

# Environment

We are committed to working with environmental regulators and stakeholders to identify potential environmental impacts, and to take action to manage and limit these impacts wherever we can.

## Environmental Impact Assessment

To help us identify and manage the positive and negative effects of building and using the Deephams Sewage Works Upgrade, we will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

An EIA is a way of predicting and evaluating the environmental effects of a proposed development in order to help organisations, such as local planning authorities, decide whether or not the proposal should go ahead.

During the EIA process for the upgrade, our specialists will assess the value and importance of the existing environment using surveys, monitoring equipment or computer models. Environmental specialists will then predict the effects of the proposed development on different aspects of the environment.

The EIA will allow us to understand the environment around any work sites and identify the likely effects the upgrade may have on a wide range of environmental areas.

Understanding the possible environmental impacts will allow us to change the design of the upgrade, wherever possible, to avoid any negative effects. If there are any negative effects that cannot be avoided, we will work out where and when we need to do things differently to reduce these effects, as far as is practical and at a reasonable cost to our customers.

This will make sure that the upgrade is as environmentally acceptable as possible, and that effects on the environment of building and using the upgraded sewage works are as small as is practical.

## Environmental assessment for the upgrade

Before carrying out the EIA, we will discuss and agree the topics to be covered with the local authority, through a process known as EIA scoping. Our EIA Scoping Report will be published in late 2012/early 2013.

The first stage of the EIA will focus on identifying and describing the current environment. We will carry this out in the summer of 2012.

As more details on the preferred option are developed we will identify the potential impacts of the upgrade. The findings of the EIA study will be detailed within a report called an Environmental Statement and will be submitted with our application for permission to build the proposed upgrade, which is likely to be in mid 2014.

When carrying out our Environmental Impact Assessment for the upgrade, we will look at predicted effects in the following areas:

- Air quality
- Archaeology and heritage
- Landscape and views
- Recreation and amenity
- Ecology
- Flood risk
- Noise
- Odour
- Transport
- Water resources and water quality
- Contaminated land
- Waste management
- Socio-economics

