Applicant summarised the matters and aspects it is looking to scope out of the EIA for the Proposed Development. These include odour, climate change resilience during construction, shipping and navigation, other marine users and major accidents and disasters. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to review [Advice Note Seven: EIA Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements](#), which provides advice on information required to justify proposed scoping out.

The Applicant is proposing to address surface water and marine water assessment in a combined water chapter, due to the considerable overlap when considering Water Framework Directive (WFD) matters.

The Applicant confirmed it was proposing to use a district level licensing (DLL) approach for great crested newts (GCN) and is discussing this approach with Natural England.

EIA Working Groups – Programme

The Applicant advised that it anticipates another nine rounds of EIA WGs between now and submission of the DCO application, which follows on from the three rounds that the Applicant has already held. These meetings will take place approximately every two months, targeted around key milestones. There may also be more detailed sessions between the rounds of WGs as required with specific stakeholders.

The Applicant advised that they will have a fourth WG meeting to discuss post-scoping opinion matters with stakeholders. The likely matters to be discussed in the remaining rounds of WGs are listed below:

- WG no. 5 – Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) approach, including baseline methodology and approach to mitigation.
- WG no. 6 – Initial findings from the PEIR assessments (ie likely impacts and findings of initial assessments)
- WG no. 7 – PEIR: impact significance and mitigation
- WG no. 8 – post-statutory consultation feedback
- WG no. 9 – Environmental Statement (ES): Baseline methodologies and approach
- WG no. 10 – ES: assessment findings
- WG no 11 – ES: impact significance and mitigation
- WG no. 12 – ES: other assessments

The Planning Inspectorate asked if there were any particular environmental matters of concern raised by attendees of the EIA WG meetings held to date.

The Applicant confirmed that attendees were interested in emerging survey data. The Applicant considered that attendees broadly agreed with the aspects it was seeking to



scope in and out, although there are some remaining matters to be resolved, for example it had received comments from a local authority concerning climate change resilience assessment during the construction phase. The Applicant has incorporated additional text in the EIA Scoping Report to respond to the comments and support the proposed scoping out of this matter.

Scheme Development Update

Above ground plant (AGP)

The Applicant summarised its development of the above ground plant (AGP) for the Proposed Development. The Applicant explained that it has been engaging with stakeholders, including Environment Agency, Historic England, and Local Planning Authorities to obtain feedback on the initial sites selected.

Construction Compounds

The Applicant explained that as it develops the pipeline route, it will aim to incorporate feedback received from stakeholders in order to locate the compounds required, in particular where trenchless crossings will be located.

Integration with Portsmouth Water Pipeline

The Applicant explained that it is pursuing options for the integration of its pipeline route from the Water Recycling Plant to Havant Thicket Reservoir with Portsmouth Water's pipeline from Bedhampton Springs to Havant Thicket Reservoir.

The Applicant explained that during its non-statutory consultation in 2022, it proposed a deep segmental tunnel with pipelines connecting into Havant Thicket Reservoir. The Applicant added that this continues to be its approach and explained that Portsmouth Water, through further feasibility work, now has a tunnel alignment like that of Southern Water's. The Applicant explained that it is continuing discussions with Portsmouth Water to look at integrating the infrastructure into a possible shared tunnel to reduce costs and minimise construction impacts on local communities and the environment. The Applicant explained that further detail would be shared with the Inspectorate when available.

The Applicant also confirmed that the daily sweetening flow through the tunnel from Havant Thicket Reservoir to Otterbourne Water Supply Works would be 20 MI/d (rather than 7.5 MI/d) following consultation with the Drinking Water Inspectorate. This increased sweetening flow has also been informed by hydraulic calculations to identify the optimum balance between pressure and velocity in the pipeline. As a result, the diameter of this pipeline has been decreased to circa 70-80 centimetres.



The Applicant explained that Portsmouth Water would likely submit a TCPA application next year for any shared tunnel solution. The Applicant is considering the implications of that for its Statutory Consultation planned for spring 2024.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant intended to include the pipeline between the Water Recycling Plant and Havant Thicket Reservoir in its EIA Scoping Report.

The Applicant confirmed that it would include both its current segmental tunnel proposal and any potential shared tunnel proposal in its EIA Scoping Report, in order to retain flexibility for both options.

Water Recycling Plant Preferred Site

The Applicant confirmed that Site 72 in Havant was identified as the preferred site for the Water Recycling Plant (WRP) during its Summer 2022 consultation. The Applicant explained that its ongoing review of its site selection process continues to identify Site 72 as the preferred site. This has included detailed environmental, planning and constructability assessments of all potentially suitable sites.

The Applicant explained that it has engaged with the landowner of the proposed Welborne Garden Village, located north of Fareham and that this proposed development is being carefully considered when determining the preferred pipeline route.

The Applicant confirmed that the WRP will have a total capacity of 60 million litres a day (MI/d) which would still potentially be delivered in a phased approach. The first phase could have a peak of 20 MI/d and the second a peak of approximately 40 MI/d. The proposed phased approach will be considered in the EIA Scoping Report.

Programme Update

The Applicant explained that it intends to submit a request for a Scoping Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2023. It added that PEIR assessments will start shortly thereafter. . Statutory Consultation is currently programmed for Spring 2024, with a view to submitting a DCO application in mid-2025.

The Inspectorate queried whether the potential to share pipeline/tunnels with Portsmouth Water would have any implications for the Section 35 direction obtained for the Proposed Development. The Applicant responded that it is still considering the implications of a potential shared tunnel with Portsmouth Water for its Section 35 direction, including seeking legal advice. The Applicant advised that any action relating to the Section 35 direction would likely be later this year or early next year.

The Applicant explained that RAPID Gate 3 for Southern Water is anticipated to be in March 2024, before its Statutory Consultation. The Applicant explained that, in order to



avoid stakeholder confusion, its Gate 3 submission to RAPID will be primarily fed by design and assessment work being undertaken for the DCO application. The Applicant added that other water companies are having similar discussions around how to coordinate the gated RAPID process with the DCO process.

Engagement update

The Applicant provided a stakeholder engagement update. The Applicant is continuing to meet with the Local Authorities through a bi-monthly Joint Officer Group, focusing on project programme, scheme development and technical updates. The Applicant also highlighted ongoing bilateral meetings with the Local Authorities focused on Borough-specific matters, consultation feedback, current pipeline route optionality, and AGP locations. The Applicant outlined that it has Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) in operation across seven of the eight Local Authorities.

The Applicant also holds monthly Technical Working Groups with Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Marine Management Organisation, with a recent focus on the discharge permit arrangements required as a result of the proposed development.

The Applicant explained that targeted landowner discussions are continuing, with the Applicant taking landowner feedback into account as the scheme design continues to develop.

Water Resources Management Plan 24 (WRMP24) update

The Applicant explained that Southern Water will issue a Statement of Response to the consultation on its draft WRMP in Sep/Oct 2023. It anticipates issuing a revised draft WRMP24 for consultation in late 2023/early 2024. This will be followed by a further Statement of Response in Spring 2024 and then final publication of the WRMP in Summer 2024. The Applicant noted the risk of a public inquiry delaying the publication of WRMP24.

Next steps/ Any other business

The Applicant advised that RAPID has recently issued updated Gate 3 guidance. The Applicant requested the Inspectorate to review the updated guidance to ensure there is a clear distinction between RAPID and DCO process requirements. The Applicant noted a concern around potential duplication of environmental data and evidence.

The Applicant noted that there was a recent meeting between the Inspectorate and RAPID and queried if this updated guidance had been discussed. The Inspectorate confirmed that it is involved in strategic-level discussions with RAPID.



Water Specific Advice Note

The Applicant asked whether there were any updates on the proposed water resources infrastructure-specific Advice Note. The Inspectorate explained that the workstream is underway and the Advice Note could be published towards the end of 2023.

The Applicant commented that it would like to see the proposed Advice Note in draft form if possible before publication. The Applicant commented that it would not wish to see the Advice Note replicating policy, which is set out in the National Policy Statement (NPS). The Applicant asked whether the water-specific Advice Note could be discussed at a later meeting. The Inspectorate acknowledged that this could be discussed.

Other business

The Inspectorate queried with the Applicant how the EIA Scoping Report was to be submitted to the Inspectorate and confirmed that use of a file transfer site or SharePoint site is possible, where files are too large to be sent by email. A test download could be undertaken before the formal request. The Inspectorate reiterated the information in its Advice Note 7 with regards to individual file size for publication. Single files are requested to be no more than 50MB in size. The Inspectorate advised it is possible to divide the EIA Scoping Report into separate parts and/or provide a high-resolution and low-resolution version.

The Applicant reiterated the importance of separate RAPID and DCO processes. The Inspectorate advised that this will be fed back, and it would continue dialogue with RAPID in the future.

The Applicant confirmed that a formal request for a Scoping Opinion would be sent on Friday 21 July before 17:00.