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16<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
**By e-mail**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Southern Water – Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project**

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above proposal.

The proposal has been considered and consultations have been undertaken with the council's specialist officers.

An introduction is made to highlight the priorities of the council and to discuss the general principles of the project.

The report is then separated into city council wards to discuss potential impacts based on the maps provided in the consultation.

Finally, the report concludes by discussing specialist areas including Landscape, Ecology and Climate Change amongst others.

Winchester City Council seek to work proactively with Southern Water and all other stakeholders during consideration of the project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Green, whose details are at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

**Cllr Jackie Porter**  
Cabinet Member for Place and the Local Plan



## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Winchester City Council (WCC) is a host authority with regard to the proposed location of the scheme, with the majority of the pipeline passing through the district. WCC remain committed to working with Southern Water in a proactive manner.

1.2 It is important to highlight that WCC declared a climate emergency in June 2019. The council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2024 and is aiming for the wider district to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The declaration is a common thread through all council decisions and actions, including how we consider and respond to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Southern Water must take this declaration into account throughout development of the scheme and must be able to demonstrate how the scheme being developed is consistent with the objectives of making this declaration.

It is important to stress climate impact is an interrelated issue and the city council expect climate impact to be a key consideration throughout.

1.3 Water quality is a key consideration for the city council and I draw your attention to a motion passed in July 2022 which sets out the council's plan to improve water quality in rivers and waterbodies. Further information can be found here -

<https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=9349>

1.4 The need for the project is understood and the Council appreciates the existing and future pressures to ensure a continued secure supply of fresh water. The principle of the project is supported and the council will continue to assess the technical aspects of the scheme to ensure it can be completed without adverse harm to the environment, local residents and special interests of the District.

## **2.0 Potential Impacts by City Council Ward**

This section of the response is separated by council wards along the length of the route from east to west. Sections outside of this area fall under the jurisdiction of neighbouring authorities and I defer to their expertise in these areas.

### **2.1 Southwick and Wickham**

2.1.1 Pipeline Option R runs to the far south of the district boundary. Key features in this area includes the Portsdown Hill forts which are designated Scheduled Monuments. The forts either sit within Portsmouth City Council's jurisdiction or are divided between councils. It is important that the setting and importance of the features are not undermined by temporary works and I note from the documents that

the position has been moved further north to lower the impact which is a supported amendment.

Archaeological potential is a key consideration in this area and should be subject to thorough review.

2.1.2 There are a high number of Ancient Woodlands in the area to the south of North Boarhunt and it is positive to see Option R excludes these areas. The pipeline could potentially sit close to woodlands at Stroud Coppice, Ashleydown Coppice and Moor Coppice and the final positioning of the pipeline should sit as far as possible from these areas.

2.1.3 The pipeline then enters Fareham Borough Council's jurisdiction, this is close to the strategic development of Welborne and I defer to colleagues at Fareham to comment on any potential impacts. Part of the open space for Welborne, known as Dashwood, does however sit within Winchester's jurisdiction and the city council will seek to ensure the delivery of this open space is not impacted by pipeline development.

The pipeline returns into the district as Option V. Southern Water should be aware of an application for 200 homes on land north of Ravenswood House (18/01612/OUT). The pipeline must not conflict with the delivery of this scheme if it is approved. The council are happy to put Southern Water in contact with the applicant to discuss.

2.1.4 The pipeline, turning north, sits close to the west of Wickham. It is noted the pipeline enters Park Place, which is on the Hampshire Inventory of Historic Parks and Gardens. Long-term impacts are therefore a key consideration in this area and the removal of hedgerows and features to create a visible 'scar' on the landscape above the pipeline must be avoided.

2.1.5 It is noted that the pipeline passes the A334. This is a key and extremely well used road which connects Wickham to surrounding villages. The road is often subject to delay due to busy cross-roads and construction must be completed sensitively to keep traffic disruption to the absolute minimum. Clarification is sought on whether the construction via the A334 will be open trench or tunnelled.

## 2.2 Whiteley and Shedfield

2.2.1 The pipeline enters the ward just to the east of Shedfield, close to Turkey Island. The option route narrows and sits close to Long Copse and Shirrell Copse Ancient Woodlands. The exact positioning of the pipeline in this area will be reviewed closely by the council in this area to ensure there is no significant ecological impact.

2.2.2 The pipeline moves closer to New Place (Hampshire Inventory of Historic Gardens) and the Grade I listed New Place. It is important that the impact on the setting of the building is demonstrated and any long-term visual changes must be avoided in this area.

### 2.3 Central Meon Valley

2.3.1 The pipeline changes to Option Y in this area, entering the Central Meon Valley ward for a short distance. The pipeline appears to cross the Shedfield : 6 Public Right of Way and necessary consents must be secured from Hampshire County Council as Rights of Way Authority

2.3.2 The pipeline also crosses an area of land clearly subdivided for equestrian use into small parcels which increases the level of disruption compared to open agricultural land. Southern Water must work with the owners of the land in this regard.

The pipeline then returns to the Whiteley and Shedfield ward.

### 2.4 Whiteley and Shedfield (2)

2.4.1 Close to Woodmans Farm, mapping shows the presence of a Roman Road and Option Y appears to overlap this area. Careful archaeological investigation is therefore required in this area.

### 2.5 Bishops Waltham

2.5.1 The boundary of the ward also forms part of the Park Lug, a historic boundary of the Bishop's Palace within Bishops Waltham. This is a historic feature which must not be dissected or disturbed by the pipeline and the city council expects an assessment to be made on the impact. The pipeline then appears to run parallel with the lug for some distance, increasing the level of disturbance. This area of the route must be considered carefully.

2.5.2 The pipeline then crosses the B3035 (Botley Road). This is a key route for Bishops Waltham connecting the town to Botley, Whiteley and Southampton. Traffic disturbance must be kept to a minimum and clarification is sought on whether open trenching or tunnelling is proposed in this area.

2.5.3 The crossing of the River Hamble also requires sensitive construction. The River flows to the Solent, a highly protected area and any accidental harm could have significant consequences. It is assumed tunnelling is proposed here to prevent a long-term visual impact and to minimise construction risks.

2.5.4 Where the pipeline changes to Option Z, it is noted it is highly likely to dissect the Pilgrims Trail which is an important walking route in the area. Consultation and consent with the Right of Way Authority is required.

2.5.5 The pipeline enters the Wintershill Hall area (on the Hampshire Inventory for Historic Gardens) and it is noted an above ground permanent feature is proposed here (BPT4). This must be designed and landscape sensitively to protect the features of this garden or relocated outside of the area.

## 2.6 Upper Meon Valley

2.6.1 Continuing as Option Z, the pipeline enters the ward for a short distance. It is highlighted that the South Downs National Park contains an outshoot in this area to include Torbay Farm (to the south of Lower Upham). This results in the pipeline bordering the National Park boundary which must be considered during construction and the council will work alongside colleagues at the National Park Authority in this regard.

The pipeline then enters Eastleigh Borough Council's jurisdiction for a short distance before re-joining the district at Park Hills wood.

2.6.2 It is noted that the ancient woodland has been avoided in this area which is supported and the exact proximity of the pipeline to the woodland will be assessed at a later stage.

2.6.3 The pipeline moves closer to the separated Park Pale at Marwell Scheduled Monuments and an assessment will be required on the impact on their setting due to the proximity.

## 2.7 Colden Common and Twyford

2.7.1 The pipeline appears to straddle the boundary between Winchester and Eastleigh in this location and both authorities will collaborate on this section during future consultations.

2.7.2 A number of public right of ways are crossed in the area to the south of Colden Common and disruption must be kept to a minimum. The Brambridge Lodge Tree Preservation Order Area must also be avoided.

2.7.3 The pipeline crosses the B3335 which is a busy and well-used route connecting the area to Eastleigh. Traffic disturbance must be kept to a minimum and

clarification on whether an open trench or tunnelled route is being used in this area is required.

2.7.4 To the west of Colden Common, the northern option enters Brambridge Park which is a Historic Garden containing a Grade II\* listed property. This is also in close proximity to the National Park boundary. Together, this results in this option being a highly sensitive route with multiple constraints. The city council will work with colleagues at the National Park authority in this regard.

2.7.5 Both options enter the River Itchen SSSI. This is a highly sensitive area which flows to the Solent, a nationally designated site. The risk of accidental construction impacts must be prevented in this area and the city council will need to be assured that thorough mechanisms are in place to protect this area.

It is noted that the route is tunnelled beneath the watercourse which is welcomed to prevent long-term visual impact to this attractive area. The city council will be seeking further details on the methods of construction in this area at future consultations.

## **2.8 Badger Farm and Olivers Battery**

2.8.1 The pipeline runs in close proximity to Otterbourne Manor (Grade II), Manor House Barn (Grade II) and the Moated Site at Otterbourne Manor Scheduled Monument. The setting assessment is key in this location and it is vital the long-term visual appearance of the pipeline (considering above ground infrastructure and scarring of the landscape through hedgerow removal) is avoided.

2.8.2 The route then moves north to connect to the Otterbourne Water Works. An understanding of the additional infrastructure required at the Works will be required at later stages of the project.

## **3.0 General Comments**

### **3.1 Landscape**

For future consultations, it is requested that a plan showing only sections of the pipeline within the Winchester district are submitted with greater detail provided to allow a thorough assessment by the council's Landscape specialists.

The council requires confirmation on the amount of land that will be required for the pipeline post-construction to allow for maintenance access. If any form of permanent maintenance tracks are required this must be demonstrated and assessed for its impact on the landscape character of the area.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the majority of the pipeline will be under ground and therefore not visible in the long-term, there is potential for an evident line or scar to be created across the landscape through the removal of hedgerows, landscaping and any future planting restrictions to protect the pipeline. It is therefore important that the restrictions for planting and development above and in close proximity to the pipeline are understood to ensure this is avoided.

### 3.2 Ecology

The council's Ecological specialists will require further details in the future to provide a detailed response.

Future consultations must include clear detail on designated habitats and areas of ecological importance, including protected species, alongside details of how these could be impacted by the proposals during the construction and operational phases.

The mitigation hierarchy must be followed in designing and developing the proposals further.

Measureable Biodiversity Net Gain must be achieved and evidenced in line with imminent law set out in the Environment Act and in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and Winchester Local Policy.

### 3.3 Historic Environment

The pipeline runs close to a number of listed properties, historic gardens and potentially non-designated heritage assets. The assessment of setting is a key consideration to the council and long-term negative impacts will not be supported. The distance between the pipeline and listed features should be maximised and designed-out to prevent impacts during construction.

A number of scheduled monuments may also be impacted and Historic England will advise Southern Water on the requirements for development in close proximity to these features.

### 3.4 Archaeology

Discussions are currently ongoing with Southern Water's archaeological consultant regarding this project and the submission of draft archaeological and geoarchaeological assessments of the identified potential corridors for the pipeline route are awaited, together with the results of initial survey / investigations to be carried out later this year.

These assessments and reports will inform further dialogue on additional archaeological investigations as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment and help to inform decisions on the identification of a preferred route corridor.

### 3.5 Climate Change and Sustainability

The project aims to ensure the district has sufficient water resources for the future as the climate warms and droughts and prolonged dry spells become more frequent. In doing so, it relieves pressure on the River Itchen. In terms of vulnerability to climate change, the project makes a valuable contribution to the district.

Alongside this project, it is critical that the widespread issues of water leakage and wastage are resolved.

The council would appreciate further updates on other measures being taken in parallel to this significant project and would like to discuss general measures being taken (both related to this project and outside including the roll-out of water saving technology to properties across the district).

Transport emissions during construction will be significant and the council requires a Sustainable Transport Plan to see how Southern Water and its contractors are mitigating emissions from deliveries and workers commuting to the construction sites as well as on-site fuel use (e.g. HVO or hydrogen fuelled construction equipment).

It is understood a preliminary assessment of the embedded carbon emissions from the project has been undertaken and it is requested this is shared with the council. It is necessary for Southern Water to indicate how it has mitigated emissions (e.g. through local sourcing or through use of low carbon materials and fuels throughout the build process).

Turning to operational costs, an understanding of the energy required for the pumping of the pipeline is requested including design details of the pumps. The council would like to be assured that the pumps are electric and powered through renewable sources.

The council's climate and sustainability specialists look forward to working with Southern Water in the future development of the scheme.



### **3.6 Public Protection and Contaminated Land**

In construction, it is expected the submission will be supported by assessments and mitigation measures to minimise disruption to local residents through means of noise, air quality (from dust) and other construction impacts.

In operation, any above ground equipment such as pumping stations which are in close proximity to residential dwellings or places of work will need to be supported by relevant noise assessments.

It is noted Southern Water have contacted the council's Environmental Protection service for data on contaminated land and this has been provided. It is expected that the project will be supported by relevant supporting documents and the council's specialists will review these when they are available.

### **4.0 Other Comments**

#### **4.1 Wildlife Corridors**

The development has the potential to interrupt established wildlife corridors which rely on hedgerows or natural features which could be dissected by the route. It is important this is thoroughly assessed as part of the future surveys and mitigation assessments in the future.

There is also an opportunity to improve corridors as part of the project's Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. Additional landscaping, hedgerow planting and habitat creation should be looked at on a wider scale to support connecting habitats and areas of interest.

#### **4.2 Leakage Prevention**

It is noted by recent events across the district and in discussion with local residents there is frustration in the amount of water wasted through leakage.

This project must form part of a wider strategy to reduce and remove the current leakage in the existing system and the council request further discussions with Southern Water to discuss these measures further.

Turning to the proposed infrastructure, the risk of leakage must be designed-out at this stage and the council requests details on how water leakage will be prevented in the upgraded system.

### 4.3 Population Projections

It is noted the project forms part of a strategic vision to prepare for population growth in the region. Within the future submission the council wish to see how population projection has been considered alongside a demonstration of how the project meets this need. This must also consider the further unexpected movement of people into the Hampshire area during and after the pandemic from surrounding cities.

### 4.4 Opportunities for Alternative Development

The project is a large infrastructure scheme with significant disruption likely during construction. It is therefore important to assess whether other community infrastructure improvements could be completed in-line with the programme. Such examples include potential use of the land above-ground (disturbed by the construction of the trench) as cycle routes to connect settlements in the south of the district. The city council wishes to work with Southern Water further on this matter to discuss feasibility.

### 5.0 Conclusion

The City Council acknowledges the importance of the scheme and supports the principle of development as it ensures the delivery of safe drinking water to residents and also protects the habitats and species of the district's rivers which is important to the Council.

The scale of the project is significant and there are a number of constraints along the route which require careful consideration and mitigation.

The City Council and its specialist officers look forward to working closely with Southern Water and our partners on the project.

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