



Meeting note

Project name	Teddington Direct River Abstraction and South East Strategic Reservoir Option
File reference	WA020002 and WA010005
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	13 December 2023
Meeting with	Thames 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.

Update on draft revised Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)

The Applicant explained that it had submitted its revised draft WRMP to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in August 2023 and explained that it is a key document that outlines the needs case for both Proposed Developments. The Applicant is currently awaiting a decision by the Secretary of State (SoS) as to whether the revised draft WRMP can be published in final form. The Applicant suggested a future meeting with the Inspectorate to provide further detail on topics in the WRMP.

Teddington Direct River Abstraction (DRA)

Progress with the section (s)35 direction

The Applicant explained that it is currently awaiting a decision by the SoS following the submission of a request for a s35 direction in November 2023. The Applicant intends to provide the Inspectorate with an update on the s35 decision in the new year.

Non-statutory consultation

The Applicant stated that it undertook public consultation on site options which ran from 17 October 2023 to 11 December 2023. Over 1000 responses had been received. The Applicant stated that it is currently in the process of reviewing and analysing feedback to undertake further design and assessment work.

Programme

The Applicant explained that there had been no changes to the programme since the last project update meeting and provided a summary of key dates:

- Submission of EIA scoping report – Spring 2024;
- Statutory consultation - Winter 2024; and
- DCO submission – early 2026.

The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to be provided with a specific submission date of the Scoping Report in due course to support resource planning. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would be available for a meeting prior to submission of the Scoping Report to advise on practical matters as needed.

South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

The Applicant stated that an update on the Proposed Development had been published in October 2023 and two community information events had been held in November 2023. The Applicant stated that it intends to commence a number of ecological and ground investigation surveys to support future assessment and design work. The Applicant explained that where it is unable to secure access to land by agreement, it can pursue statutory powers of access through s172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, subject to Defra consent to utilise those powers.

Programme

The Applicant explained that there had been no changes to the programme since the last project update meeting and provided a summary of key dates:

- EIA scoping request – Summer/Autumn 2024;
- Non-statutory consultation – Summer 2024; and
- Submission – Q3 2026.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had considered staggering the dates for the EIA scoping request and non-statutory consultation. The Applicant explained that it has found that stakeholders found it useful for information to be released at the same time but that it would consider PINS' advice. .

Planning Inspectorate (PINS) information form

The Applicant explained that it is currently in the process of refining the scope of the project description. It is undertaking discussions with Southern Water where there are interfaces between the Proposed Development and other strategic resource options or capital schemes. The Applicant requested an extension to the deadline for the provision of information to confirm key information. The Inspectorate advised that it is beneficial to have a clear project description and that it was content to await this information.

AOB

Future meetings

The Inspectorate advised that project update meetings could be planned around key milestones, such as post s35 direction decision. The Inspectorate advised that it would be

helpful to understand how the Proposed Developments relate to other projects and this could be covered in a future project update meeting.

The Applicant explained that it could arrange for the attendance of Subject Matter Experts (SME). The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to consider having separate meetings for the two Proposed Developments going forward.

The Applicant confirmed that both Proposed Developments are currently working towards Gate 3 of the regulatory RAPID process that governs funding for each development stage. The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to be provided with an update in future meetings on the stage of other regulatory processes that the Proposed Developments are subject to.

The Applicant explained that it intends to develop its approach on whether to seek permission to include certain licences and permits in the DCO and it can provide the Inspectorate with an update in future meetings.

Summary of proposed agenda items for future meetings:

- WRMP matters relating to the DCO process;
- Consents and licencing strategy;
- RAPID progress;
- EIA scoping; and
- Potential project delivery models (SIPR).

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Confirm a date to submit required information for the website; and
- Organise meeting on WRMP.