

Introductory Information

Why are we proposing changes to the design of the Project?

Following our Summer 2024 Consultation, we have continued to refine the project in response to ongoing design development and having regard to stakeholder feedback. Design development has also been informed by ongoing technical and environmental surveys, further understanding of the construction, engineering and operational requirements of the Project, as well as its interface with other projects, such as those being progressed by Portsmouth Water. Stakeholder feedback, both from our Summer 2024 Consultation and ongoing engagement with local authorities, landowners and environmental bodies, has also helped refine our proposals.

How did we identify and select the proposed changes?

In considering any potential design refinements, we have carefully looked at the possible options available and reviewed these against relevant engineering, construction, environmental and planning criteria to identify any potential implications. These criteria were broadly the same as those used to help develop the Project up to the Summer 2024 Consultation (see page 29 of the 2024 Scheme Development Summary published as part of our Summer 20224 Consultation).

Whilst we have tried to accommodate design suggestions as far as possible, in some instances, we have not been able to take forward suggested design changes, for example, because the impacts of the change would have been too great, difficult to mitigate or not feasible in construction or engineering terms.

What are the 'draft Order Limits'?

The maximum extent of land the Project would be delivered within is referred to as the Order Limits. This includes the route of the pipeline and location of above ground plant, access routes and any temporary working areas required to construct the Project. It also includes any areas required to operate the Project. The Order Limits are in 'draft' stage while we continue to refine the design of the Project.

What are the 'draft Limits of Deviation'?

Limits of Deviation show the maximum limits within which the pipelines and the above ground plant would be located. We have also shown development zones for the water recycling plant, which represent the areas within which certain parts of the water recycling plant would be developed. The Limits of Deviation are in 'draft' stage while we continue to refine the design of the Project.

Considering the effects of the changes

We have considered the effects of each design change on those living nearby, the local community and the environment. We have undertaken initial assessments to consider what the effects may be compared to those presented at our Summer 2024 Consultation, and have reported this in the summary each design refinement. We have also identified any potential mitigation that could be implemented to reduce these effects.

Our Environmental Statement, which will form part of our Development Consent Order application, will set out a full assessment of the effects of the Project.

New environmental mitigation and enhancement areas

As part of the development of our environmental assessment work, we have identified the need for additional areas of land to provide environmental mitigation and enhancements. Areas for environmental mitigation would be used to offset some of the potential impacts of the Project on certain habitats or to trees and woodland. We have tried to locate these as close as possible to where potential impacts are likely to occur. In some locations,

we are proposing to extend the draft Order Limits to ensure a suitable area of land is available for the environmental mitigation.

New areas of land for environmental enhancements are proposed to help the Project provide a benefit to the environment, and could include improvements to existing habitats or biodiversity net gain opportunities. Adding these enhancements to the Project ensures we are aligning with national planning policy. We have been working with Hampshire County Council's Biodiversity Information Centre, which collects and manages information about habitats and species all across Hampshire, to identify these opportunities. In some locations, we are proposing enhancements to go hand in hand with environmental mitigation – for example, where we are planting trees to replace those lost, we could plant more trees to provide additional benefit.

As we continue to refine our proposals through engagement with local authorities, landowners and environmental bodies, and taking on board feedback from this consultation, some of these areas may change slightly or new areas may be identified. Full details of all of our proposed environmental mitigation and enhancement proposals will be set out in our Development Consent Order application later this year.