

David Mills
Environmental Advisor
Engineering Technical Solutions
Southern Water

Our ref: EIA/23/0001

Your
ref:

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Date: 22nd June 2023

Dear Mr Mills

Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)
Broomers Hill, Pulborough, Horsham

Thank you for your email dated 23rd May 2023 requesting that the Council provide a formal Screening Opinion to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required in respect of the forthcoming works by Southern Water at Pulborough.

The proposal is for replacement of 2.15km of potable water main with 225mm and 250mm pipes between Spinney North and the Southern Water reservoir at Nutbourne Lane, via Boomers Hill. This will consist of 2.18km of open cut excavation (600 mm wide, 900 mm depth) with a 20m working width to allow construction activities and vehicle movement.

Following a review of the information provided, this Council consider the proposals to fall under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, item 10(l) (installations of long distance aqueducts). The proposal exceeds the criteria outlined in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, and it is therefore necessary to consider whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. In making this assessment the Council has taken into account Schedule 3 of the EIA regulations paying attention to the development characteristics, location and nature of the impacts. The results of this assessment are included with this letter for information. When forming this Screening Opinion, the Council has drawn on information set out in the Screening Request and other available guidance.

The proposed development does not adjoin any nature conservation or landscape designations. Whilst it is considered that there are likely to be impacts which arise from the development, particularly those on landscape and construction works, these are not considered significant. On balance, it is considered that the overall scale and nature of the impacts that would arise from the scheme do not require an EIA.

Please note that as the proposed route of the works passes through existing public rights of way, you will need to engage with the West Sussex County Council Rights of Way Team to ensure that the correct procedures are followed.

You are also reminded that all mitigation measures and biodiversity measures outlined in the Preliminary Ecology Appraisal and any subsequent appraisals must be adhered to, in accordance with relevant legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This includes the requirement for licences from Natural England for certain works, including any works affecting dormouse habitats.

I confirm that this letter forms Horsham District Council's formal screening opinion and will be placed on the public register.

Yours sincerely

Jason Hawkes
Principal Planning Officer