

# Environment

## How we will assess our impact on the environment.

Natural resources and the natural environment are fundamental to the supply of drinking water and the treatment of wastewater.

Our responsibility is not just to the present but also to the future. We need to make sure that what we do today is right for tomorrow and that we don't disadvantage future generations or store up problems for the future.

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 (see overleaf).

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

At this relatively early stage of the project, we have carried out an initial assessment of environmental issues, largely based on information already available and our own fieldwork. This work has been undertaken for all the longlisted sites (see the 'Longlisted sites' leaflet).

Following feedback from the first phase of public consultation and once we have preferred a site and treatment technology for the upgrade, we will start to assess the possible effects of the proposal on the environment.

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:

### Odour

We are aiming for odour from the upgraded sewage works to be significantly lower than current levels. We have assessed odour levels at the current Deephams Sewage Works site and we will identify the parts of the upgraded sewage works that are likely to smell and make sure the designs for the upgrade will reduce odour.

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For more information on our proposals to reduce odour produced by the new sewage treatment process, please see the 'Odour' leaflet.

### Noise

This part of the assessment will look at the effect construction works might have on local noise levels, taking into consideration existing noise on and around the current Deephams Sewage Works site, as well as how far away people live and work from the site. We will also consider the impact of any noise arising from the new sewage works, once construction has finished.

For more information on how we plan to reduce noise and disruption during construction and the day-to-day running of the upgraded sewage works, please see the 'Being a good neighbour' leaflet.

### Transport

This part of the assessment will look at the amount of construction traffic that might be needed while the upgrade is being built and how this might affect existing transport routes, including the A10 and A1055. We will also review any changes in the amount of traffic entering and leaving the upgraded sewage works once it is in use, although these are expected to be small.

### Air quality

Our assessment will look at the effect that building and using the upgrade might have on local air quality. We will look at how far away people live and work from the upgrade and identify how they will be affected by any changes in air quality.

### Archaeology and heritage

We will review the information already available on the preferred site and consider the likelihood for significant archaeological finds. We may need to carry out further fieldwork to help us with this assessment.

### Landscape and views

We will assess the potential for the upgrade to affect the landscape around the work sites and the views into and out of the sewage works and any additional areas required for a temporary construction compound.



### Recreation and amenity

We will assess how the proposals will affect recreational activities in the area, as well as general amenity or quality of life.

### Ecology

The assessment will look at the impact that construction works might have on the ecology of any work sites, as well as effects that the upgrade may have on local plants and wildlife after construction has finished. The eastern edge of the Deephams Sewage Works site lies within the Lee Valley Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and we will take care to ensure that this designated site is not significantly affected by the construction works. We have reviewed public records relating to the nature conservation designations and significant habitats and species in the area, and the rest of the site is considered to be of low ecological value. However, we are carrying out surveys for habitats and species, including birds, reptiles and bats, to allow a full Ecological Impact Assessment to be completed. We will put in place any necessary measures to improve the ecology of the site or avoid significant impacts.

### Flood risk

We have carried out an initial assessment to find out how vulnerable the current Deephams Sewage Works site and other potential new sites are to flooding. We will ensure that the design of the upgraded sewage works will mean it is protected from flooding and will not increase flood risk to other people.

During preparation of the Environmental Statement, a detailed Flood Risk Assessment will be carried out for the proposed upgrade.

### Water resources and water quality

The main aim of the upgrade is to improve the quality of the water in the Salmon's Brook and the River Lee (into which the brook flows). To make sure that our construction activities do not affect river water quality and water resources, we will look at ways to reduce the risk of this happening.

A number of other environmental topics will also be assessed in the EIA including contaminated land, waste management and socio-economics.

We are committed to sustainable development and aspire to become a leader in sustainability. As part of the development of the upgrade we will carry out a sustainability appraisal, which will take into consideration the environmental effects of the construction and operation of the new sewage works. This will include considering energy generation and use and the overall carbon footprint of the development during both the design and construction of the upgrade.

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## Find out more

Visit our consultation website:

[www.deephamsconsultation.co.uk](http://www.deephamsconsultation.co.uk)

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