



Request for an EIA Screening Opinion

River Itchen WTW, Permanent Centrifuge, Southampton

Portsmouth Water

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Basis of Report

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Appendices

- Appendix A Assessment against the Planning Casework Unit criteria**
- Appendix B Plans**



Acronyms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (also called National Landscapes)
ATC	Automatic Traffic Count
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EBC	Eastleigh Borough Council
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
HCC	Hampshire County Council
HEDBA	Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
PDAS	Planning, Design and Access Statement
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
TA	Transport Assessment
TS	Transport Statement
WHS	World Heritage Site
WTW	Water Treatment Works



1.0 Introduction

SLR Consulting was commissioned by Portsmouth Water (the 'Applicant') to assist Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) in determining whether proposals for a permanent centrifuge for separation of silt from raw river water (the Proposed Development), on land within its existing River Itchen Water Treatment Works (WTW) (the Application Site), would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as defined within the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 2017 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations).

Whilst EIA Screening is not a mandatory step in the EIA process, the EIA Regulations provide an opportunity for an Applicant to request the formal opinion of the planning authority (an 'EIA Screening Opinion') on whether the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant environmental effects, and as such would be considered to be 'EIA Development' and require the submission of an Environmental Statement (ES) as part of any future planning application.

This Request for an EIA Screening Opinion makes appropriate reference to the criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations, and the clarifications given in the EIA Planning Practice Guidance (May 2020)¹. In accordance with the procedure set out in the EIA Regulations, this request for an EIA Screening Opinion includes the following information:

- a plan sufficient to identify the land (**Appendix B**);
- a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the sensitivity of the geographical areas likely to be affected (**Section 2.0** of this Request);
- a description of the development, including its physical characteristics (**Section 3.0** of this Request);
- a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development (**Sections 4.0 and 5.0** of this Request);
- a description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from expected residues and emissions, and the use of natural resources (**Section 5.0** of this Request);
- such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make, including any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment (**Sections 4.0 and 5.0** of this Request);
- conclusions on the potential of the development for significant environmental effects (**Section 6.0** of this Request).

To assist EBC with this process, the checklist used by the National Planning Casework Unit and the Planning Inspectorate when screening for EIA has been used within **Appendix A** of this document.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>



2.0 Application Site and Surrounds

2.1 Description of the Application Site

The Application Site is shown in **Appendix B** and encompasses approximately 0.59 hectares of operational land within the current Portsmouth Water River Itchen WTW, which is located approximately 3.5 kilometres to the south of Eastleigh. The Application Site comprises an area of amenity grassland and hardstanding adjacent to existing operational WTW buildings and the WTW internal access road.

The Application Site is accessed via a priority junction onto Allington Lane, which connects to the A27 at its southern end and Fair Oak to the northeast. The purpose of the River Itchen WTW is to extract raw water from the adjacent river into the Highwood Raw Water Storage Reservoir within the nearby Itchen Valley Country Park. Raw water is then drawn from the reservoir and processed / treated within the WTW prior to distribution to Portsmouth Water and Southern Water customers. The wider WTW site within which the Application Site lies is approximately 11 hectares in extent, and it can treat approximately 50 million litres of water each day.

There are no national, European or international natural heritage designations (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) within or adjacent to the Application Site. The Application Site is not within a protected landscape as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/National Landscape) and contains no built heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings.

There are no watercourses within or immediately adjacent to the Application Site, but it is functionally close to the River Itchen. All of the Application Site is within Flood Zone 1, which the Environment Agency defines as being at the lowest risk of flooding from rivers or the sea.

The Application Site is on bedrock designated as a Secondary Aquifer and the superficial drift geology is also designated as a Secondary Aquifer. Groundwater vulnerability is classed as medium, and the Application Site does not lie within a Source Protection Zone.

2.2 Description of the land immediately surrounding the Application Site

Land uses immediately adjacent to the Application Site are all within the operational WTW and the description below is therefore based on land adjacent to the wider WTW.

To the west and northwest is the River Itchen corridor. The watercourse is designated as the River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC); these are national and European designations respectively. At its closest point, the designated area is approximately 170 metres away from the Proposed Development.

Land to the north and northeast forms part of the Itchen Valley Country Park. There are no public rights of way (PRoW) adjacent to the wider WTW site.

Southwest and south of the WTW is the M27 motorway corridor, which is in cutting adjacent to the WTW boundary.

There are three dwellings immediately south of WTW entrance gates on a short spur of road that runs from Allington Lane to the WTW entrance. These dwellings are understood to be in private ownership.



2.3 Description of the wider environment

The character of land and land use beyond the immediate surroundings of the Application Site and wider WTW comprises a mixture of open land and recreational uses either side of Allington Lane, with some residential dwellings fronting onto the road. Southwest of the Application Site, beyond the M27 corridor, land use becomes increasingly urbanised within the eastern fringes of Southampton.

The closest Scheduled Monument to the Application Site is the Wayside Cross and Page's Farm, which is approximately 5.5 kilometres to the north. The closest Listed Buildings to the Application Site are numbers 1 and 2 Mansbridge Road. These are Grade II listed and are located approximately 300 metres to the southwest, on the opposite side of the M27 corridor. There is a Registered Park and Garden (Townhill Park) approximately 550 metres to the southwest.

Southampton Airport is located approximately 1 kilometre to the northwest of the Application and Southampton City Centre is approximately 5.5 kilometres to the southwest. Eastleigh Town Centre and railway station are approximately 3.5 kilometres to the north.



3.0 The Proposed Development

3.1 Nature of the Proposed Development

Portsmouth Water will be seeking planning permission for a new permeant building on the Application Site to house a centrifuge; alongside a balancing tank, sludge cake skip and adjacent hard standing for temporary pallet storage. This is hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

The Proposed Development is a specific improvement to deal with sludge from the water treatment process, which had previously been discharged to an adjacent sewer. The proposed centrifuge will allow separation of solids, with the by-products being a centrifugal silt (sludge cake) and centrate water. The sludge cake will comprise a non-hazardous waste that will be periodically removed from the skip storage on site for off-site disposal by a licenced waste carrier. The centrate water by-product can be discharged to the existing public sewer. There will be no requirement for any discharges that would require an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency.

The Proposed Development will not operate continuously, and its use will be influenced by WTW throughput. Operating hours are however envisaged to be typically during the working day. Expected volume of sludge cake per week will be relatively limited, with typically less than one skip being produced per week. There will be no odorous component to the sludge cake. A liquid polymer is required for the process and this will be stored within a bunded area, with a spill area for it and deliveries. Spills are however very unlikely as the polymer will be delivered and stored in Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) within the proposed building, rather than being transferred from tanker.

It is envisaged that the new building would be a single-storey structure with a portal-framed and blockwork construction and a pitched roof. There may be a large roller shutter door on the eastern elevation and an elevated unloading pipe on the northern elevation to transfer process sludge into the adjacent cake skip.

It is envisaged that the new building would be approximately 5 metres in width and approximately 12 metres in length. Ridge height of the centrifuge building will be approximately 4.7 metres above ground level and height of the balancing tank is envisaged to be approximately 4.5 metres above prevailing ground level. The planning application area, including connection to the public highway using the existing WTW service road is envisaged to be approximately 0.59 hectare.

The Proposed Development will not lead to any material change in personnel numbers at the WTW or any material change in average daily vehicle movements to and from the WTW.

A provisional potential site layout is shown in **Appendix B**.

3.2 Embedded (Primary) Mitigation

Delivery and storage of polymer will be within IBCs to minimise the potential for any adverse effects to the water environment associated with this material.

3.3 Known cumulative development

There is no known cumulative development for consideration as part of this EIA Screening Request, and the Proposed Development is not inherently part of broader Portsmouth Water development proposals. In EIA Screening terms the likelihood of significant effects can therefore be considered for the Proposed Development in isolation.



4.0 The EIA Screening process

4.1 Overview in the context of the EIA Regulations

The EIA Regulations are applied to certain types of development that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Various development types are categorised in the EIA Regulations as Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 developments.

The first stage of the EIA screening process is to determine whether the Proposed Development is of a type described under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations. Development described under Schedule 1 must be subject to EIA. Development described under Schedule 2 may be EIA development, depending on whether it is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In the case of Schedule 1 projects, EIA is only intended to be required for a small number of development proposals where significant environmental effects are likely. Within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations, there are a range of major projects for which EIA is mandatory.

In the case of Schedule 2 projects, the location of the development must be examined to determine if it is in a sensitive area. This is defined in the EIA Regulations as including:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);
- Land under nature conservation orders and international conservation sites (e.g. Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites);
- National Parks (including the Broads);
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) (also called National Landscapes);
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Scheduled Monuments.

If the Application Site is classed as being within a sensitive area, then the screening criteria and thresholds in Schedule 2 are not applicable and the Proposed Development is examined to determine whether it is likely to have significant effects on the environment. If so, the development is an 'EIA Development' and an ES is required.

If the development is not in a sensitive area, the next stage in the screening process is to assess whether the development proposals meet or exceed any of the applicable thresholds and criteria for that particular type / class of development. These thresholds and criteria are related to the attributes (e.g. size of the Application Site, production / output, or capacity of a facility) of a type of development, and not exceeding or meeting them is a strong indication that an EIA is not required².

If the development exceeds or meets any of the applicable thresholds and criteria, then it is termed a Schedule 2 development, and the next stage is to assess if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This Request for an EIA Screening Opinion follows the above screening process as it applies to this Proposed Development, to assist the planning authority in determining whether it is an EIA development, and so requires the preparation of an ES to accompany

² Regulation 5(7) of the EIA Regulations enables the Secretary of State to direct that a development described in Schedule 2 is EIA development even if it falls below the exclusive thresholds. The local authority or a member of the public is able to make a request to the Secretary of State for such a direction.



any planning application. The flow chart from the EIA Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (2014, as amended 2020) has been used as a guide to the various stages of the process.

4.2 EIA Schedule 1

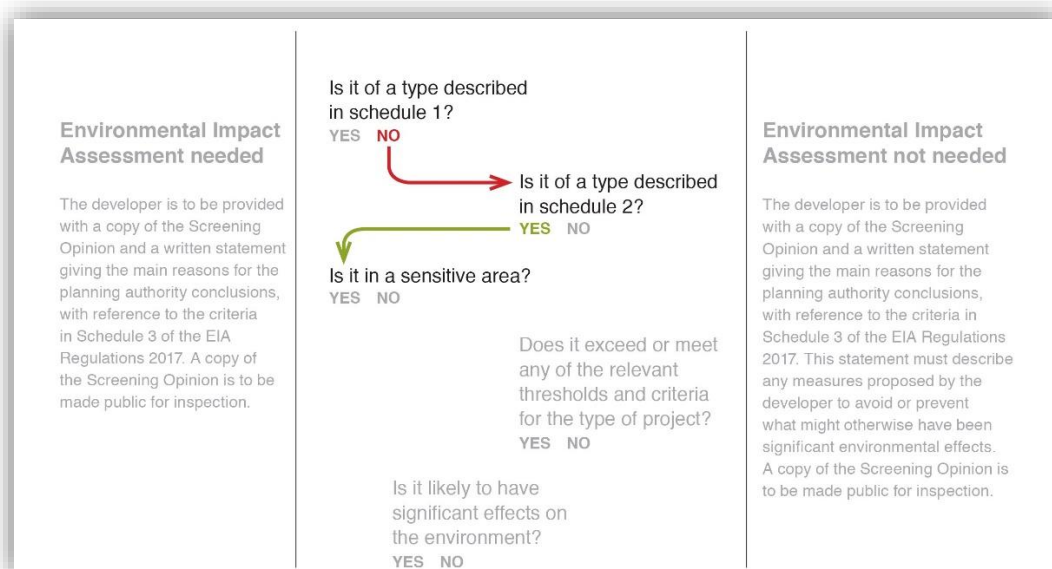
The Proposed Development is not listed under Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. Therefore, the requirement for EIA is not mandatory.

4.3 EIA Schedule 2

Where development is of a type described in Schedule 2, an EIA is more likely to be required if the Application Site is located in a sensitive area, or the scale of the Proposed Development meets or exceeds the applicable thresholds and criteria.

Whilst there is not a specific type of development listed within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations covering the nature of the works proposed within the Application Site, case law has confirmed that the EIA Directive (and hence the UK Regulations) is intended to have a 'wide scope and broad purpose' and that even where development types are not specifically described within the Schedules, EIA can still apply. It is considered that there may be three potential categories for the Proposed Development under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations:

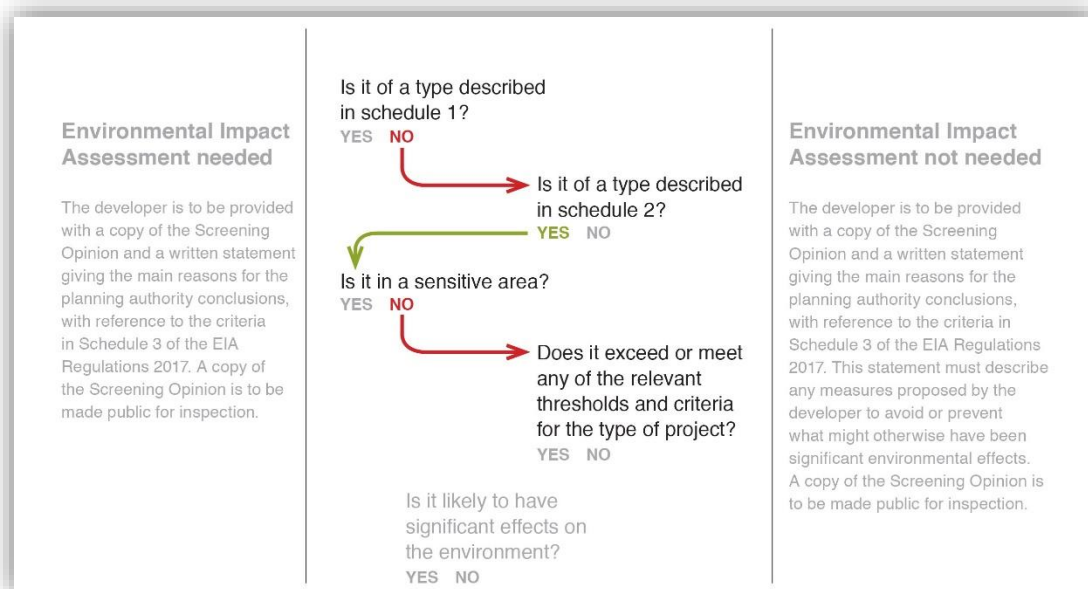
- *Industrial and Manufacturing Development: 7 - Food Industry* – none of the sub-categories are a direct fit but as the water processing at the WTW is for human consumption, there is a link to the purpose of the Proposed Development;
- *Infrastructure Projects: 10(b) - Urban Development Projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks, sports stadiums, leisure centres and multiplex cinemas* – this is a very broad category of development and includes many different forms of built development that could arguably also cover the Proposed Development; and
- *Other projects: 11(d) – Sludge Deposition Sites* – this category is mainly intended for the storage and deposition of sewage sludge and hence is different to the Proposed Development, but there is a link to the nature of the material being processed, stored and managed on the Application Site; this in turn creates a comparison to the nature of potential environmental effects.



Considering the wide scope and broad purpose of the EIA Directive, and precedent within the UK planning system, it is considered that the Proposed Development is of a type described in Schedule 2.

4.4 Sensitive Areas

The Application Site is not located within a 'sensitive area', as defined in the EIA Regulations and the requirement for EIA must now consider whether the Proposed Development exceeds applicable thresholds within Schedule 2 and is likely to have significant effects on the environment.



4.5 Applicable Thresholds

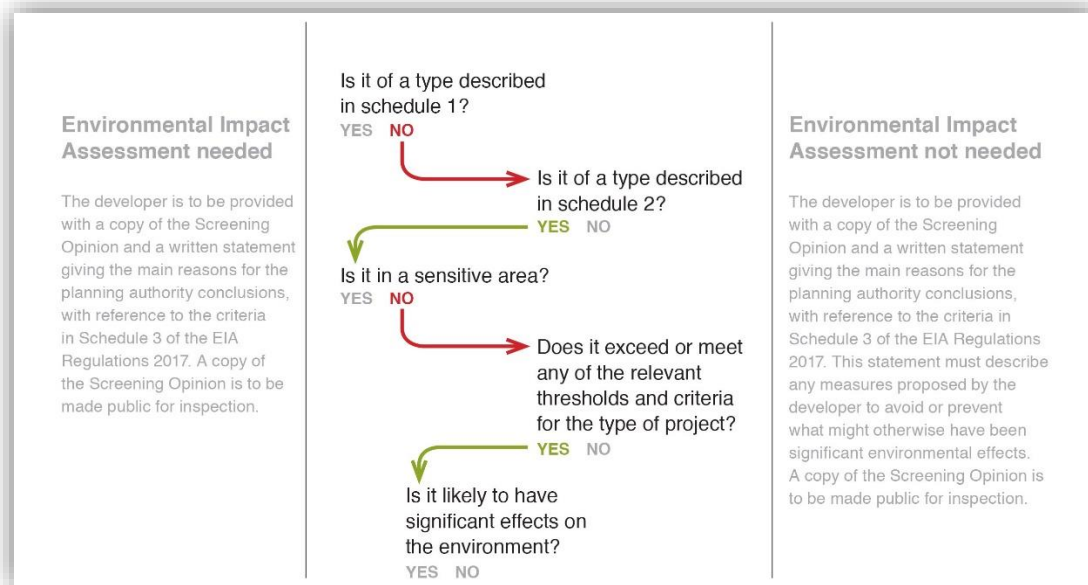
As discussed in Section 4.3, it is considered that there may be three applicable categories of Schedule 2 and the associated thresholds for each are set out below.

- **Industrial and Manufacturing Development: 7 - Food Industry** – the relevant stated thresholds for this category of development under Schedule 2 is an area of new floorspace under 1,000 m² or an area of new building or structure exceeding 0.05 hectares.
- **Infrastructure Projects: 10(b) - Urban Development Projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks, sports stadiums, leisure centres and multiplex cinemas** – the relevant stated thresholds for this category of development under Schedule 2 are more than 1 hectare of new urban development or a total site area of more than 5 hectares.
- **Other projects: 11(d) – Sludge Deposition Sites** – the relevant stated threshold for this category of development under Schedule 2 is where the area of deposit exceeds 0.5 hectares.

The Proposed Development will be above some of these thresholds but substantially below others. Being above a threshold in Schedule 2 is not an automatic trigger for EIA being required but it does typically indicate that consideration needs to be given to whether significant environmental effects are likely. In this case, with the Proposed Development potentially being considered under more than one type of development in the Regulations, a



precautionary approach has been taken that the Proposed Development is above applicable thresholds in Schedule 2.



5.0 Assessment of likely environmental effects

5.1 Comparison with the PPG

The EIA Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (May 2020) provides further indicative criteria and thresholds that can be helpful in determining whether significant environmental effects are likely for the Proposed Development. The further guidance provided in the Annex to the EIA PPG often aligns to the nature/character of the likely impacts of the development:

- **7 - Food Industry** – EIA is more likely for sites over 10 hectares and smaller developments where they may give rise to significant discharges of waste, emissions of pollutants, or noise. A key question is whether there would be any discharges to water that would require Environment Agency consent, or the presence of significant quantities of hazardous or polluting substances;
- **10(b) - Urban Development Projects, including the construction of shopping centres and car parks, sports stadiums, leisure centres and multiplex cinemas** – schemes bigger than 5 hectares or more than 10,000m² of new commercial floorspace. Key likely issues are increases in traffic, emissions and noise;
- **11(d) - Sludge deposition sites** – more likely on sites intended to hold more than 5,000m³ of sludge and key likely issues are discharges, emissions and odours.

It is noted that the Proposed Development is below all of these indicative criteria for likely significant effects. Further review and analysis are provided within Section 5.2 below.

5.2 Consideration of likely environmental effects

5.2.1 Landscape and Visual Impact

All elements of the Proposed Development would be contained within the wider WTW site and would be of a comparable scale to the existing adjacent operational buildings. There would thus be no likely significant effect on landscape character associated with the Proposed Development. There would be no requirement for removal of existing influential



landscape features within the WTW site to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development and therefore no likely significant effect on the current landscape resource.

The new structures would be set in the immediate context of the existing operational buildings and as such, if there were any views into the WTW, it is likely that the new structures would either be predominantly screened by existing buildings and boundary planting when viewed from the south and east or would be viewed against a backdrop of the existing operational buildings and boundary landscape planting when viewed from the north or west. As such, there would be no likely significant visual impacts associated with the Proposed Development.

5.2.2 Ecology and Biodiversity

There are no national or European nature conservation designations on the Application Site, but the River Itchen SSSI and SAC is approximately 170 metres to the west of the Proposed Development. The existing land cover within the Application Site comprises either amenity grassland or hard surfaced access road, and as such the existing ecological value of the Application Site is considered to be very low.

By virtue of the separation between the Application Site and the river, and the absence of any discharges to the river, the Proposed Development will not result in any direct effects on the River Itchen SSSI and SAC. On the basis that the Proposed Development is within the main operational area of the existing WTW, it is considered that indirect effects on the designated site (e.g. associated with any lighting and potential effect on bats using the river corridor) will also not be likely.

The Proposed Development will result in the removal of a small area of amenity grassland, which due to its current low ecological value will not represent a likely significant effect. With all planning applications since 12 February 2024 being required to demonstrate at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), there would be no likely significant ecology and biodiversity effects of the Proposed Development.

5.2.3 Heritage

The archaeological potential of the Application Site is not known, however being within the existing operational area of the WTW, with its associated network of below ground pipework and utilities, it is envisaged that any archaeology within the area of the Proposed Development may have been previously truncated or destroyed. Even where there have been previous phases of development, there remains the potential for hitherto unknown archaeology and it is considered that this can be appropriately mitigated through agreement of a watching brief during topsoil stripping on the Application Site, with provision for appropriate investigation, evaluation, recording and preservation by record if any archaeological assets are identified during the watching brief.

There are no built heritage assets within the Application Site and there will thus be no potential for any direct built heritage effects. The closest listed buildings are approximately 300 metres to the southwest, and it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would have any adverse effect on the setting of these buildings because of the relative separation between them and the Application Site, the presence of screening provided by the existing operational buildings and boundary planting and intervening built development on the southern side of the M27.

This visual screening and containment of the Proposed Development within the operational area of the WTW would also avoid any likely significant effect on the setting of the Townhill Park Registered Park and Garden approximately 550 metres to the southwest. Separation between the Proposed Development and the Wayside Cross and Page's Farm Scheduled Monument approximately 5.5 kilometres to the north will also avoid any likely effects on its setting.



5.2.4 Noise and Vibration

The closest noise-sensitive receptors to the Proposed Development will be the existing private residential properties on the access road to the WTW, approximately 160 metres east of the Application Site. It is envisaged that their existing background noise environment will be influenced by traffic on the M27, Southampton Airport and to a lesser degree by activities associated with the operation of the WTW.

Construction of the Proposed Development will have potential for elevated noise levels associated with the movement of plant and machinery within the Application Site, and construction vehicles. There will be little requirement for any substantial earth moving activities requiring heavy machinery. With good practice controls on construction noise implemented through a CEMP and the short duration of construction works, no significant noise effects would be likely from this phase of the Proposed Development.

Once the Proposed Development has been commissioned, there would be very little additional human activity at the Application Site and the mechanised centrifuge process would be housed within the proposed building. With the beneficial effect of the acoustic enclosure provided by the proposed building and separation between the proposed building and the existing residential receptors, significant adverse operational noise effects are considered unlikely.

Where noise levels would have potential to result in adverse effects at sensitive receptors, there would be scope for design mitigation to reduce received noise levels.

5.2.5 Traffic and Transport

Movement of vehicles associated with construction of the Proposed Development will have a temporary effect on background traffic flows. Traffic associated with construction is likely to represent a very small proportion of the background traffic. A Construction Traffic Management Plan may be agreed with the Highway Authority, to include elements such as a routing agreement and timing of some construction movements. There would be no likely significant traffic and transport effects associated with the construction of the Proposed Development.

Once the Proposed Development is operational, levels of daily vehicle movements associated with its use and removal of sludge cake will be very low. This is likely to lead to a negligible or imperceptible change compared to background traffic flow on Allington Lane and there would be no adverse effect on the surrounding highway network.

5.2.6 Air Quality

The Application Site is not within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and the closest is along Wide Lane, running north into Eastleigh. Existing background air quality for criteria pollutants in the vicinity of the Application Site will be influenced by emissions from road traffic including the adjacent M27 and aviation emissions from Southampton Airport.

Estimated Background Air Pollution Maps (base year 2018)³ show total annual mean concentrations based on 1 km x 1 km grid squares (445500,115500 for the Application Site). These indicate a mean annual nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) background concentration of 17.16 ug.m⁻³ and a mean annual fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) concentration of 15.64 ug.m⁻³. Both concentrations compare favourably to the UK Air Quality Strategy annual mean objectives, which is 40 ug.m⁻³ for each of these pollutants.

Whilst there will be emissions associated with construction traffic movements, the scale and duration of these will not result in material changes to background concentrations and these

³ <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-home>



will remain substantially below the annual mean objectives. Although construction phase vehicle and plant emissions are likely to be of a low magnitude and limited duration, it is envisaged that appropriate controls will be included within a CEMP for the Proposed Development prior to commencement that will seek to minimise such emissions through measures such as specification of plant and vehicles used and operating protocols. Post-construction, there will be no additional day-to-day traffic or plant associated with the Proposed Development and as such, no significant associated emissions to air during operation. Significant effects associated with plant and vehicle emissions are therefore not likely.

There will be potential for mobilisation of dust during construction through movement of plant and vehicles, soil stockpiles and potentially track out onto highways. It is expected that a Dust Management Plan (DMP) will form part of a CEMP for the Proposed Development and that this will be based on the good practice commonly implemented guidance provided by the Institute of Air Quality Management. With this mitigation in place, there would be no likely significant dust impacts during the construction phase.

5.2.7 Ground Conditions

The nature of the current land use of the Application Site and its surrounding land within the wider WTW suggest a generally low potential for significant contamination of ground or groundwater.

There is potential for the presence of contaminants within soils but with typical good practice mitigation in the form of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and provisions for actions to be taken in the event of unknown contamination being encountered during construction (most likely under a planning condition), no significant ground conditions effects are likely.

Consideration of the potential effects to groundwater during construction is provided in Section 5.2.8 below. The nature of the Proposed Development and the embedded mitigation in respect of materials handling and storage (summarised in Section 3.0 of this Request) is such that there would not be any significant potential for contamination of land during the operational phase.

5.2.8 Water Environment

The Application Site is wholly within Flood Zone 1 and because the Proposed Development area will be below 1 hectare, unless the Environment Agency confirms that the Application Site is within a critical drainage area, there would be no requirement for a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) in support of a planning application.

No built development is proposed adjacent to the River Itchen and appropriate protection of this watercourse from contaminants or sediment in overland flow during construction can be secured if needed within a CEMP prior to commencement of development

In common with the majority of construction projects, there will be potential for leaks and spills of contaminants to the water environment such as fuels and lubricants, however where these occur, they are likely to be localised and of limited extent. Where any more substantial quantities of fuels or lubricants are required during the construction process, the location and requirements for storage of these potential contaminants will be specified within a CEMP prior to the commencement of construction. These would follow prevailing good practice and would include requirements for location of the construction compound(s) away from watercourses; provisions for storage of potential contaminants in defined areas on impermeable bases and with suitable capacity; designated areas for refilling; and provisions of appropriate spill kits.



Although an FRA might not be required for the Proposed Development, a proportionate surface water drainage strategy would be prepared as part of the planning application; this would take account of the characteristics of the Application Site and the existing patterns of surface water drainage within the WTW. The drainage strategy will include appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water, with controlled discharge either to ground or watercourse such that there would be no increase in on or off-site flood risk. With this required approach for any planning application, there would be no likely significant effect associated with flood risk.

5.2.9 Socio-economics, Population and Human Health

The Proposed Development will not result in any long-term change in local demographics and will have no additional on-site personnel. As such, there will be no likely adverse effects on demand for community resources such as healthcare or educational services.

Whilst there will be an increase in temporary construction employment and potential for increased local retail spending, this will be at a relatively low level and for a limited period. This will represent a beneficial effect but in EIA terms, and when compared to relevant employment and economic metrics at borough and county level, this would not represent a likely significant effect.

Potential effects on human health are considered within Section 5.2.6 and 5.2.12 of this Request.

5.2.10 Waste

The construction of the Proposed Development will have the potential to generate some waste, however construction waste would be a specific topic within a CEMP for the Proposed Development, which it is envisaged would be required under a planning condition on any consent. It is envisaged that the measures for management of construction waste set out in the CEMP would be based on the waste management hierarchy, with an emphasis on reducing the creation of waste. This would also specify Principal Contractor requirements for the temporary storage of construction waste (where on the Application Site and how). Through a combination of low likely levels of construction waste generation and a good practice common approach to the management of construction waste, there would be no likely significant effects in this respect.

Once operational, there will be no additional personnel on site and the potential for generation of municipal solid waste during this phase of the Proposed Development will therefore be negligible. The sludge cake will be a non-hazardous waste product associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development. Weekly and annual quantities of sludge will be relatively low and this will be periodically removed from the Application Site for appropriate final disposal by a Licensed Waste Carrier. As such, there would be no likely significant waste effects associated with the operation of the Proposed Development.

5.2.11 Climate change

Whilst there will be greenhouse gas emissions associated with the manufacture of components and materials; transport to the Application Site; and the construction process, when considered against national or local budgets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions the scale of the Proposed Development is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on a trajectory towards net zero carbon. Similarly, whilst there will be operational energy requirements associated with the permanent centrifuge a proportion of this energy requirement will be met through existing and approved on-site solar renewables. The scale of the residual demand (and the associated carbon emissions) will be very small in comparison to national or local carbon budgets. No likely significant climate change effects are therefore envisaged.



5.2.12 Major Accidents and Disasters

The scale and nature of the Proposed Development are such that there would be no likely significant effects in respect of major accidents and disasters.

5.2.13 Cumulative Effects

There are no known cumulative schemes to be considered in the context of this EIA Screening Request. As such, there would be no likely significant cumulative effects.



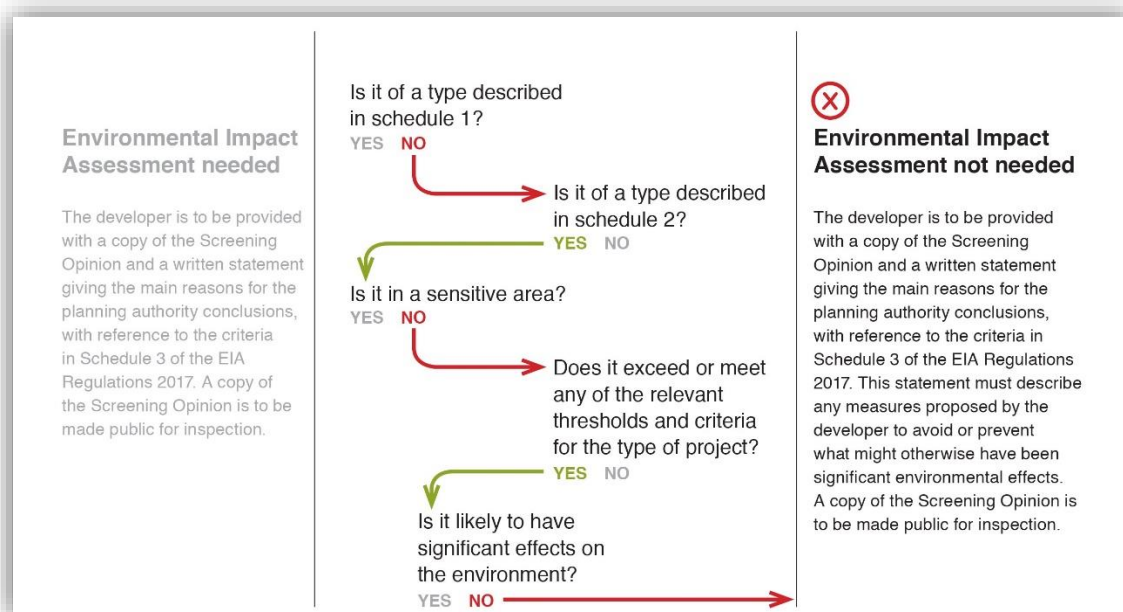
6.0 Conclusion

Portsmouth Water is formally requesting an EIA Screening Opinion from EBC to determine whether the Proposed Development constitutes an EIA development.

This Request for an EIA Screening Opinion has been prepared to provide relevant information to assist EBC in its determination and includes all of the information required under Regulation 6(2) of the EIA Regulations.

The Proposed Development has been assessed in accordance with the screening process set out in the EIA Regulations and this has concluded that:

- the Proposed Development is of a type described in Schedule 2;
- the Application Site is not located within a sensitive area;
- the Proposed Development is assumed to be above relevant thresholds in the EIA Regulations;
- the Proposed Development is not considered to have significant environmental effects;
- the Proposed Development does not require an EIA.



Whilst the decision remains with EBC, this report concludes that the Proposed Development will not require an EIA, as it is considered unlikely to result in significant environmental effects.

In accordance with Regulation 6(6)(a), EBC should adopt a Screening Opinion within 3 weeks of receiving this Request.

As per Regulation 5(5), should EBC consider that it has not been provided with sufficient information to adopt a Screening Opinion, it may notify the Applicant of the points on which additional information is required.

In the event that EBC agrees with the conclusion of this Request, it is envisaged that the following reports / assessments would be submitted as part of a non-EIA planning application for the Proposed Development:

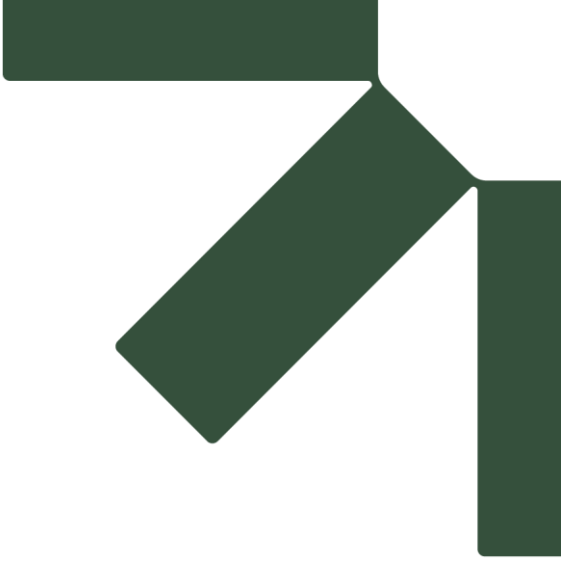


- Planning and Design and Access Statement (PDAS);
- Transport Statement (TS);
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA);
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment; and
- Flood Risk Statement.

EBC is invited to comment on this list of supporting technical assessments and any other pre-application guidance or validation requirements that the Applicant should take into account.

Whilst EIA Screening is commonly undertaken at an early stage in the pre-application process, there are no known limitations that would preclude the issue of an EIA Screening Opinion. It is noted that should the Proposed Development materially change between issue of an EIA Screening Opinion and the submission of the resultant planning application, an updated Screening Opinion can be sought from the planning authority.





Appendix A Assessment against the Planning Casework Unit criteria

Question	Likely/Unlikely and rationale	Is a significant effect likely? ⁴
Natural Resources		
1.1 Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	Unlikely There will be a change in land use, but the Proposed Development will not materially change the topography of the Application Site.	Not significant The Proposed Development will not have a significant physical impact on topography.
1.2 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Likely Energy and materials will be used in the construction of the Proposed Development. Once operational, the Proposed Development will require an electricity supply.	Not significant Materials used are not in short supply and most components can be recycled on decommissioning. A proportion of energy demand for the Proposed Development will be provided through operational and approved on-site renewable electricity generation.
1.3 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	Unlikely No such important resources would be affected by the Proposed Development.	No impact predicted Not applicable.
Waste		
2.1 Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Likely Waste will be produced during the construction phase of the project, although not envisaged to be significant quantities. During operation, the Proposed Development will produce sludge cake.	Not significant Waste generated during the construction phase will be managed in accordance with good construction practice, using the waste management hierarchy. Sludge cake is a non-hazardous waste and will be produced in relatively small quantities. It will be subject to appropriate disposal by a licensed waste carrier.
Pollution and nuisances		
3.1 Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	Likely Pollutants that might be released to air would be exhaust emissions from the vehicles moving to, from the Application Site.	Not significant Impacts are not expected to be adverse or significant and would not be expected to result in any significant changes to background concentrations.

⁴ If the finding of no significant effect is reliant on specific features or measures of the project envisaged to avoid, or prevent what might otherwise have been, significant adverse effects on the environment these should be identified in **bold**.

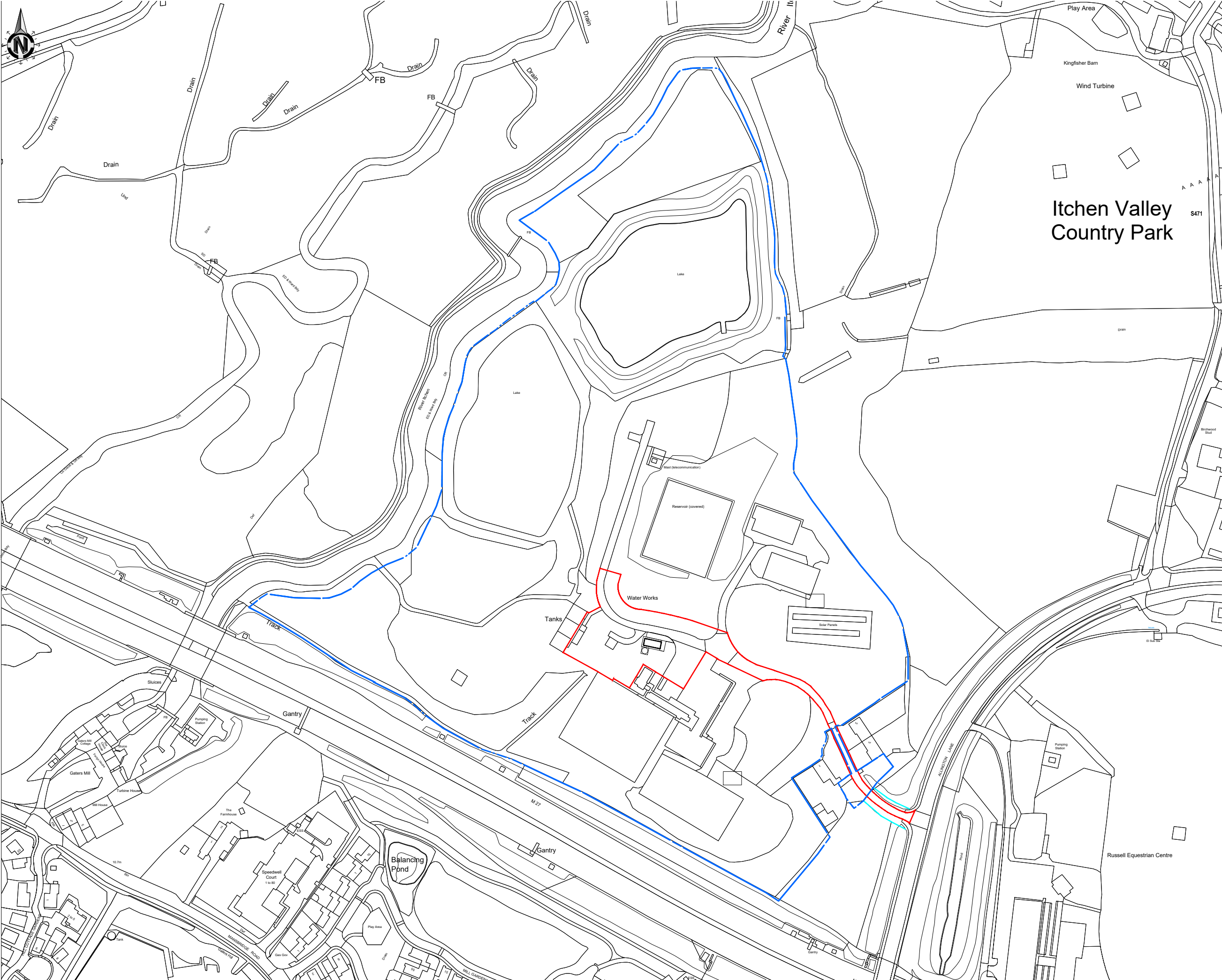
3.2 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Likely Temporary noise impacts are likely during decommissioning and construction and there will be noise associated with the operation of the permanent centrifuge.	Not significant Decommissioning and construction noise impacts will be temporary and controllable to industry standards through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan . Appropriate separation from sensitive receptors and scope to incorporate additional acoustic attenuation if site-specific survey identifies a need for this. No significant increase in light pollution is envisaged.
3.3 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Unlikely The nature of the Proposed Development is such that there is low potential for substances that could cause the contamination of controlled waters. The proposed surface water management will include appropriate pollution control.	Not significant The implementation of a CEMP will limit the potential for potential hazards to the water environment during decommissioning and construction and include provisions for the control of any spills or leaks. The Proposed Development will include appropriate separated management for runoff from the Application Site.
3.4 Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	Unlikely None are known.	No impact predicted Not applicable.
Population and Human Health		
4.1 Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	Unlikely None envisaged	No impact predicted Not applicable.
4.2 Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	Unlikely The characteristics of the Proposed Development are not likely to involve any substances that are harmful to human health or that could be perceived as a risk to human health.	No impact predicted Not applicable.
Water Resources		
5.1 Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	Unlikely The River Itchen, to the west is a sensitive receptor, but by virtue of the layout of the Proposed Development, which is approximately 170 metres from the watercourse and controls over surface water runoff during construction, this feature will not be affected.	Not significant Development will avoid the watercourse corridor and sediment barriers would mitigate potential effects on water quality during construction . The nature and scale of Proposed Development are such that there will be no potential for significant interaction with controlled waters during operation

Biodiversity (Species and Habitats)		
6.1 Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local)).	Unlikely The Application Site is situated close to the River Itchen SSSI and SAC.	Not significant The nature and scale of the Proposed Development alongside appropriate mitigation measures (such as through the CEMP and appropriate assessments) and placement of the Proposed Development will avoid and / or adequately mitigate any indirect impacts to designated areas. As such there will be no significant direct or indirect effects on any designated areas.
6.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?	Unlikely The wider WTW within which the Application Site is located has the potential to be used by protected species, but the potential for such species within the Application Site is considered to be unlikely.	Not significant A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment will be undertaken and submitted as part of the planning application for the Proposed Development. Proposed mitigation for any ecological interest identified will be detailed within the planning application and subsequently a CEMP. With appropriate mitigation in place, no significant effects are anticipated.
Landscape and Visual		
7.1 Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	Unlikely There are no areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development.	Not significant No significant effects are anticipated.
7.2 Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?).	Unlikely The Application Site is within the operational WTW and as such is not in an area where it might be visible to many people	Not significant No significant effects are anticipated.
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology		
8.1 Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the	Likely There are built heritage assets in proximity to the Application Site, but the Proposed Development has limited potential to impact the setting of these.	Not significant There will be no direct effect on any of the identified built heritage assets. A desk based archaeological assessment will be undertaken as part of the planning application for the Proposed Development to assess the impact on the

project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level.	There is also limited potential for archaeological findings within the Application Site.	setting of nearby heritage assets and determine the archaeological potential. Appropriate mitigation under a Continuous Watching Brief agreed with the LPA and will ensure that there are no significant effects on the archaeological resource.
Transport and Access		
9.1 Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Unlikely Roads surrounding the Application Site are widely used by vehicles and members of the public, including access to destinations such as the Itchen Valley Country Park, however the very low volumes of construction and operational traffic will not affect use of these routes	Not significant The scale of the Proposed Development is such that there will not be a significant impact on the local road capacity.
9.2 Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion, or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Unlikely There are no known congestion issues associated with the highways close to the Application Site that could be adversely affected by the Proposed Development.	No impact predicted Not applicable.
Land Use		
10.1 Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	Unlikely The Proposed Development is not considered likely to affect current land uses in the vicinity of the Application Site.	Not significant The nature of the Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any adverse effects on the surrounding/adjacent land uses.
10.2 Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Unlikely There are no known plans for future land uses that could be affected by the Proposed Development.	No impact predicted Not applicable.
Land Stability and Climate		
11.1 Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Unlikely The area is not known to be susceptible to the aforementioned conditions.	No impact predicted Not applicable

Cumulative Effects		
12.1 Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	Unlikely There are no known potential cumulative developments.	Not significant No significant cumulative effects are likely.
Transboundary effects		
13.1 Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?	Unlikely The nature and scale of the Proposed Development is such that the likelihood of transboundary effects is negligible.	No impact predicted Not applicable

Appendix B Plans



1. These drawings are to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architect's and Engineer's drawings and specifications, refer to Drg. No.00 for Structural Specification
2. Except where specific dimensions are shown on these drawings, all setting out shall be in accordance with the architects drawings and specifications. Any discrepancy between these drawings and the architects drawings or the actual site dimensions should be referred to the engineer immediately and confirmed in writing. The contractor is responsible for the accuracy of all dimensions and the setting out.
3. Do not scale from these drawings. If in doubt, ask.
4. All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
5. All proprietary materials to be in accordance with manufacturers specifications and to Engineer's approval.
6. All proprietary CDP elements shown on the drawings should be treated as indicative and are subject to detailed design by specialist manufacturer/supplier. The contractor should make suitable allowance for third party design/detailing and potential impact on the permanent work design.

— DEVELOPMENT SITE
— APPLICANT OWNERSHIP
— APPLICANT RIGHT OF ACCESS
 (LEASED LAND)

This drawing has been prepared for submission to fulfil planning permission requirements only.

Drawing Status: **S3 - Suitable for Review**

RODSELL • ARN

Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers

Client: **PORTSMOUTH WATER LTD**

Drawing Title: **CENTRIFUGE BUILDING
LOCATION PLAN**

Project-Originator-Zone-Level-Type-Role	Drawing No.:	Revision:
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