

Comments on behalf of Havant Climate Alliance and Havant Friends of the Earth

While we accept the need for a pipeline to carry water between Bedhampton Springs and Havant Thicket Reservoir, we are **Objecting** to some aspects of the application, and have some concerns arising from this.

1. We agree that 2 pipelines should be installed at this stage, as future proofing, although this should not be treated as an agreement to pump recycled effluent into the reservoir. We are opposed to that scheme because of the environmental risks, high infrastructure and energy/carbon costs. We think that there are other more sustainable solutions to water shortages which should be tried before recycling is used. The pipes should only be used for water pumped from Bedhampton Springs to the Reservoir. However if, despite this, it is decided to pump recycled effluent into the reservoir at some future date, having the double pipeline in place will avoid local residents having to face a 2nd bout of disruption.

2. We think that the whole pipeline route should be tunnelled:

a) Open trenching around Havant Rugby Ground will mean the loss of recreational space used by the local community, for up to 2 years. It will also cause disruption to nearby schools.

b) Open trenching north of Middle Park Way will cause a break in habitat important for hazel dormouse and other wildlife. Although there are proposals in place to restore the habitat, it would be better if it was not disturbed in the first place.

3. Work on Shaft 2 close to Bidbury School, and Shaft 4 effecting access routes to Trosnant schools, should only take place during school holidays to avoid disturbance.

4. There will be huge disruption and disturbance to residents living near Shafts and Culverts, mainly in Leigh Park but also in Bedhampton. Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 2 Revised Chapter 12 refers to the impacts of Noise (up to 75 db) and Vibration. This states that where noise levels exceed thresholds for extended periods, despite noise barriers, it may be relevant to offer noise insulation or temporary housing to affected residents. As efforts will be made to limit working to daytime hours, those at home all day or night-workers needing to sleep in the day, will be particularly affected.

5. Revised Chapter 18 re. the effects of construction Dust combined with traffic emissions (NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) finds a "slight adverse effect" on all human receptors and a "moderate to large adverse effect" on elderly and disabled people.

6. Noise, Vibration and Dust/Air Pollution will have a serious impact on nearby residents, in some cases for up to 2 years, even with mitigation proposed in the CEMP (Construction Environment Management Plan). Residents who are likely to be impacted by this work should be made aware beforehand that in some circumstances they can apply for temporary rehousing, with decisions made on a case by case basis. Perhaps people can be leafletted and/or visited to assess their needs some weeks before work starts, with a follow up after work starts. People are unlikely to know how much they will be impacted until it happens. A plan needs to be set up in advance, between Portsmouth Water and Havant Borough Council to provide for rehousing where needed. Hotel costs should be covered by Portsmouth Water, with practical arrangements dealt with by the Council.

7. Revised Chapter 12 also notes potential negative effects of work causing Vibration. Where this takes place "near sensitive receptors, it is prudent to undertake building surveys before and after the works, to determine whether any damage to the structure has been

caused". It is not reasonable to expect householders to be able to afford the cost of surveys. Portsmouth Water should pay for an independent surveyor to carry out before and after surveys on all properties close to pipeline works.

8. Road closures, some lengthy, around Leigh Park, will cause a great deal of inconvenience to residents, not just those living near the pipeline route. e.g. Purbrook Way is part of a main east – west route to the north of Havant Town. Dunsbury Way and Middle Park Way are the main routes for reaching the northern part of Leigh Park and Warren Park. One has to consider disturbance caused by traffic re-routing through minor roads, especially with the many vans and night-time HGVs associated with Amazon. Added to this will be the extra HGVs and worker cars associated with the pipeline work itself. The Travel Plan sounds good but is probably unrealistic. It is most likely that the majority of workers will reach worksites in private cars. The cumulative effects of this will be far from insignificant.

9. To compensate for this disruption of their lives, Portsmouth Water need to fund a major scheme or schemes to benefit the community of Leigh Park. The form these schemes should take should be chosen by, and agreed with, community groups in Leigh Park. Possibilities might be: upgrading footpaths, upgrading play parks and/or establishing new ones, or even funding the annual Leigh Park Firework Display (funds for this are raised by local residents. Last year the event was cancelled as not enough money could be raised as people were too hard up).

10. It is appreciated that the pipeline route has been designed so as to avoid mature, veteran and notable trees. Also that there are plans to restore and improve habitat along open trench routes and around shafts once completed. However, the Pipeline Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan states that additional off-site compensatory areas will be needed to provide a 10% net gain in biodiversity for the pipeline route. Have sites for this been determined?

11. Relevant to this is the Pipeline Arboricultural Impact Assessment. 63 "low value" trees are to be removed from the footprint of the pipeline corridor. In addition 3729 m² of tree groups will be removed, plus hedges. Even if these are of low value they currently provide habitat and sequester carbon. It is important that their loss is fully compensated by planting elsewhere. This needs to happen as soon as possible, and should not have to wait for the Capital Grants Scheme to commence in 2029. More trees and hedges need to be planted than those removed, to compensate, as it will take so long for them to grow to a size where they can function in the same way as those they replace.

12. There has been progressive loss of priority habitat Wet Grassland, as reservoir plans have developed. This has been due to the change in the embankment footprint and plans for earth mounds on the north shore of the Wetlands. This application removes more wet grassland due to plans to create 2 x 4 m wide permanent roads and infrastructure south-west of the reservoir. This loss also needs to be compensated for elsewhere.

13. ES Vol 2 Revised Chapter 15 re. Water Environment notes a number of potential risks that could cause pollution to aquifers close to the path of the pipeline during construction, i.e. those aquifers that feed our drinking water supply at Bedhampton Springs. Much of the pipeline route lies within Source Protection Zones SPZ1C and SPZ1. The construction of shafts along the pipeline route can create new pathways into aquifers for contaminated run-off and infiltration from construction traffic and machinery. At the southern end of the pipeline there are additional risks because of shallow groundwater and the possibility of artesian chalk groundwater. Pollution Control Plans and Emergency Response Plans need to be detailed and robust to prevent contamination of the aquifer. Monitoring needs to be in place.

Sources of concern include the storage of Bentonite Lubricant, and spillage of Hydrocarbons and Oils.

14. The PAC (Powdered Activated Carbon) Dosing facility at Bedhampton Springs has been added since the original pipeline application. It is to treat water before pumping to Farlington Water Treatment Works. Why has this been introduced at Bedhampton and not Farlington? How will risks from PAC entering the environment be contained?

15. Loss of Reptile Mitigation area. Drawing HTR-WAB-W1-DR-T-001, shows a potential additional parking area on open space west of Meyrick Road. However this land is already designated as a reptile mitigation area for a previous nearby development.