

Marie Shoesmith
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The Planning Inspectorate

Via email:

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Application	CS/23/95815
Please ask for	Liz Harrison
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Tuesday 22 August 2023

Dear Sirs

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning
(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations)
– Regulations 10 and 11**

**Application by Southern Water Services Limited (the Applicant) for an Order
granting Development Consent for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water
Recycling Project (the Proposed Development)**

**Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and
duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested**

Thank you for the consultation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
Scoping Report for the above proposal.

Due to the timing of the submission over the holiday period it has not been possible to
put together a detailed response. However, it is considered that the overall approach
proposed in the Soping Report is acceptable subject to the following points:

Incorrect references:

- Table 8-1 (paragraph 8.2.4) lists the Council's "Securing our Natural Environment Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2032" as a relevant local policy but it should be noted that this is a draft document that has been significantly revised and has not been through consultation or been adopted and therefore does not have any policy weight at present.
- The reference in Table 11-1 (paragraph 11.2.4) to "Policy 35 – ES Contaminated Land" as the relevant policy for EBC needs to be of the amended as the policy numbering refers to the previous local plan, despite being listed under the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036. The relevant policy is DM8 "Pollution", as referred to elsewhere in the report.
- The reference in paragraph 12.5.9 to policy S5 of the Emerging Eastleigh Local Plan is out of date as the adopted Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-

2036 does not allocate land north of Bishopstoke and Fair Oak and adopted policy S5 relates to new development in the countryside.

- The reference in Table 13-9 (paragraph 13.2.17) to EBC policies G2, G3, G4, G6, G7, G8, G16 is incorrect as these are not policies within the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036.
- The reference in Table 15-1 (paragraph 15.2.2) to EBC policy S7 “New development in the countryside” is incorrect as in the adopted Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 policy S7 relates to the coast and policy S5 relates to new development in the countryside.

Detailed points:

- The submission suggests that professional judgement can be used to assess scoping distance for impacts on hydrologically linked sites (i.e. River Itchen). This should be amended to say it will be done in close liaison with the relevant bodies and site specific specialists.
- In areas important for bats, severing hedgerows could potentially impact populations further than 2km (i.e. populations associated with large areas of ancient woodland). Again, specialist local advice should be sought in these instances.
- It is agreed that the southern damselfly should be considered an important potential receptor.
- It should be clarified how the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and proposals link with those of the Ecological Impact Assessment.

The Council reserves the right to provide more detailed comments once the application is formally submitted for consideration.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Grandfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Grandfield
Service Director for Planning and Environment