

Design Refinement 6 – Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E

Where is the proposed change?

The proposed site for Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E is located within the vicinity of Portsdown Hill, to the north of Portsdown Hill Road (B2177) and west of Widley. It extends across the boundaries of Winchester City Council and Portsmouth City Council's administrative areas and is situated within Section E of the pipeline between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works.

We require a break pressure tank at this location to manage water pressure at this high point along the pipeline route between Havant Thicket Reservoir and Otterbourne Water Supply Works and a pumping station to pump water to Intermediate Pumping Station F. Following approval of our Development Consent Order application, detailed design will be undertaken which will confirm the exact topography of the pipeline route, and therefore hydraulics. This could confirm that the intermediate pumping station element may not be required.

The design for Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E, presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation, is shown in **Figure 13**.

What is changing and why?

Following the Summer 2024 Consultation, protected species were identified in a number of locations in the vicinity of Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E. Changes are now proposed to the draft Order Limits and draft Limits of Deviation to reduce impacts on these species. However, we are aware that these protected species are active in this area and may have moved prior to construction works. Therefore we have added areas for mitigation, and in addition to the pipeline route presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation, an alternative pipeline route option to the west of the site is proposed, which provides further flexibility to ensure that any impacts to protected species can be avoided or reduced during the construction phase. Final protected species surveys will be undertaken prior to construction to inform whether the northern or the western pipeline route option is constructed.

Security requirements set out by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have also identified the need for additional fencing around the plant. To accommodate this, it is proposed that the footprint for Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E is increased, and therefore the draft Limits of Deviation would also increase. The shape of the draft Limits of Deviation are also proposed to be amended to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to avoid potential conflicts with a new pipeline that Portsmouth Water is also installing in this location.

Since the Summer 2024 Consultation, we have continued to develop our landscaping and planting proposals to help integrate Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E into the existing landscape to reduce visual impacts. We proposed cutting the site into the hillside at the Summer 2024 Consultation to reduce its height above ground level, and we are proposing to cut the site deeper to mitigate the increase to the footprint of the site. The illustrative design for the site will be included in the Development Consent Order application. Also, we are now proposing chalk grass habitat enhancement in the field to the west and some interspersed planting to help blend the new landscaping and promote habitat connectivity. The full extent of these environmental mitigation and enhancement areas are shown to the east and west of New Down Lane.

The proposed design refinement can be seen in **Figure 14**.

How might the change affect you or the environment?

Our initial assessments indicate that the increase in the footprint and draft Limits of Deviation for the site and additional fencing requirements would not result in any additional landscape or visual effects compared to the effects reported in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report presented at the Summer 2024

Consultation. The site would be screened by new planting and landscaping to integrate it into the existing landscape. The pumping station would also be partially embedded into the ground to reduce its height above the existing ground level.

The design refinements seek to avoid impacts on protected species, including by allowing some flexibility in the location of the pipeline. As explained above, only one pipeline option would be constructed depending on final protected species surveys at the time. Any vegetation lost along field boundaries from either option would be reinstated after construction.

The addition of the environmental mitigation and enhancement area to the west of New Down Lane provides an opportunity to bring forward chalk grassland enhancements as part of our Project, which will support the mitigation for the Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E and promote habitat connectivity.

Figure 14 Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E – Design Refinement

