

## Design Refinement 24 – Pipeline Section L

### Where is the proposed change?

Section L of the proposed pipeline route between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works comprises the section from Mortimers Lane (B3037) near Lower Upham to Highbridge Road (B3335), west of Brambridge. Section L extends across the administrative areas of Winchester City Council and into Eastleigh Borough Council.

The design for Section L presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation is shown in **Figure 49**.

### What is changing and why?

The design refinements within Section L are proposed as follows:

- **South of Colden Common and west of Fisher’s Pond** – Consultation feedback from Hampshire County Council and ongoing engagement on construction accesses has concluded that Bishopstoke Lane would not be suitable for construction vehicles. A suitable alternative temporary construction access has therefore been identified from Church Lane to the south of Colden Common. Church Lane is the next closest road to this section of the pipeline and is considered suitable for construction traffic. The pipeline route has also been amended in this area to take account of landowner feedback and align the construction works with field boundaries, thereby avoiding construction works across the centre of fields. We reviewed the technical and environmental implications of this change and did not identify any constraints in realigning the pipeline. In addition, we are proposing wet grassland habitat enhancements to improve ecological conditions on the south side of the Bow Lake watercourse to ensure we can deliver environmental improvements in line with requirements in national planning policy. The environmental mitigation area on **Figure 50** will deliver these enhancements.
- **Fisher’s Pond** – Ongoing environmental surveys identified two veteran trees to the south of Fisher’s Pond in close proximity to the pipeline route presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation. We have amended the route of the pipeline so that construction works can avoid these veteran trees and ensure that suitable root protection areas can be implemented. An area for proposed grassland/meadow habitat enhancement has also been identified in this location and included in the draft Order Limits. This would provide benefit to the existing Fielders Farm Meadows Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and land to the south of this.
- **South of Portsmouth Road (B2177)** – Feedback from our Summer 2024 Consultation identified that the pipeline route intersected land used as a garden at a property near Lowhill Farm to the south of Portsmouth Road (B2177). One of the key design principles of the Project is to avoid impacts on residents as far as reasonably practicable and we have therefore moved the pipeline route and construction compounds in this area further north. This route was selected as it was the least constrained by environmental or technical factors. For part of this route, we would use short trenchless construction to cross a dense strip of woodland and watercourse. If this was crossed using open cut construction there would be potential for large environmental impacts.
- **East of Fisher’s Pond** – To the east of Fisher’s Pond, and north of Chestnut Gully Wood, the locations of the pipeline route and construction compounds have been refined to avoid veteran trees, reduce vegetation loss and reduce impacts on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation following further surveys of these areas. Areas for environmental mitigation and enhancement have also been identified within the draft Order Limits in these area for new tree and woodland planting.
- **North of Wardle Road** – The draft Order Limits have been extended in this location to include an area of woodland where environmental mitigation and enhancement could be undertaken, in line with enhancement opportunities identified by the Hampshire County Council’s Biodiversity Information Centre. Including this area in the Project will ensure we are supporting nature recovery in Hampshire and are compliant with national planning policy.

The proposed design refinement can be seen in **Figure 50**.

## How might the change affect you or the environment?

**South of Colden Common and west of Fisher's Pond** – The new temporary construction access from Church Lane may lead to some additional vegetation loss. Whilst construction traffic would no longer use Bishopstoke Lane, the new access would be in closer proximity to some residential properties along Church Lane which could result in an increase of noise, vibration and visual impacts to these properties compared to those that were set out in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation. These effects would be reduced as far as reasonably practicable through our Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, which will form part of our Development Consent Order application, and will control working hours and practices. The amended pipeline route in this area is also marginally closer to flood zones adjacent to Bow Lake. However, any potential environmental impacts can be mitigated through best practice construction methods.

**South of Portsmouth Road (B2177)** – The amended pipeline route is marginally closer to the South Downs National Park and construction works may become more visible from the national park and Portsmouth Road during construction. This refinement also brings the Project closer to the Marwell Manor Scheduled Monument and listed buildings, therefore there is potential for increased historic environment impacts as a result of changes to the historic landscape and character. Existing vegetation between the amended pipeline route and Marwell Manor would provide screening to reduce this impact and vegetation loss would be avoided wherever practicable to limit impacts on the landscape. Further investigation and assessment of the potential landscape and historic environment impacts will also be undertaken to better define any impacts and mitigation required.

No other effects were identified for the other design changes detailed above.

Figure 49 Pipeline Section L – Summer 2024 Consultation design

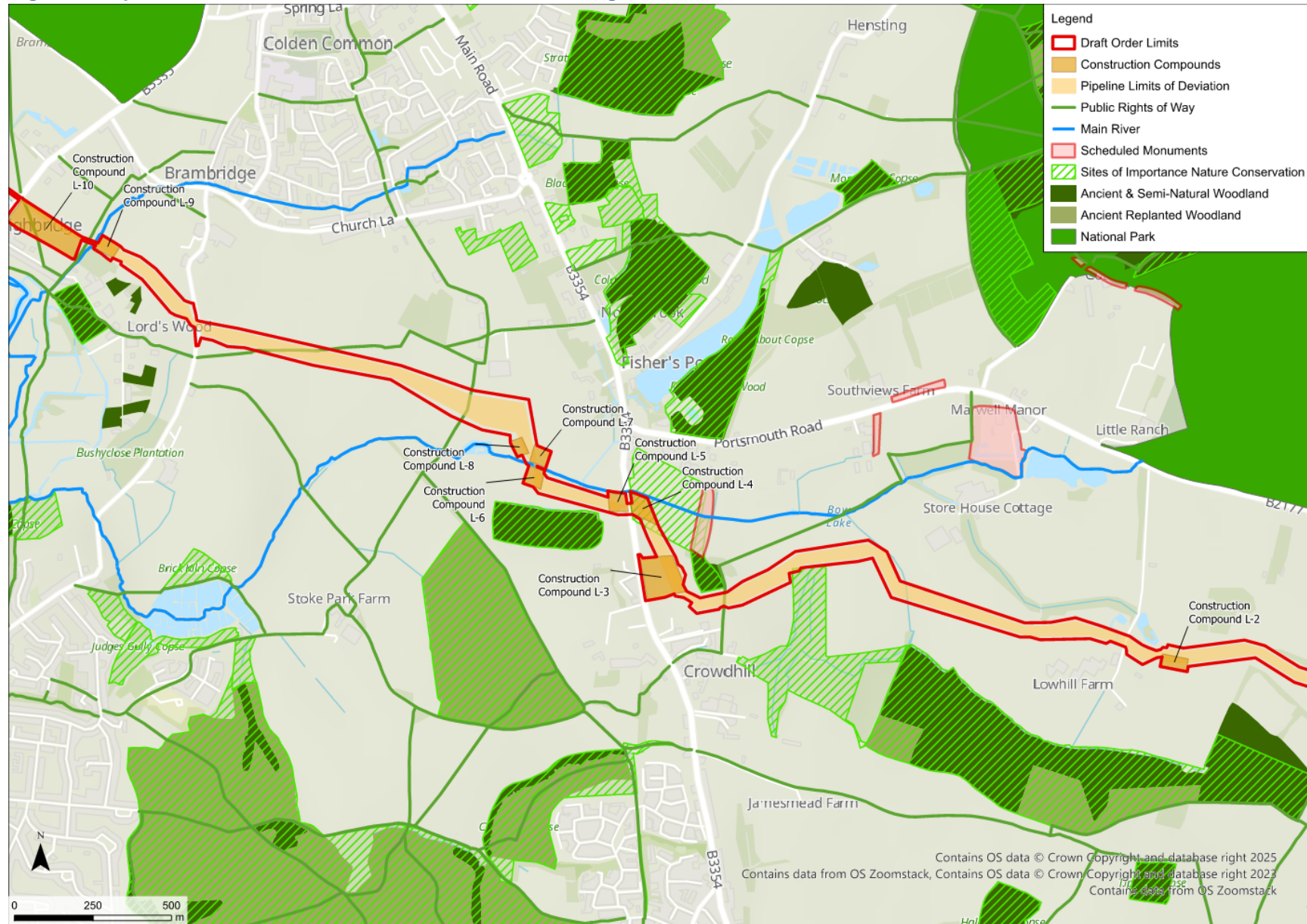




Figure 50 Pipeline Section L – Design Refinement

