



# **Technical Report 4.11: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report**

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Water Management Resources Plan 2020-2080

March 2020

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# Affinity Water Draft Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Environmental Report

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## Table of Contents

<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 What is SEA? .....	1
1.2 Compliance with other environmental legislation .....	4
1.3 Purpose and structure of this Environmental Report .....	5
<b>2. The Water Resource Management Plan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1 Introduction to Affinity Water .....	6
2.2 About the WRMP .....	9
2.3 Development of the WRMP19 .....	10
2.4 Sustainability reductions .....	10
<b>3. Scoping Information</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	11
3.2 Consultation on the scope .....	11
3.3 Spatial scope .....	11
3.4 Temporal scope .....	11
3.5 Key issues .....	12
3.6 SEA objectives .....	13
<b>4. SEA of Options</b> .....	<b>15</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	15
4.2 Unconstrained options .....	15
4.3 Constrained options .....	18
<b>5. SEA of the Alternative Programmes and final WRMP19 Decision Making</b> .....	<b>34</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	34
5.2 Affinity Water's Decision Making Process .....	34
5.3 Identifying reasonable alternative programmes .....	40
5.4 SEA of reasonable alternative programmes for the final WRMP19 .....	43
5.5 Outline reasons for the selection and rejection of reasonable alternative programmes .....	141
<b>6. Summary findings for the final WRMP19</b> .....	<b>144</b>
6.1 Introduction .....	144
6.2 The final WRMP19 .....	144
6.1 HRA findings .....	153
6.2 WFD assessment findings .....	155
6.3 SEA findings .....	155
<b>7. Cumulative Effects of the final WRMP19 with other Plans, Programmes and Projects</b> .....	<b>179</b>
7.1 Introduction .....	179
7.2 Other Affinity Water Plans .....	179
7.3 Other WRMPs .....	181
7.4 Other Drought Plans .....	183

7.5	Other plans and programmes .....	183
7.6	Summary of cumulative effects assessment.....	187
<b>8.</b>	<b>Mitigation and areas for further investigation .....</b>	<b>190</b>
8.1	Introduction .....	190
8.2	Mitigation measures and areas for further investigation .....	190
<b>9.</b>	<b>Next steps and monitoring.....</b>	<b>196</b>
9.1	Introduction .....	196
9.2	Consulting on and finalising the WRMP19 .....	196
9.3	Monitoring .....	196
	<b>Appendices (available separately) .....</b>	<b>199</b>

## Glossary

Term	Explanation
Abstraction	The process of taking water from any source, including rivers and aquifers.
Agricultural Land Classification	The Agricultural Land Classification provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system.
Appropriate Assessment	Legal term used in the Habitats Directive and the associated Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 to indicate what a competent authority must do where a plan or project is screened 'in' for further appraisal. It forms one part of the HRA and <u>may</u> follow on from the screening stage.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	An area of high scenic quality which has statutory protection in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of its landscape. They have the same planning protection as National Parks but different purposes without a statutory duty to promote outdoor recreation.
Aquifer	A water-bearing rock that groundwater can be extracted from.
Biodiversity Action Plan	An agreed plan for a habitat or species, which forms part of the UK's commitment to biodiversity.
Catchment water transfer	Man-made transfer of water from one natural catchment or system to another.
Consultation body	In England, these are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The consultation bodies are statutory consultees at the screening, scoping and environmental report stages of strategic environmental assessment.
Deficit	The amount of water shortage where demand exceeds supply.
Defra	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden or Registered Battlefield
Environmental Report	The report that documents the assessment of a draft Plan and accompanies the draft Plan for consultation. The Environmental Report needs to contain certain information as set out in Schedule 2 to the SEA Regulations 2004.
Environmental Impact Assessment	A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions on whether to grant development consent (e.g. planning permission) are made in light of an assessment of any likely significant effects on the environment. Evidence is presented in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES)
European site (sometimes known as 'Natura 2000' sites / network)	These comprise candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as defined in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitat Regulations).
Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA)	This is a general term used for convenience which describes the full step-wise process required in making assessments of the impacts on European sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, including the steps of screening for likely significant effects and making appropriate assessments (AA).
Heritage Asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance because of heritage interest and therefore meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets include those designated nationally as well as those identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Impact Risk Zone	A tool/dataset which maps zones around each Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which they have

	been notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location.
Flood risk zone	Areas identified as being at significant risk from flooding or disruption from it.
Geomorphology	Processes of erosion, deposition and sediment transport that influence the physical form of a river and its floodplain.
Grey water	Wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing, which can be recycled on-site for uses such as landscape irrigation and habitat creation.
Invasive species	Non-native species that out-compete native species to the detriment of an ecosystem.
Local Plan	The plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The Framework sets out the government's national planning policies and how they are expected to be applied in plans and planning decisions.
National planning practice guidance (NPPG)	Planning practice guidance web-based resource. Important information for any user of the planning system can be found here.
Nitrate Sensitive Area	A designation applied to areas of land where the underlying groundwater is at risk of pollution from nitrate polluted water.
Nitrate Vulnerable Zone	The European Commission (EC) nitrates directive requires areas of land that drain into waters polluted by nitrates to be designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs).
Priority habitat and species	Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
Protected landscapes	Protected landscapes refer to the statutory designations; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the Broads Authority and National Parks (NPs), and the non-statutory areas encompassed by the Heritage Coasts.
Qualitative appraisal	Assessment based on expert judgement with reference to objectives. This is used for effects that are difficult to assign a value to on a quantitative basis.
Quantitative appraisal	Assessment method that assesses the value of environmental features in monetary or other numeric terms.
Ramsar sites	Wetland sites of International Importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention and treated in the same way as European sites as a matter of government policy.
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
Setting of heritage asset	The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Significant effects	Effects that, for the purposes of the SEA Regulations 2004 (Schedule 1) are considered to be significant.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	A suite of sites, representing some of the best wildlife and geology, designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and subject to national level legal protection.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area given special protection under the EU Habitats Directive, providing increased protection for a variety of habitats, animals and plants.

Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area given special protection under the EU Birds Directive, by virtue of its international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within the European Union.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A procedure (set out in the SEA Regulations) which requires the environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
Scoping Report	A document produced as part of a SEA that is prepared as a means to establish the scope of the SEA.
Water resource management	The management of water resources and demands to minimise any deficit between the two.
Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)	A plan designed to identify water deficits and outline measures that can reduce these.

## Acronyms

Acronym	Full term
ALC	Active Leakage Control
AMP	Asset Management Plan
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AWSE	Affinity Water Southeast Region
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
DO	Deployable output
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMA	District Metered Area
DYAA	Dry Year Annual Average
DYCP	Dry Year Critical Period
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GES	Good Ecological Status
GIS	Geographical Information Systems

HaR	Heritage at Risk
Mld	Megalitres of water per day
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NSA	Nitrate Sensitive Area
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
PR09	Periodic review 2009
PR14	Periodic review 2014
PR19	Periodic review 2019
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
PRV	Pressure Release Valve
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SASP	Significant Areas for Sport
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UKCIP	United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
UKWIR	UK Water Industry Research
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRMP	Water Resource Management Plan
WRMP2014	Affinity Water's Water Resource Management Plan 2014
WRSE	Water Resources in the South East
WRZ	Water Resource Zone
dWRMP19	Affinity Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan 2019
rdWRMP19	Affinity Water's revised draft Water Resource Management Plan 2019
fWRMP19	Affinity Water's final Water Resource Management Plan 2019

## Executive summary

### Background

Affinity Water (as a Water Company) has a statutory duty to prepare and maintain a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) identifying how they intend to maintain the balance between water supply and demand over a minimum period of 25 years. Affinity Water's draft final Water Resource Management Plan 2019 (fWRMP19) will set out the preferred programme (comprising a range of options) to reduce any deficit through implementation of both supply and demand options.

AECOM was appointed by Affinity Water to assist in undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the WRMP19. The requirement to undertake a SEA arises from European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). The SEA Directive is transposed into English law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'). The SEA Directive and associated regulations require a SEA to be undertaken for certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The purpose of SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development. It is a systematic assessment tool to support and inform decision-making. This is a summary of the Environmental Report and supporting appendices for the fWRMP19, which sets out the detailed method, findings and recommendations for the SEA process.

### Scope

The first task was to set out the context for the SEA, and this is commonly referred to as 'scoping'. A review of the baseline environment was carried out as well as a review of other plans and programmes that may have implications for the emerging fWRMP19 and the SEA. This allowed the identification of key environmental problems or issues within and surrounding Affinity Water's operating area. A number of SEA objectives and assessment questions were then developed to address those key issues and provide a methodological 'framework' for undertaking the assessment of the fWRMP19 and any reasonable alternatives.

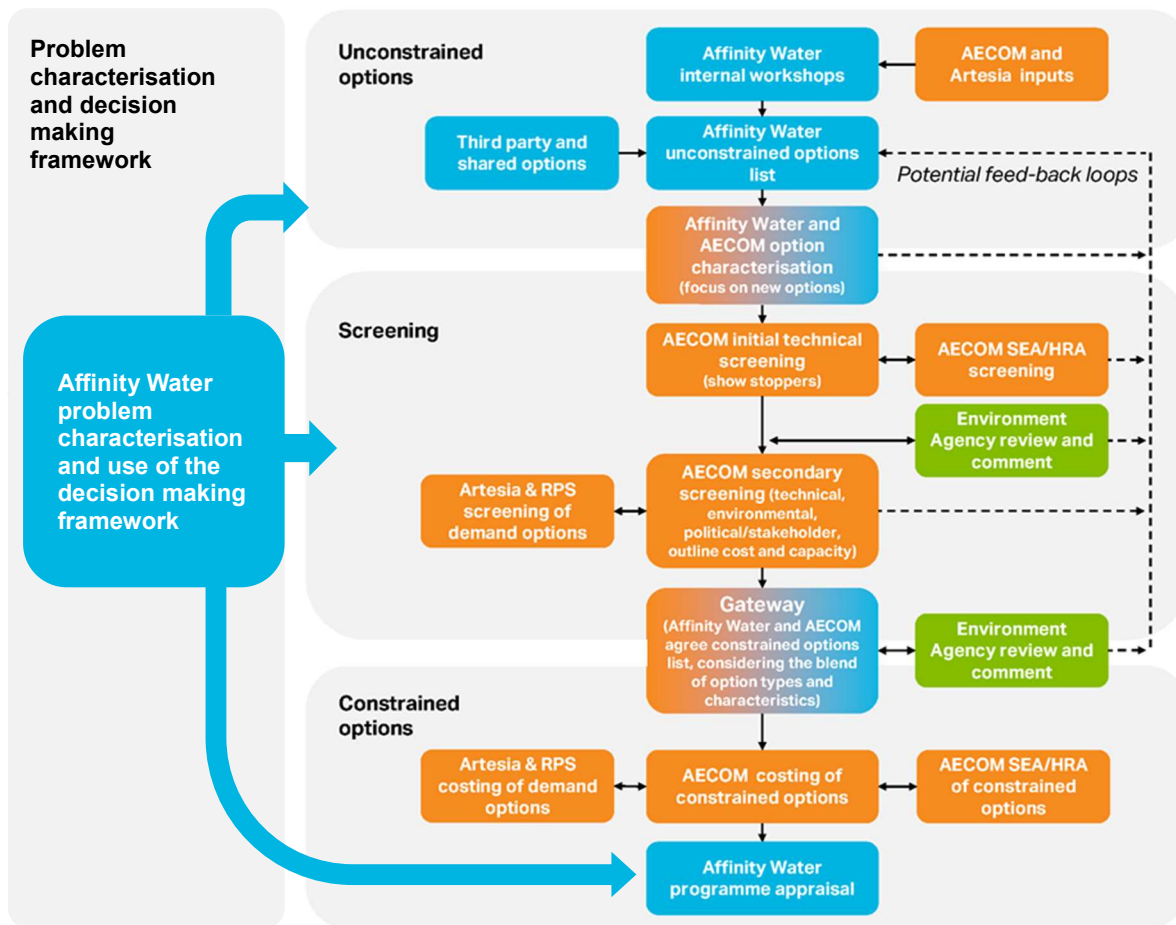
This information was presented in a SEA Scoping Report that was sent to key stakeholders (including the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) in December 2017 for review and comment. Any representations received were taken into account as part of the iterative SEA process and the scoping information updated where necessary.

### SEA of alternatives

There is a requirement for the SEA to explain what work was undertaken to develop and then appraise reasonable alternatives for the fWRMP19. It must set out how the findings of the SEA informed Affinity Water's decision-making and the selection of the preferred programme of options proposed within the fWRMP19.

Affinity Water's option appraisal process for the fWRMP19 is summarised in **Figure 1** below.

Figure 1: Affinity Water options appraisal process



The SEA has informed decision-making at each key stage in the Affinity Water options appraisal process. The key stages are briefly explained below.

### Unconstrained options

The first stage in Affinity Water’s options appraisal process was to identify a long list of supply and demand management options to help meet future demands over the planning horizon. These are options yet to be constrained by factors such as environmental or planning restrictions, health and safety regulations, legal restrictions, promotability or risk. Referred to as ‘unconstrained options’, they were subjected to a two stage screening assessment (which included SEA criteria) to determine if they were technically feasible and therefore suitable to progress to the next stage of Affinity Water’s options appraisal process further consideration.

### Constrained options

Each constrained option was assessed against the full SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions established during scoping. The SEA found that the demand options were not site-specific and generally involve reducing water use and loss through water efficiency measures, metering, reuse and leakage control. It was concluded that there are no significant differences between the options in terms of the SEA objectives and that the demand options are not likely to result in any significant effects.

A range of different supply-side option types were considered through the SEA process, which included options for the abstraction of water from surface and groundwater bodies as well as new pipelines to transfer water within and outside Affinity Water’s operating area. The SEA found that while there is the potential for significant negative effects for some options during construction and operation, it is highly likely that the significance of these effects can be reduced during detailed planning and design of schemes. The assessment found that negative effects during construction



primarily arise as a result of the requirement for new infrastructure and the significance of this effect is dependent on the presence of, or pathways to, sensitive receptors. Negative effects during operation generally relate to potential changes in water levels/ flows as a result of increased abstraction and indirect effects on biodiversity.

The drought options are essentially groundwater options that involve increasing peak (and in the case of prolonged drought, average) abstraction above existing licensed volumes or drought related environmental (river flow or groundwater level) constraints. The assessment found that there are no significant effects likely to arise as a result of the drought options as they would be temporary in nature, and are predicted to only have small impacts compared to natural drought impacts.

### Alternative Programmes and Final WRMP19 Decision Making

The final task in Affinity Water’s option appraisal process (see Figure 1) is the programme appraisal. Essentially the aim of the programme appraisal process is to find the ‘best value’ programme of supply and/ or demand management options to secure a supply-demand balance across the Affinity Water supply area.

To address the concerns raised during the consultation for the dWRMP19 in 2018, a revised decision making process has been used for the fWRMP19. The process developed and used by Affinity Water is fully compliant with both the Environment Agency Water Resources Planning Guidance, and the modelling processes and tools described within the UKWIR Decision Making Method guidance. A summary of the revised decision-making process used (covering stages 6 to 8 of the UKWIR guidance) is provided in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Summary of the Selected Decision Making Process

Decision Making Process Stage	What it Achieves	UKWIR Method Reference
<p>Step 0: Constrain the problem to suitable options and an acceptable level of drought resilience</p>	Apply 1:200 year drought resilience and remove unacceptable options based on dWRMP feedback and the Business Plan consultation	N/A -pre modelling step
<p>Step 1: Run a conventional EBSD model to determine the least cost solution [based on 'best estimates' of option benefits]</p>	Sets the initial understanding of what a least cost plan looks like	Conventional EBSD
<p>Step 2a: Consider how customer and stakeholder preferences might affect the solution</p> <p>Step 2b: Consider how other planning considerations might affect the preferred solution</p>	Explores the influences of risks and customer /stakeholder expectations on the Plan. Uses this to set preferences in the 'best value' solutions and define the nature of the 'branches' in the adaptive pathways assessment.	Modelling to Generate Alternatives
<p>Step 3: Create an adaptive plan to address issues of timing, customer protection and inter-generational equity in the proposals</p>	Sets out a small number (4) of potential futures containing risks or opportunities as identified in Stage 2. Identifies a 'best value' solution for each based on EBSD modelling with preferences as set in Stage 2. Examines the timing of interventions and the cost/benefit trade-off of taking early action to allow adaptation in the future	Adaptive Pathways

The SEA process was integrated into the programme appraisal stage and informed decision making as follows:

- The SEA findings for individual constrained options were converted into a metric that was fed into the computer model.
- Step 0, removed options associated with new Chalk groundwater abstractions in the Central Region to align with the findings of the SEA, HRA and WFD as well as feedback received from stakeholders, including statutory consultees.
- Step 2, the SEA findings informed the 'bottom up' multi-criteria analysis to determine where the key risks and uncertainties lie in the Plan. The SEA findings along with the customer and stakeholder preferences were used to structure the Adaptive Pathways analysis at the next stage. As a result, reduced yield was explored for a number of schemes identified as having the potential for impacts on surface and/ or groundwater levels/ flows.
- Following Step 2 a comparative assessment of all reasonable alternative programmes/ adaptive futures was carried out and the findings informed the selection of the preferred programme and adaptive futures in Step 3.

Affinity Water identified nine reasonable alternative programmes (essentially nine different packages of supply and demand management schemes to address certain planning scenarios/ model parameters) for further consideration through the SEA process. These programmes were considered to be reasonable alternatives as they met the primary and secondary objectives of the fWRMP19.

## SEA of the reasonable alternative programmes

An assessment of each of the reasonable alternative programmes was carried out against the SEA objectives. The programmes are all based on different model conditions, which include varying levels of demand management savings (optimistic, expected and lower) as well as the number of supply-side schemes available for selection. As a result, there are differences between the programmes in terms of the overall number of supply-side schemes selected as well as differences between the individual schemes selected.

The programmes that are based on expected or lower demand management savings, or where strategic supply-side schemes (with +50MI/d benefit) are removed from consideration tend to result in a greater number of supply-side schemes being selected for delivery. This includes the Expected Future (28 supply-side schemes), High Growth Future (28 supply-side schemes), AD\_2 (20 supply-side schemes), AD\_3 (23 supply-side schemes) and Supply-side Challenging (23 supply-side schemes). The Environmental Adaptive Run includes the fewest supply-side schemes at 13 as a number of schemes could not be selected based on the criteria adopted for this run (i.e. excluding options with moderate or major adverse effects as identified by the SEA).

All of the programmes propose the delivery of the same five supply-side schemes in the first five years of the plan period in AMP7 and with the same delivery date:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020 (Delivery in 2020)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20) (Delivery in 2020)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation (Delivery in 2021)
- AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver (Delivery in 2022)
- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal (Delivery in 2022)

All these schemes propose minimal new infrastructure and as a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows for AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes. All of the programmes except the Environmental Adaptive Run include the delivery of AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes. The earliest delivery is proposed through the Supply-side Challenging programme in AMP8. Four programmes propose it for delivery in AMP11 (AD\_1, Expected Future,

AD\_2 and AD\_3), one in AMP12 (Optimistic Future) and two in AMP14 (Aspirational and High Growth Futures).

The assessment identified potential issues and uncertainties in relation to AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir. During operation the scheme proposes the release of water from the Brent Reservoir, which is also a SSSI. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. All of the programmes except the Environmental Adaptive Run include the delivery of AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir. The earliest delivery is proposed through AD\_2 and AD\_3 in AMP9 with the Expected Future and High Growth Future proposing delivery in AMP10. The Supply-side Challenging Future proposes the latest delivery in AMP18. The Environmental Adaptive Future does not include the scheme. Given that the earliest this scheme is proposed for delivery is AMP9, it is considered that there is sufficient time to investigate any potential issues.

Five programmes (Expected Future, High Growth Future, AD\_2, AD\_3 and Supply-side Challenging) include the delivery of AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir, which is also identified through the assessment as having the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment also identifies the potential for moderate positive effects during operation as once established the raw water reservoir will provide new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain. The four programmes all propose the delivery of this scheme late in the planning horizon in either AMP17 or 18, as a result it is considered that there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further and identify more detailed mitigation measures if necessary.

It is important to note that the Environmental Adaptive Run does not include any of the schemes identified above as potentially having issues relating to WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. Furthermore, the Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run cut the yield of these schemes by 50% to help mitigate the risks flagged through assessment as well as help to explore potential alternatives. It is likely that reducing their yield would help to reduce the significance of/ potential risk of residual negative effects identified during operation but this is uncertain at this stage.

The assessment also identifies potential issues during operation in terms of WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/flows for AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse and AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir. The assessment also found that there are potential benefits associated with the delivery of a new raw water reservoir in relation to recreation and biodiversity net gain. Three programmes (High Growth Future, AD\_2 and AD\_3) include both these schemes either because of a higher predicted population growth or by restricting the selection of any strategic supply-side schemes. They are both proposed for delivery at the end of the planning horizon in AMP18. The Expected Future programme only includes the delivery of AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse in AMP18.

The model parameters associated with programmes AD\_2, AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run mean that they generally do not include any strategic supply-side schemes. The only exception to this is the inclusion of AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d) within programmes AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run. The Minworth scheme is not identified through the SEA as being likely to have significant negative effects during operation<sup>1</sup> and no significant issues are highlighted through the HRA or WFD assessment.

AD\_2, AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run do not include any schemes related to the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir. Five of the programmes include two schemes that are linked to the delivery of the SESR. AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) is proposed for delivery first under all the programmes and is then followed by AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) at a later date. The Supply-side Challenging programme proposes the earliest delivery of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) in AMP10 followed by the Expected Future in AMP11. AD\_1, Optimistic Future and Aspirational Future propose delivery in AMP 12, 13 and 14 respectively. The assessment has highlighted for a number of significant negative as well as positive effects as a result of these schemes. The High Growth Future only includes the

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<sup>1</sup> Except relating to SEA Objective 8 which deals with carbon.

delivery of one 100 MI/d scheme related to the SESR rather than two 50 MI/d. It proposes the delivery of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d) in AMP11.

Given the higher levels of predicted population growth underpinning the High Growth Future it also includes the delivery of an additional strategic scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014: South Lincs Res (100MI/d) in AMP15 in order to help meet the increased demands. The assessment identified the potential for significant negative effects during construction as a result of the scale of infrastructure and proximity of sensitive receptors. It also identified the potential for a significant negative effect in terms of biodiversity during operation.

All of the programmes propose a variety of demand management measures throughout the planning horizon and the assessment found that these will generally perform positively or have a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives. Some of the leakage options would require construction works to repair or replace pipes and this could have local, temporary and short term minor negative effects; however, these are not likely to be significant.

## Outline reasons for the selection and rejection of the reasonable alternative programmes

As described in Section 5.2, Affinity Water has progressed with an adaptive modelling approach to help inform decision-making on the preferred programme and manage future uncertainties given the long planning horizon of the WRMP. This includes recognition of points in time whereby they would have to make a decision based on the realisation of benefits from demand-side and leakage measures. This decision-making point could take them down one of a number of adaptive futures.

At this stage, taking account of a wide range of factors, including the findings of the SEA (and associated HRA and WFD assessment), the Expected Future Run is selected by Affinity Water as the preferred programme and is based on expected demand management savings and leakage targets. It contains a suitable range of supply-side schemes throughout the planning horizon to minimise risk and enhance the resilience of the plan.

While it is recognised that the SEA and associated WFD assessment have highlighted a number of potential issues for schemes that are proposed under this programme, it is considered that there is sufficient time before they are implemented to allow for further investigation, assessment and consultation to be carried out in relation to the identified issues. This will establish the likelihood and significance of impacts as well as any detailed mitigation measures that are necessary. All but one of the schemes flagged by WFD are to be delivered in AMP8 or later. The one scheme that has been flagged through this assessment which is scheduled for AMP7 delivery is in the last year of the AMP, and has been recognised by the PR19 business planning process as a key area for investigation. We have already undergone works to investigate and study this particular area and have ongoing discussions with the local EA teams on this topic. To ensure we have all future eventualities covered however, our Challenging Supply-Side Future simulates what would happen if the volumes from this scheme were not able to be materialised as part of an adaptive future.

Alongside the Expected Future Run the following reasonable alternatives have also been progressed as possible adaptive futures under the fWRMP19:

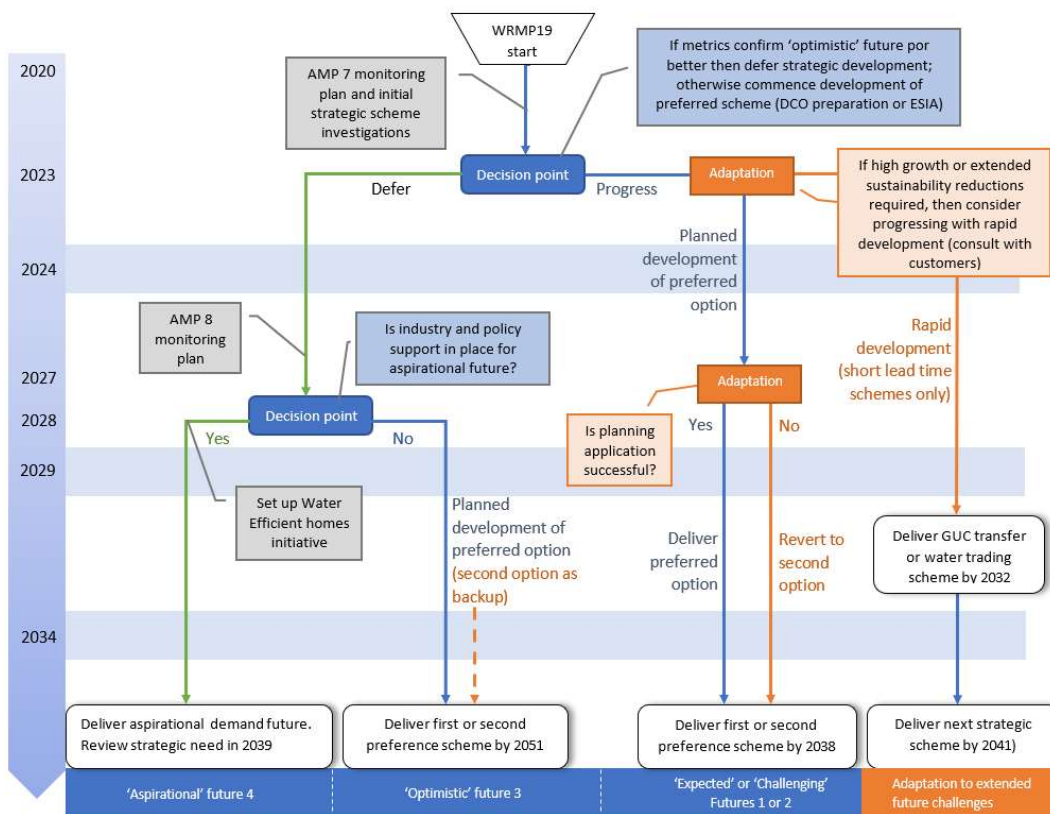
- Aspirational Future;
- High Growth Future;
- Supply-side Challenging Future; and
- Optimistic Future.

As noted above, given the adaptive planning approach there are points in the future (**Figure 3**) where a decision will be made, based on the evidence available, to determine if it would be more appropriate to progress down the Supply-side Challenging Future, High Growth Future, Optimistic Future or Aspirational Future programmes. Affinity Water's adaptive approach will dictate which of these programmes is progressed as a result of meeting the leakage and/ or demand-side targets set (or conversely not meeting these targets). The four adaptive programmes to our Expected Future are necessary to highlight the different pathways our future could materialise depending upon the

realisation of demand management benefits and leakage reduction. They show that if the benefits of these measures are not realised, we will need to bring forward the delivery of specific supply-side schemes to compensate in order to maintain supply to our customers. Conversely, they also show the effect on the same supply-side schemes should we achieve optimistic levels of demand management savings and leakage reduction, which results in these schemes being pushed further into the future.

**Figure 3** shows each of these four adaptive futures in relation to a WRMP19 start point. For the majority of AMP7, the plan will continue along one pathway until 2023 whereby Affinity Water will meet a decision point. For the previous years, the demand management and leakage results will have been tracked so once Affinity Water meet this decision point it can then be determined if these demand-side measures are on track or not in delivering demand savings. If the proposed demand management and leakage schemes deliver their expected benefits (central/ expected estimate) as opposed to the more optimistic forecast benefits, Affinity Water will progress down the Expected or Challenging Future branch, which involves developing a strategic source for delivery by 2038. This is represented by the right hand ‘flow’ direction from the first decision point in **Figure 3**.

**Figure 3: Flow diagram illustrating adaptive futures**



Under the Adaptive Planning process, there is the ability to switch between strategic sources depending upon the success of the DCO application. There is also an ability to bring forward the construction of either strategic source option on the grounds of Supply-Side Challenging, or High Growth Futures. These Futures take consideration of possibilities such as demand management options not performing at their expected levels, higher levels of population growth and/ or reduced yield of supply options as flagged by the WFD assessment. All schemes flagged by WFD as potentially having adverse impacts on status and where further investigation is required had their yields cut by 50% under the Supply-Side Challenging Future to mitigate the flagged risks and highlight which alternative schemes would be implemented earlier and/ or introduced.

If, at the AMP7 decision point, Affinity Water finds they are on track with demand management or leakage targets, they can defer the construction of a strategic option and continue to monitor through AMP8. Another decision point would then be reached in 2027. If at this point Affinity Water finds the

more ambitious, long term targets are not likely to be met, they have the ability to then construct a strategic option albeit a bit later than the expected and challenging futures.

Alternatively, if Affinity Water finds the demand management and leakage targets are being met at the 2027 decision point, they can continue down the Aspirational Future pathway with the view to reviewing the need for a strategic option in 2039.

The Environmental Adaptive Run, AD\_1, AD\_2 and AD\_3 alternative programmes have all been rejected for the reasons set out below.

The Environmental Adaptive Run is a viable alternative programme which will not select options that the SEA has flagged as being potentially negative without mitigation. This is a reasonable alternative programme; however, on the grounds that there are not enough options under the conditions of this model run, additional levels of leakage reduction are selected to infill the gap left by the supply-side options excluded. This generates a programme with quite a high level of risk and dependency on meeting leakage reduction targets and does not consider that further investigation and more detailed mitigation at the detailed design stage could remove or further reduce the significance of negative effects identified through the SEA. By doing this, we generate a programme with a high level of risk associated with meeting extremely ambitious levels of leakage reduction. We do not deem this to be an acceptable level of risk and have such removed this from our process.

Similarly, AD\_2 and AD\_3 meet the plan objectives. The intention of these modelling runs was to understand what a programme of options would look like, should a strategic source option not be available. We recognise through our fWRMP19 modelling that forecasted growth in the fWRMP19 is so significant that Affinity Water consistently need between 100MI/d and 150MI/d of strategic imports into their supply region. Therefore, options which satisfy this need have a great deal of weight, so by undertaking AD\_2 and AD\_3 Affinity Water can understand the implications of not having one of these schemes available.

AD\_2 and AD\_3 were removed from the process because they were overly pessimistic. Our Challenging Future runs cover the eventualities of investigations flagging potential reasons to not progress with a particular strategic source, or events like DCO applications being unsuccessful, by allowing for an alternative strategic option to be selected rather than simply not selecting any strategic options. These runs were still useful to allow us to understand the weight of these options on our future ability to provide supply.

AD\_1 was rejected because it was superseded by our Optimistic Future. Both runs had optimistic demand management futures involved; however, the long term targets (i.e. leakage reduced by 50% in 2044/45) exist in the Optimistic Future but not in AD\_1. This was not a secondary or primary objective, so we were not able to rule AD\_1 out of the process, but the run was not required further on the basis that the Optimistic Future does what AD\_1 does, and goes further in line with long term targets raised by stakeholders as desirable.

## SEA of the fWRMP19 and adaptive futures

Building on the assessment work carried out for the constrained options, the SEA found that the majority of supply and demand options or 'schemes' proposed through the fWRMP19 and adaptive futures are unlikely to have a significant effect during either construction or operation against the majority of SEA objectives.

Some schemes were identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect and that mitigation or further investigation would be required. These schemes are identified in the **Table 1** below along with any mitigation or further assessments proposed through the SEA.

**Table 1: Schemes with the potential for a significant negative effect**

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (BREN Reservoir)	The scheme proposes the release of water from the Brent Reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme.	There ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Rivers and Canals Trust who operate the reservoir. It is recommended that Natural England is also involved in these discussions. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown. It is anticipated that this would be delivered later in the planning horizon under the Expected Future, i.e. in AMP10, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (BREN Reservoir)	The new reservoir cell is in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Gardens. The construction of the new reservoir cell is likely to have negative impacts on landscape/ townscape and the historic environment in the short term. The new reservoir cell would be situated on greenfield land at Harrow on the Hill, in close proximity to a Registered Park and Garden. This is likely to be visible during construction within an area of open/green space within the existing urban area.  There is also the potential for archaeological activity/remains at the site, which would likely be impacted by the construction of the reservoir cell and associated infrastructure.	Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible. Use construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage and Historic England should be consulted. A landscape and visual impact assessment as well as heritage impact assessment should be carried out to inform the development of detailed mitigation measures to minimise impacts during construction and operation.  Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations will be required prior to any construction work.
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 (Canal & River)	The WFD assessment found that the cessation of	The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
Trust and SGSK Boreholes)	discharge could cause deterioration in status of the Salthill Stream surface water body.	could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2041 under the Expected Future there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown.
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	The WFD assessment found that there the scheme could reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body	The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2077 under the Expected Future there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown.
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	The new reservoir is not in close proximity to any designated heritage assets but there is the potential for archaeological activity /remains at the site, which would likely be impacted by the construction of the reservoir cell and associated infrastructure.	Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	The HRA identified that there is the potential for a likely significant effect on the South West London Waterbodies SPA/ Ramsar site	The HRA concluded that there would not be any adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites if the following recommendations are included in the fWRMP19:
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		It is recommended that the inclusion of this option within the WRMP is accompanied by an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for this scheme take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.
AFF-RTR-WRZ4- 4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)		As a precaution, it is recommended that the inclusion of this option within the WRMP is accompanied by an explicit commitment to carefully design the pipeline, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations as necessary, to ensure that there is no requirement for dewatering of the excavation, or that any dewatering that is required is returned immediately to ground. These would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that groundwater continuity to the gravel pits would not be disrupted and groundwater quality would be protected.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	The WFD assessment identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation	Further investigations should be carried out, including a more detailed WFD assessment. There should also be discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with the WFD. Mitigation could include the



Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)	on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body.	use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. It is anticipated that these schemes would be delivered later in the planning horizon, i.e. after AMP8, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)	The scheme proposes the abstraction of water from the Grafham reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. Interest features include nationally important waterfowl populations as well as areas of grassland, scrub, marsh and temporarily inundated shoreline. The precise location of the new raw water pumping station is not known at this stage. During construction there is the potential for impacts on the SSSI interest features through the loss and fragmentation of habitat, pollution and disturbance.	The location of the pumping station and abstraction point are uncertain at this stage. If this scheme is progressed as part of the High Growth Adaptive Future the pumping station and abstraction point should be located so that they avoid important habitats used by the breeding/ wintering birds. The location of infrastructure should be informed by detailed ecological surveys.  Construction of the new pump station and main in proximity to Grafham Water SSSI should be carried out mid-August to end of September to avoid disturbance to any breeding or wintering birds.
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)	The assessment found that it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects on the Grafham Water SSSI a result of the abstraction given that this scheme is utilising additional water being made available from the delivery of the new South Lincolnshire Reservoir. However, there is an element of uncertainty.	If this scheme is progressed as part of the High Growth Adaptive Future there will need to be further discussions between Affinity Water, Anglian Water and Natural England. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Grafham Water Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted at key times in the year, such as during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). It is anticipated that this would be delivered later in the planning horizon under the High Growth Adaptive Future, i.e. in AMP15, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	The location of the new reservoir is within 1km of a number of Listed Buildings and the Tatternhoe Castle Scheduled Monument. The reservoir is likely to be visible in part to these designated heritage assets given their elevation and the Scheduled Monument looks down the Ouzel Valley. There is therefore the potential for negative effects during construction and operation of the new reservoir. There is also the potential for archaeological activity /remains at the site, which would likely be impacted by the construction of the reservoir	Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage and Historic England should be consulted. A landscape and visual impact assessment as well as heritage impact assessment should be carried out to inform the development of detailed mitigation measures to minimise impacts during construction and operation.  Given the potential for archaeological activity/remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work. It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon, i.e. in

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
	cell and associated infrastructure.	AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	The WFD assessment identifies that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body.	Further investigations should be carried out, including a more detailed WFD assessment. There should also be discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with the WFD. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon under the High Growth Adaptive Future, i.e. in AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld	The delivery of the new pump house, pipeline and expansion of the reservoir has the potential for a negative effect on landscape and historic environment. Approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB.	The pipeline should be routed to avoid designated heritage assets and provide a suitable buffer where necessary. Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be required to determine the sensitivity of the receiving landscape and potential effects of the option as well as appropriate mitigation measures. Any visible new infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan where necessary. Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work.  It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon, i.e. in AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.

While the potential for minor negative effects were identified for schemes against a number of SEA objectives, it is highly likely that the significance of these can be reduced further during detailed planning and design of schemes. Negative effects during construction primarily arise as a result of the requirement for new infrastructure and the significance of this effect is dependent on the presence of, or pathways to, sensitive receptors.

## Cumulative effects

It is a requirement for the SEA to also consider potential interactions between the proposed fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes as well as with other plans and programmes, which could result in cumulative effects.

The cumulative effects assessment found that there is a low risk arising for cumulative effects arising during construction as a result of the schemes proposed within the fWRMP19 (including adaptive futures). The phasing of new infrastructure and extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. During operation the assessment predominantly found that there is a low risk for cumulative effects on sensitive receptors. However, a medium risk of cumulative negative effects was identified for the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body as a result of interactions between AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1053 and AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1068. Further hydrogeological assessments required to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands. It is also recommended that water levels/ flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

It should be noted that the assessment also identified that during operation there is also the potential for some schemes to interact and have positive effects for the River Thames as a result of improved flow rates, improved habitats and chemistry.

Overall, it was concluded that there is the potential for some schemes to interact and have impacts on the same sensitive receptor. The delivery dates of the schemes and infrastructure proposed mean that the potential for interactions is low and there is suitable mitigation to ensure that residual effects are not significant.

Water Resources South East carried out a study to identify potential cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions between schemes being proposed through emerging WRMPs within their area.<sup>2</sup> The study identified ten schemes proposed within Affinity Water's fWRMP19 and adaptive futures that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect. The assessment concluded that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with other WRMPs.

It is recognised that the WRMPs for water companies in the south east are continuing to evolve and as they do, it will be necessary to further re-visit the cumulative effects as part of the implementation of the WRMP and in subsequent future WRMPs prepared every five years. Despite this, it is considered likely that any changes will not lead to any adverse cumulative effects.

The assessment also found that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions between fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes with other plans, programmes and projects.

## Next steps and monitoring

The fWRMP19 and revised Environmental Report will be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Once the final WRMP19 is approved by the Secretary of State, published and adopted, Affinity Water will publish a SEA Post Adoption Statement, describing how the SEA and the responses to consultation have been taken into account during the preparation of the WRMP19.

At the current time, there is a need only to present 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring'. The SEA Regulations expect monitoring and mitigation to be linked, and that the focus should be on any significant negative effects identified through the assessment. The UKWIR SEA guidance recommends that existing arrangements for monitoring should be used where possible to avoid duplication of effort.

Based on the findings of the SEA at this stage, the following monitoring measures are proposed:

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<sup>2</sup> WRSE (2017 and updated in 2018) Environmental information to inform Water Company SEAs – Identification of potential for cumulative effects between water companies for WRMP19 SEAs. Prepared by Ricardo.

**Table 3: Proposed monitoring measures**

SEA topic	Potential indicator	fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes
<b>Water</b>	Number of objections from the Environment Agency in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General for all new schemes.</li> </ul>
	Groundwater levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Lower Greensand (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Salthill stream (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Lower Roding (Crispey Brook to Loughton) (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Groundwater levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the East Kent Chalk Stour (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation</li> </ul>
	Brent Reservoir water levels (already monitored by the Canal & River Trust);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body (already monitored by the Environment Agency);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Grafham Reservoir water levels (already monitored by Anglian Water);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Brent Reservoir SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir</li> </ul>
	South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA as well as the Wraysbury No.1 Gravel Pit SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Roding Valley Meadows SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation</li> </ul>
	Grafham Water SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Number of objections from AONB management boards in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4- 4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>		

SEA topic	Potential indicator	fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes
<b>Historic Environment</b>	Number of objections from Historic England in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)</li> <li>• TR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End</li> <li>• AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1068 : Runley Wood (AMP7 LGS Borehole)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld</li> <li>• All schemes proposing new visible infrastructure within WRZ 7.</li> </ul>
	Condition of buried archaeology would be monitored during construction works as part of a Watching Brief and associated response measures as set out in the Environmental Management Plan agreed as part of the planning permission process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>• General for all schemes that propose new visible infrastructure.</li> </ul>
	Reference to Historic England's monitoring of heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, in particular the 'Heritage at risk' register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General for all schemes that propose new infrastructure.</li> </ul>

Monitoring measures will be given further consideration and set out within the SEA Post Adoption Statement.

# 1. Introduction

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Affinity Water's emerging Water Resource Management Plan for Periodic Review 2019 (WRMP19).

## 1.1 What is SEA?

The requirement to undertake a SEA arises from EC Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). The SEA Directive is transposed into English law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'). The SEA Directive and associated regulations require a SEA to be undertaken for certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is:

*"To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans...which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."*

SEA Directive (Article 1)

UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) guidance states that:

*"SEA is a qualitative process. Its outputs are often based on qualitative judgements of the significance of varying types of impacts on different receptors"*

UKWIR 2012<sup>3</sup>

European Commission (EC) guidance states that:

*"the essential thing is that the likely significant effects of the plan or programme and the alternatives are identified, described and evaluated in a comparable way."*

European Commission 2004<sup>4</sup>

There are two key procedural requirements of the SEA Directive, which are:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' to be presented in the assessment, the SEA consultation bodies<sup>5</sup> must be provided with the relevant information and given five weeks to comment on the proposed scope and the level of detail the assessment will enter into.
2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the draft plan - in this case the dWRMP19 (2018) and rdWRMP19 (2019) - that presents an assessment of the plan as published (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from implementation of the fWRMP19) and any reasonable alternatives.

The SEA process is covered in more detail in three guidance documents: 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'<sup>6</sup> (the 'Practical Guide'); 'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment - Guidance for Water Resources Management

<sup>3</sup> Cascade Consulting (2012) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment – Guidance for Water Resources Management Plans and Drought Plans.

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2004) Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment [online] @ [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923\\_sea\\_guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf). Accessed October 2016

<sup>5</sup> In England these are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

<sup>6</sup> ODPM now DCLG (2006) A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive [online] Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguidesea> Accessed September 2016

Plans and Drought Plans’;<sup>7</sup> and ‘Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment’<sup>8</sup>. The SEA process is split into five main stages:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report;
- Stage D: Consulting on the dWRMP19 and the Environmental Report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the dWRMP19 on the environment.

**Figure 1.1** illustrates how the SEA, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (see Section 1.2.1 below) and WRMP19 processes are integrated. This figure has been adapted from the UKWIR SEA guidance. This Environmental Report (highlighted in red in **Figure 1.1**) is the main output from Stage C of the SEA process.

### 1.1.1 Meeting regulatory requirements

Water companies in England are legally required to supply water to private consumers and businesses within their area. As set out in the Water Industry Act 1991, Affinity Water must prepare and maintain a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) that sets out how the company intends to maintain the balance between water supply and demand.

The WRMP must take a long term view, setting a planning period that is appropriate to the risks in relation to supply and demand, but which covers at least the minimum statutory period of 25 years.

The WRMP is complemented by Affinity Water’s Drought Plan, which sets out the short-term operational steps to be taken during a drought to enhance available water supplies, manage customer demand and minimise environmental impacts.

The SEA is undertaken in parallel with the HRA and Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment of the WRMP19. This ensures an integrated approach to environmental assessment, such that environmental considerations are integral to the development of the ‘best value programme’ of options for each Water Resource Zone (WRZ)<sup>9</sup> under consideration.

The SEA has been carried out iteratively alongside and informed the development of the WRMP19. An Environmental Report and Non-technical Summary was published alongside the draft WRMP19 for consultation in 2018. A revised Environmental Report and Appendices were then published alongside the revised draft WRMP19 for further consultation in early 2019. The Environmental Report and Non-Technical Summary have been updated again to reflect the consultation responses received as well as changes to the fWMP19.

### 1.1.2 The need for Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Water Resource Planning Guideline suggests that water companies investigate “*whether a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is required (if options are needed to balance a supply-demand deficit) and carry out an SEA if required.*”<sup>10</sup> Affinity Water will be identifying both supply options to address a forecast deficit and demand options to manage consumption and leakage.

Furthermore, the supply options are likely to include projects that would require assessment under the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended in 2014 by Directive 2014/52/EU) ‘on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment’ (the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive) or could have significant effects on the environment. It has therefore been determined by Affinity Water that SEA is required.

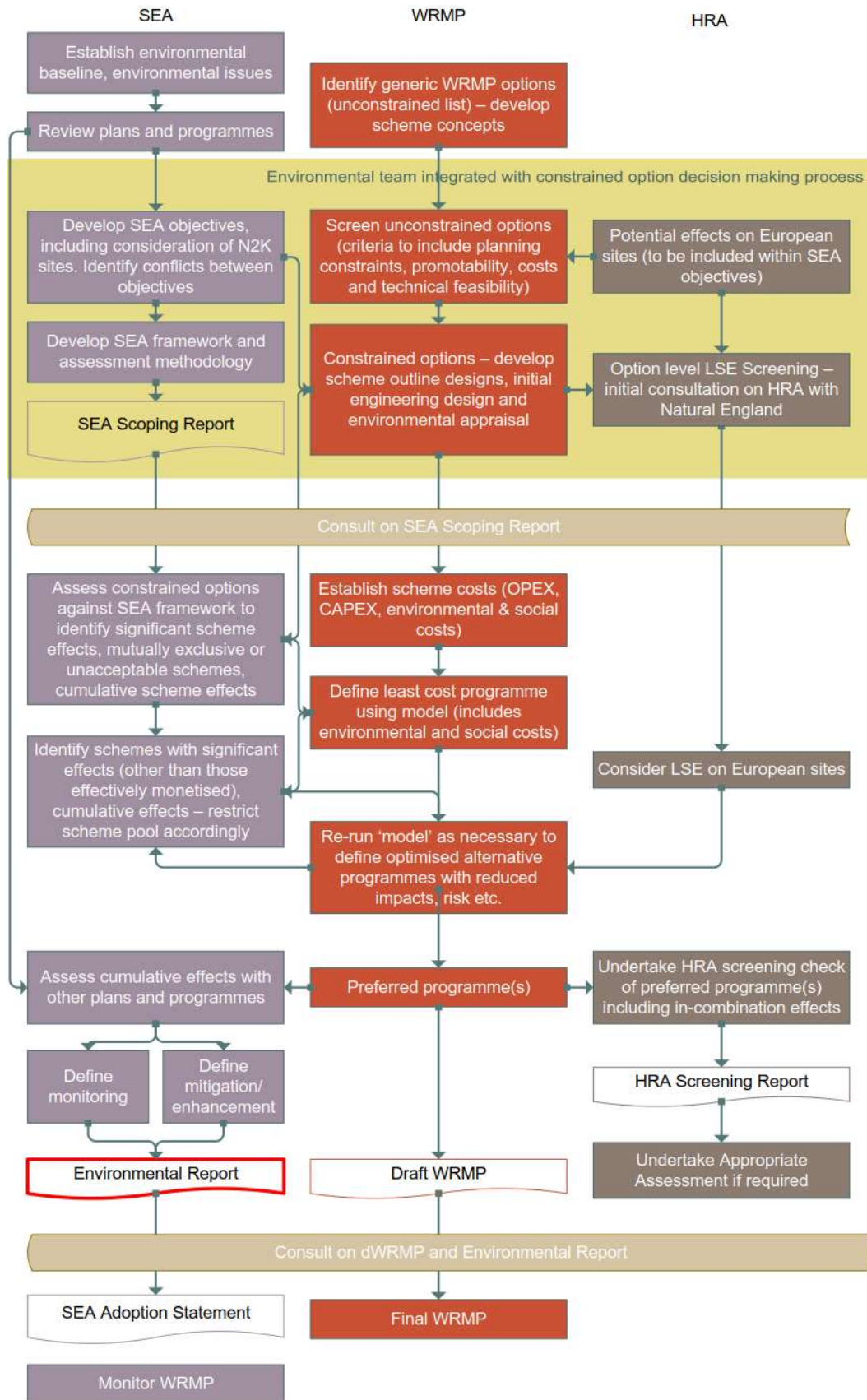
<sup>7</sup> UKWIR (2012) Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment – Guidance for Water Resources Management Plans and Drought Plans.

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923\\_sea\\_guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> A Water Resource Zone is the largest possible zone in which all resources, including external transfers, can be shared and hence the zone in which all customers experience the same risk of supply failure from a resource shortfall.

<sup>10</sup> Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales (2016) Final Water Resource Planning Guideline.

Figure 1.1. SEA and HRA aligned with the WRMP process<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> 'N2K sites are those sites designated as part of the Habitats and Birds Directives (part of the Natura 2000 network of sites). This report refers to all such designated sites as 'European Sites'. LSE refers to Likely Significant Effect.



## 1.2 Compliance with other environmental legislation

### 1.2.1 Habitats Regulations

The Affinity Water Operating Area contains sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora' (the Habitats Directive') and Directive 2009/147/EC 'on the conservation of wild birds' (the 'Birds Directive'). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) respectively. Along with Ramsar sites these are all collectively referred to as 'European sites'.

If a plan is likely to have a 'significant effect' on a European site, an assessment is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations'). This assessment is more commonly referred to as a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The HRA process has four stages:

- **Stage 1** – Establishing whether the Habitats Regulations apply to the plan or project;
- **Stage 2** – A determination of a Likely Significant Effect (LSE): To determine whether, in view of a European site's conservation objectives, the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other projects and plans) would have a likely significant effect on the site. If adverse impacts are anticipated, potential mitigation measures to alleviate impacts should be proposed and assessed;
- **Stage 3** – Appropriate Assessment: Assess whether the plan or project will have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of a European Site. If so, there should be an examination of whether the plan or project could be consented subject to certain conditions or restrictions that would avoid an LSE; and
- **Stage 4** – A determination of whether to proceed despite an LSE: If an LSE is identified and adverse impacts remain, but it can be clearly shown that no alternative solutions exist, the plan or project may be allowed to proceed in exceptional circumstances (i.e. where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and no available alternatives). In the event of exceptional circumstances being demonstrated, compensatory measures would be required to offset negative impacts.

The responsibility for undertaking an HRA falls to the relevant 'competent authority' for the purposes of the Habitats Regulations. Water companies are classed as statutory undertakers and hence are competent authorities. This means that Affinity Water is responsible for ensuring the WRMP19 is developed in compliance with the Habitats Regulations. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake the HRA process for the WRMP19 and the findings of this work are available separately and have informed the SEA process.

### 1.2.2 Water Framework Directive

Consideration of the WRMP19 in relation to EC Directive 2000/60/EC 'establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy' (the 'Water Framework Directive' (WFD)) is required. The WFD is designed to protect and improve the environmental condition of all waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. The fundamental objectives of the WFD are to prevent any deterioration in the existing status of waters and to achieve at least 'good status' in relation to all waters (or 'good potential' status in heavily modified water bodies by 2015. The WFD recognises that this may not be achieved in some cases and, subject to the criteria set out in the Directive, aims to achieve good status or good ecological potential by 2027.

The WFD is implemented through river basin planning, which involves setting environmental objectives for all groundwater and surface water bodies within a river basin district and then devising a programme of measures and actions to meet those objectives. The WRZs for Affinity Water fall within the bounds of the Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), Anglian RBMP and the South East RBMP. AECOM has been commissioned by Affinity Water to undertake the WFD assessment of Affinity Water's WRMP19 and the findings of this work are available separately and informed the SEA process.

The WFD assessment informed the SEA process, in particular the assessment of schemes against SEA Objectives 10 (Protect and improve surface water and groundwater body status) and 11 (Avoid

adverse impact on surface and groundwater levels and flows), which inherently require consideration of WFD requirements for Good Ecological Status/ Potential.

### 1.3 Purpose and structure of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report has been prepared to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations<sup>12</sup> and to facilitate consultation with relevant stakeholders. It sets out the findings of the SEA process in relation to the final WRMP19 (fWRMP19).

The Environmental Report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1** (this chapter) - sets out the need for an SEA and any other relevant assessments;
- **Chapter 2** - sets out the background to the WRMP;
- **Chapter 3** - provides a summary of the proposed SEA scope and sets out the key issues and SEA Framework;
- **Chapter 4** - sets out how options (supply and demand schemes) were developed, presents the method and findings of the assessment;
- **Chapter 5** - explains the programme appraisal stage, identifies reasonable alternative programmes and sets out the findings the assessment and outline reasons for the selection of the preferred programme and adaptive futures;
- **Chapter 6** - sets out the key findings for the fWRMP19 and any additional schemes that have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under the adaptive futures;
- **Chapter 7** - sets out the findings of the cumulative effects assessment for the fWRMP19 (and any additional schemes that have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under the adaptive futures) with other plans, programmes and projects;
- **Chapter 8** - sets out the mitigation identified for the fWRMP19 (and any additional schemes that have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under the adaptive futures) along with areas for further investigation; and
- **Chapter 9** - sets out next steps along with proposed indicators for monitoring.

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<sup>12</sup> Regulation 12 (5)

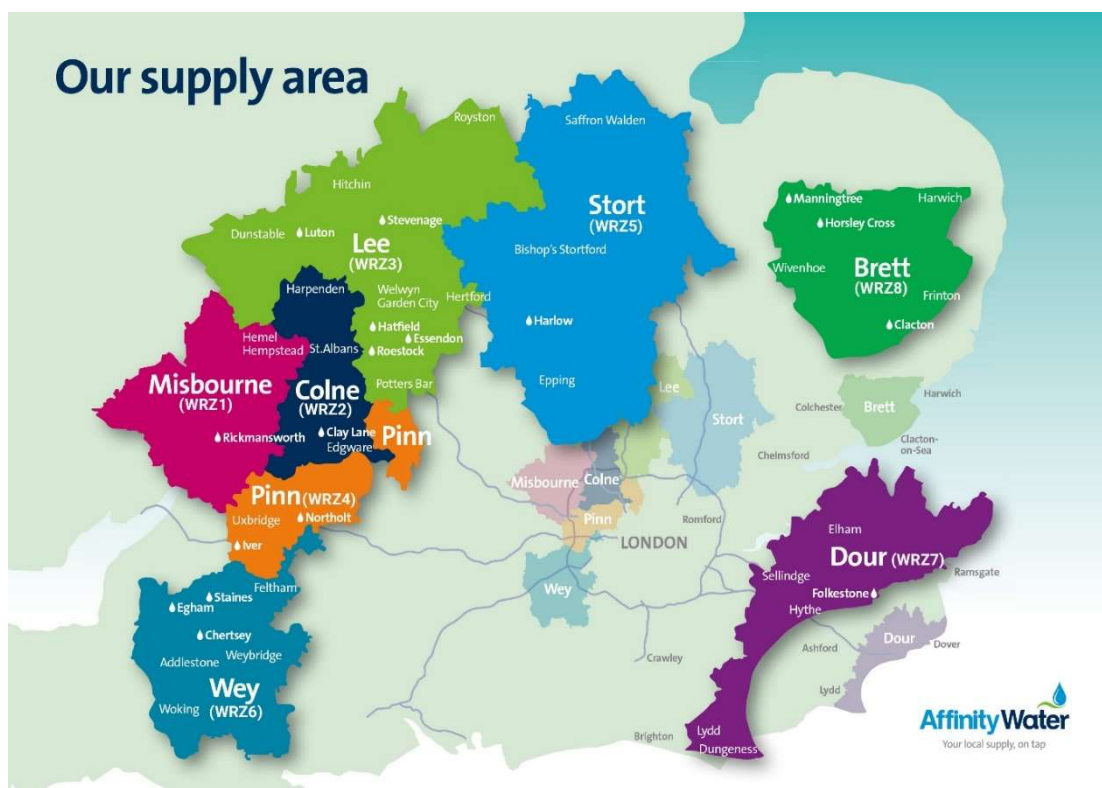
## 2. The Water Resource Management Plan

### 2.1 Introduction to Affinity Water

Affinity Water serves a population of over 3.6 million people in 1.4 million properties in the South East and East of England. This amounts to the provision of around 900 million litres of water every day through 16,500 km of water mains. Affinity Water currently has 130 groundwater sources and 96 Water Treatment Works with groundwater making up 65% of supply.

The Operating Area is split into three geographical regions: Central, East, and Southeast. These geographic regions are further subdivided into eight water resource zones (WRZs). WRZs are broadly integrated areas in which customers are supplied by a common pipe network from a number of local water sources. WRZs are created to facilitate assessment of the supply/ demand balance - see **Figure 2.1**.

**Figure 2.1: Affinity Water communities and WRZs**



The major demand zones and trunk mains for transferring water across regions are shown in **Figures 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4**. These maps represent the transfers between Affinity Water's WRZs and Hydraulic Demand Zones (HDZs) and the connections they have with neighbouring water company areas. Affinity Water also has the capacity to transfer water between zones to allow for operational flexibility.

Figure 2.2: Map of Demand Zones and Strategic Links in the Central region

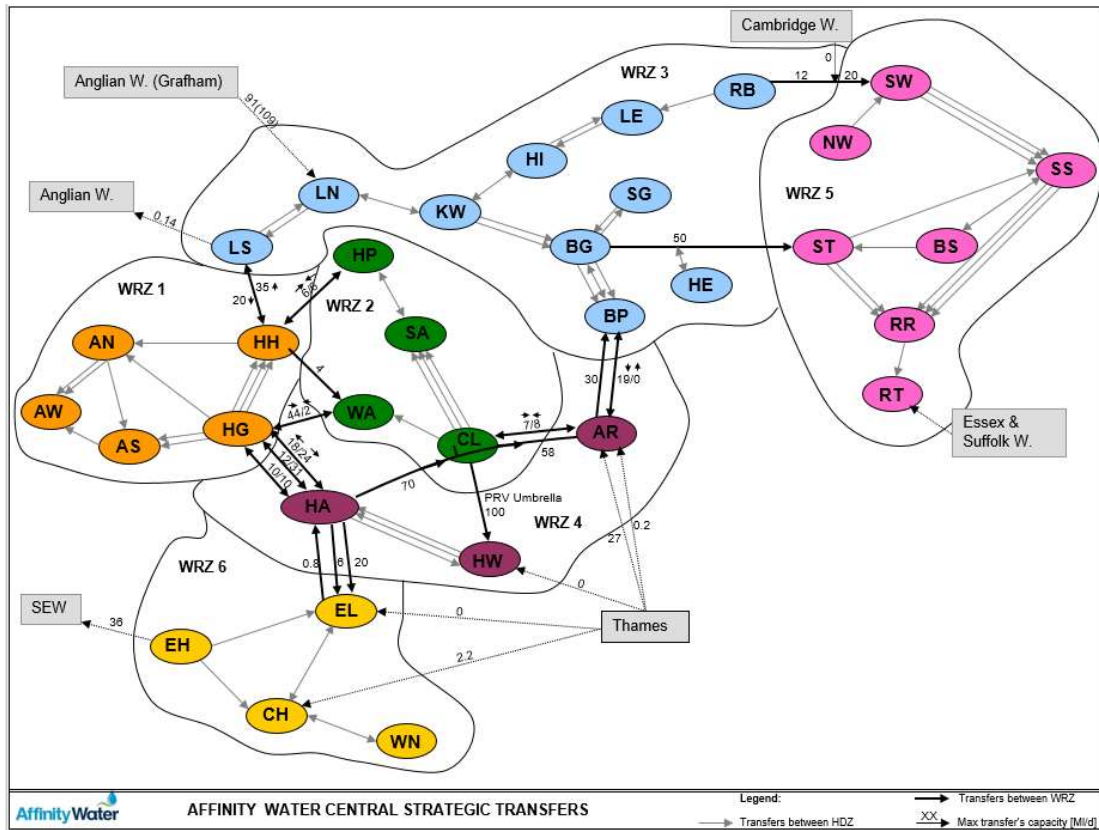


Figure 2.3: Map of Demand Zones and Strategic Links in the Southeast region

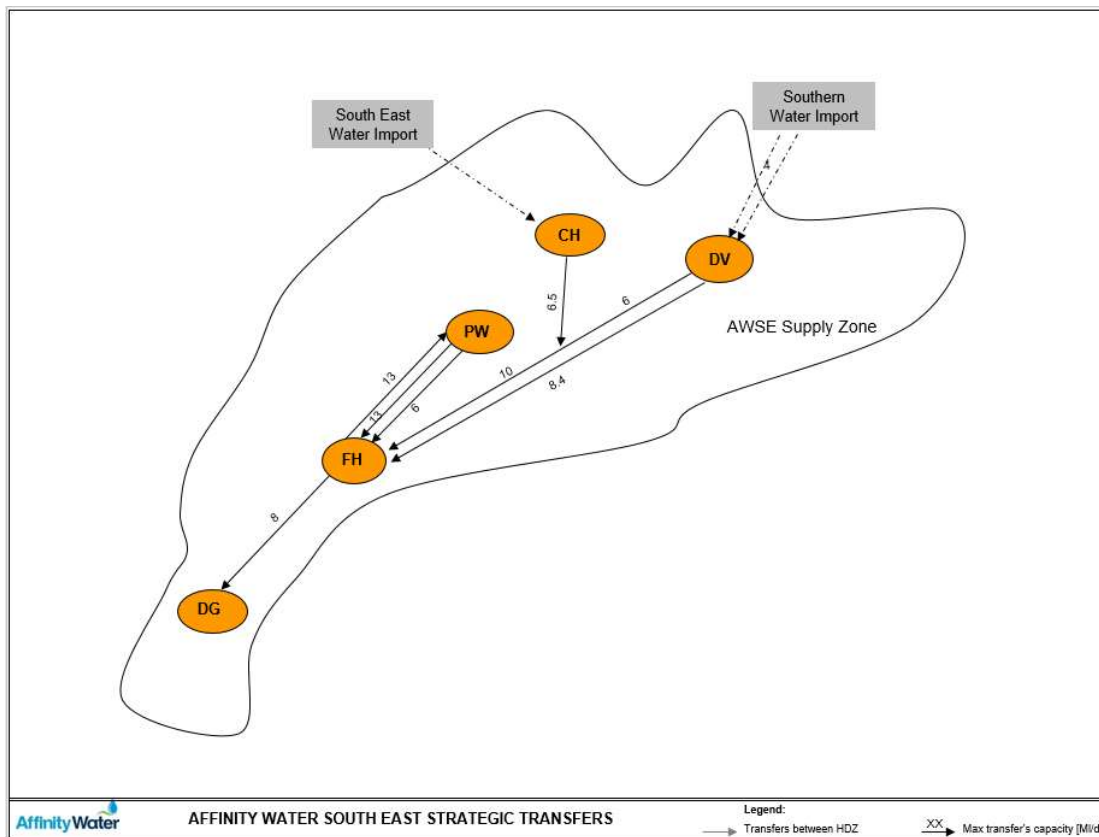
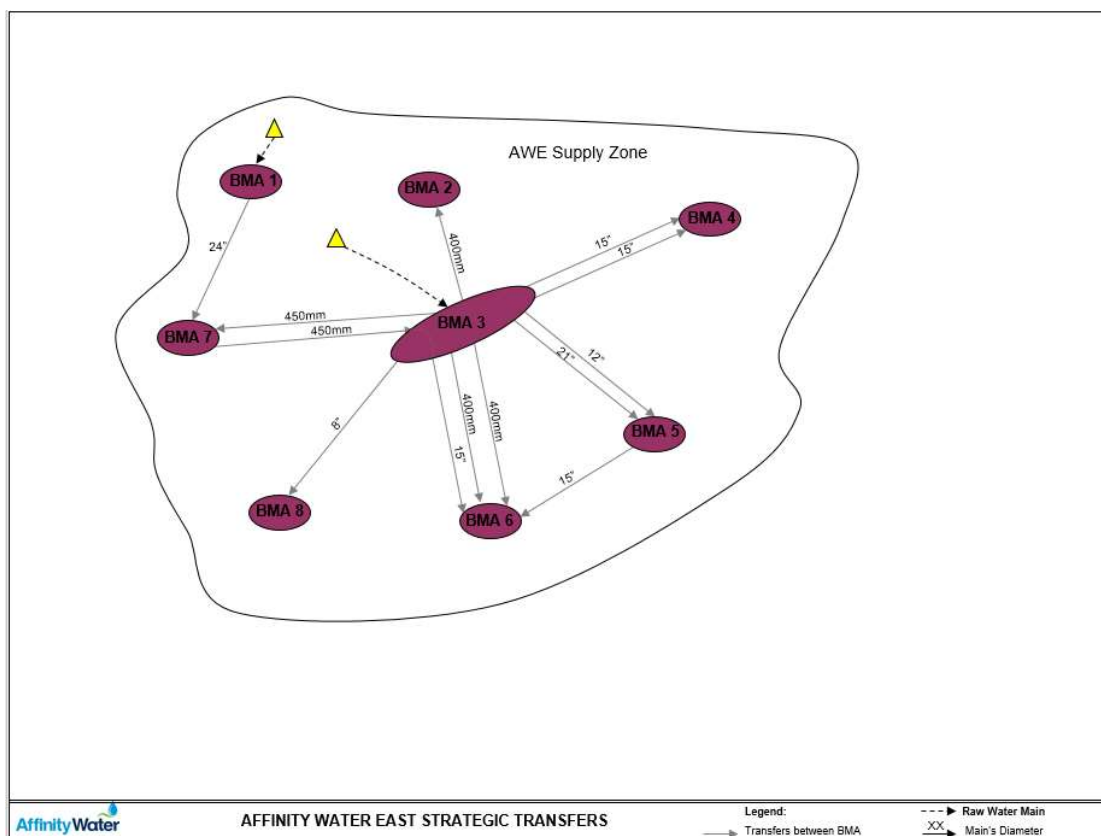


Figure 2.4: Map of Demand Zones and Strategic Links in the East region



### 2.1.1 Central region

The Central region is split into six WRZs and provides water to the north London boroughs. The region extends into rural parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and supplies a population of about 3.3 million people.

The Central region obtains 60% of its supply from groundwater sources, with boreholes abstracting from chalk and gravel aquifers. The remaining 40% of the supply is from surface water sources, and imports from neighbouring water companies; Thames Water (including sewage), Anglian Water (including sewage) and Cambridge Water. Water is exported to South East Water and Cambridge Water.

### 2.1.2 Southeast region

The Southeast region provides water to the towns of Folkestone and Dover, together with surrounding rural areas including Romney Marsh and Dungeness. In the Southeast region, Affinity Water supplies a population of about 170,000 people. Water is imported into the Southeast region from two adjoining water companies: Southern Water and South East Water.

In the Southeast region Affinity Water abstracts 90% of its water from chalk and greensand groundwater boreholes, with a minor component from the Denge Gravels.

### 2.1.3 East region

In the East region Affinity Water provides water to north east Essex including Harwich and Clacton on Sea. Affinity Water supplies a population of approximately 156,000 people in this region. The East region is bordered by Anglian Water (including sewage) with which it shares a reservoir.

The Affinity Water East region normally takes 100% of its water supply from groundwater sources, but there is the flexibility to also import water from a nearby reservoir which is jointly owned with Anglian Water.

## 2.2 About the WRMP

Water companies in England and Wales are required by law (the Water Act 2003) to produce a WRMP every five years. The WRMP must set out how a water company intends to maintain the balance between water supply and demand over at least a 25-year period. The WRMP19 must be prepared in accordance with the Water Resources Planning Guideline (WRPG)<sup>13</sup> which was developed by government and water industry regulators. It must also take account of, and support, government policy and aspirations for providing secure, sustainable and affordable water supplies to customers.

The Affinity Water fWRMP19 will set out the preferred programme (comprising a range of options) to reduce any deficit through implementation of both supply and demand options. The key challenges and issues are similar in nature to those experienced for the last plan (WRMP14) but Affinity Water’s understanding of how they differ in scale and complexity has changed and are consistent with the feedback received in relation to the dWRMP19 consultation. These are illustrated in Figure 2.5 below.

**Figure 2.5: fWRMP19 key themes for customers and stakeholders**

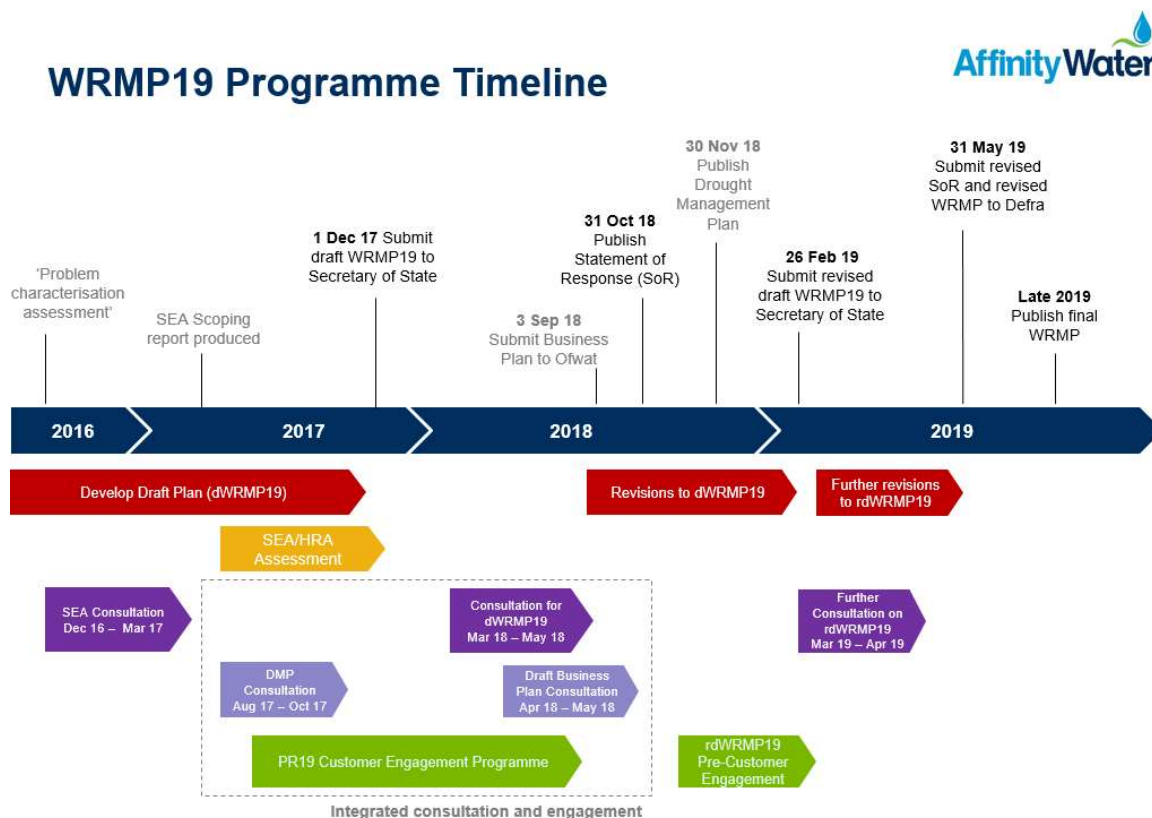


<sup>13</sup> Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales (2016) Final Water Resource Planning Guideline.

## 2.3 Development of the WRMP19

The preparation of the fWRMP19 follows the current Water Resources Planning Guideline. The WRMP19 timeline is shown in Figure 2.6 below.

Figure 2.6: WRMP19 Programme Timeline



## 2.4 Sustainability reductions

The Environment Agency is responsible for issuing licences for water abstractions from both groundwater and surface water. It also has the power to amend existing licences or to enter into operating agreements to limit abstraction where this is having a negative effect on the environment.

In response to European and national legislation, the Environment Agency introduced the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) to ensure that water companies meet European and national targets related to water. The WINEP is a list of environmental improvement schemes which water companies include in their five-yearly Business Plans. It includes requirements for water companies to undertake improvement schemes or, where more evidence is required, to investigate a particular problem. Possible reductions in abstractions (sustainability reductions) for Affinity Water are currently being discussed with the Environment Agency.

## 3. Scoping Information

### 3.1 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SEA, i.e. the key issues and objectives that should be a focus for assessment. Further information on the scope of the SEA - i.e. a more detailed review of key issues / objectives as highlighted through a review of the 'policy context' and 'baseline' - is presented in **Appendix II**.

It is important to emphasise that the fWRMP19 is strategic in nature. Even the selection of schemes through the WRMP19 should also be considered a strategic undertaking, i.e. a process that omits consideration of some detailed issues (in the knowledge that they can be addressed at the detailed design stage). The strategic nature of the WRMP19 is reflected in the scope of the SEA.

### 3.2 Consultation on the scope

The SEA Regulations require that “*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the Environmental Report [i.e. the SEA scope], the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, the consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.<sup>14</sup> A Scoping Report (2016) was sent to the statutory consultation bodies, along with other key stakeholders, for review and comment in December 2017. Further comments on the scoping information were submitted by the statutory consultees in response to the consultation for the dWRMP19 and accompanying Environmental Report in 2018. The consultation responses received and how they have been taken into account are set out in **Appendix III**. The scoping information presented in **Appendix II** has been updated to reflect these representations.

### 3.3 Spatial scope

The Central (WRZs 1 to 6), Southeast (WRZ 7) and East (WRZ 8) regions have been scoped into the SEA as there are predicted deficits during the 25 year statutory plan period and supply-side options may therefore be required. These areas are illustrated in Annex D of **Appendix II**. Where necessary, the SEA also considers the influence of the fWRMP19 and alternatives outside of these areas where there are potential pathways for effects to occur.

### 3.4 Temporal scope

The fWRMP19 sets out how Affinity Water plan to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water not just during the statutory planning period of 25 years (2020 to 2045) but going beyond this, up to 60 years into the future (up to 2080). This enables Affinity Water to address their long term strategic needs to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of water to the supply area based on a unique set of challenges.

The current and future baseline for Affinity Water's supply area and beyond (where necessary), is set out in **Appendix II**. Given the 60 year planning period there is a significant level of uncertainty as to how the environmental and social baseline as well as wider policy context will evolve. It is important to remember that water companies in England and Wales are required by law to produce a WRMP every five years. As a result, schemes proposed later in the planning period, i.e. beyond the 2024, will be subject to further assessment (including SEA, HRA and WFD assessment) and consultation with stakeholders.

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<sup>14</sup> In-line with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because 'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes.'



### 3.5 Key issues

The detailed policy context and baseline information (see **Appendix II**) led to the identification of a number of key issues, which are set out in the table below. It should be noted that the key issues were subject to minor revisions in order to reflect the inclusion of the East Region (WRZ 8) within the scope of the SEA.

**Table 3.1: SEA topics and key issues**

SEA topics	Key issues:
Population, Economy and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Central region, in particular, may experience high levels of development and growth;</li> <li>All three regions have 'hotspots' of deprivation. Vulnerable people may be at disproportionate risk of effects of changes in the cost of water;</li> <li>The Study Area will experience a combination of the impacts of climate change, population increase, sustainability reductions and water stress. All of these factors create a challenging environment for Affinity Water to deliver a sustainable water supply; and</li> <li>It is important to note that human health and wellbeing have strong inter-relationships with all of the other topics in the scope of the SEA.</li> </ul>
Tourism and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism and recreation provide both valuable benefits to health and wellbeing and also contribute towards local economies. There are a number of significant areas for sport and tourism 'hotspots' in the Study Area;</li> <li>Tourism, particularly in the summer months when it can coincide with lower water supplies, can place a strain on water resources and therefore have implications for water resources management; and</li> <li>The future for tourism is uncertain; levels could go up or down.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Central and Southeast regions have significant infrastructure that needs a consistent water supply; and</li> <li>The ongoing infrastructure developments of HS2 and Crossrail (and expansion at Heathrow) have the potential to disrupt water supply operations and generate increases in demand.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of non-native species are found in the Study Area and there is potential for the dWRMP19 to contribute to the restoration of habitats affected by the presence of these non-native species;</li> <li>Rivers and lakes within the Southeast region are vulnerable to low flows and poor water quality;</li> <li>The Thames Estuary supports over 120 different fish species, and the River Dour is noted to have an important population of Brown Trout within the context of Kent rivers. These are important both ecologically and economically;</li> <li>A number of SSSIs in the Study Area have deteriorated in condition since WRMP 2014; and</li> <li>There is the potential for further habitat fragmentation and species loss through development activities.</li> </ul>
Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are a range of designated areas of landscape value in both regions.</li> <li>The landscape in both regions is facing a range of challenges from climate change and other factors.</li> </ul>
Air Quality and Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air quality in Central region is poor in some urban areas as highlighted by the number of AQMAs in place (Dover, Saffron Walden, Luton, Hitchin, Sawbridgeworth, Gerrard's Cross and the northwest of London).</li> <li>Increased development is likely to lead to increased emissions, particularly in urban areas.</li> </ul>
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Study Area is one of the driest parts of the UK and also one of the most populated;</li> <li>Summers in the South East are predicted to become hotter and drier, while winters become warmer and wetter. This has implications for summer supply shortages and winter flooding;</li> <li>The water industry contributes to 0.8 % of annual UK GHG emissions. The dWRMP19 has the potential to play its part in reducing this contribution; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affinity Water is predicted to reduce its carbon footprint over the WRMP2014 life time; however, the rate of reduction is likely to decrease towards the later end of the plan period.</li> </ul>
Water	<p>For surface water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% of the water used within Central region comes from surface water;</li> <li>There is a requirement to ensure there is no further deterioration in the quality of surface waters;</li> <li>There are no major rivers or surface water storage areas in the Southeast region, and therefore no possibility of surface water abstractions;</li> <li>No surface water is abstracted in the East region; and</li> <li>There are three Flood Risk Areas completely or partly located within the Central region.</li> </ul> <p>For groundwater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A large proportion of groundwater supplies within the Affinity Water Operating Area are under severe stress;</li> <li>There is a requirement to ensure there is no further deterioration in the quality of ground waters; and</li> <li>There is a high level of reliance on groundwater supplies (60% of the water used within Central region comes from groundwater while 90% of water in the Southeast region is abstracted from groundwater Chalk aquifers and normally 100% of water used in the East region is abstracted from groundwater sources).</li> </ul>
Heritage assets and archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no internationally designated sites (World Heritage Sites) within the Study Area;</li> <li>The Central region has a large quantity of heritage assets at risk which are dispersed over a large area; and</li> <li>The Southeast region has considerable volumes of military defence and maritime heritage assets focused around Dover and Folkestone.</li> <li>The East region has a number of heritage assets, including five conservation areas considered to be 'at risk'.</li> </ul>
Geology and soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil and therefore agriculture is threatened by the effects of climate change though: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>erosion;</li> <li>new and emerging pests and diseases; and</li> <li>increases or decreases in local soil moisture content.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 3.6 SEA objectives

**Table 3.2** below presents the SEA objectives and assessment questions established through scoping, i.e. in-light of context/ baseline review, the key issues identified and the consultation. Taken together, these objectives and assessment questions provide a methodological 'framework' for undertaking the assessment.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> N.B. It is important to note that the objectives and assessments questions are often closely linked and there are direct and indirect interrelationships between them.

**Table 3.2: SEA Framework**

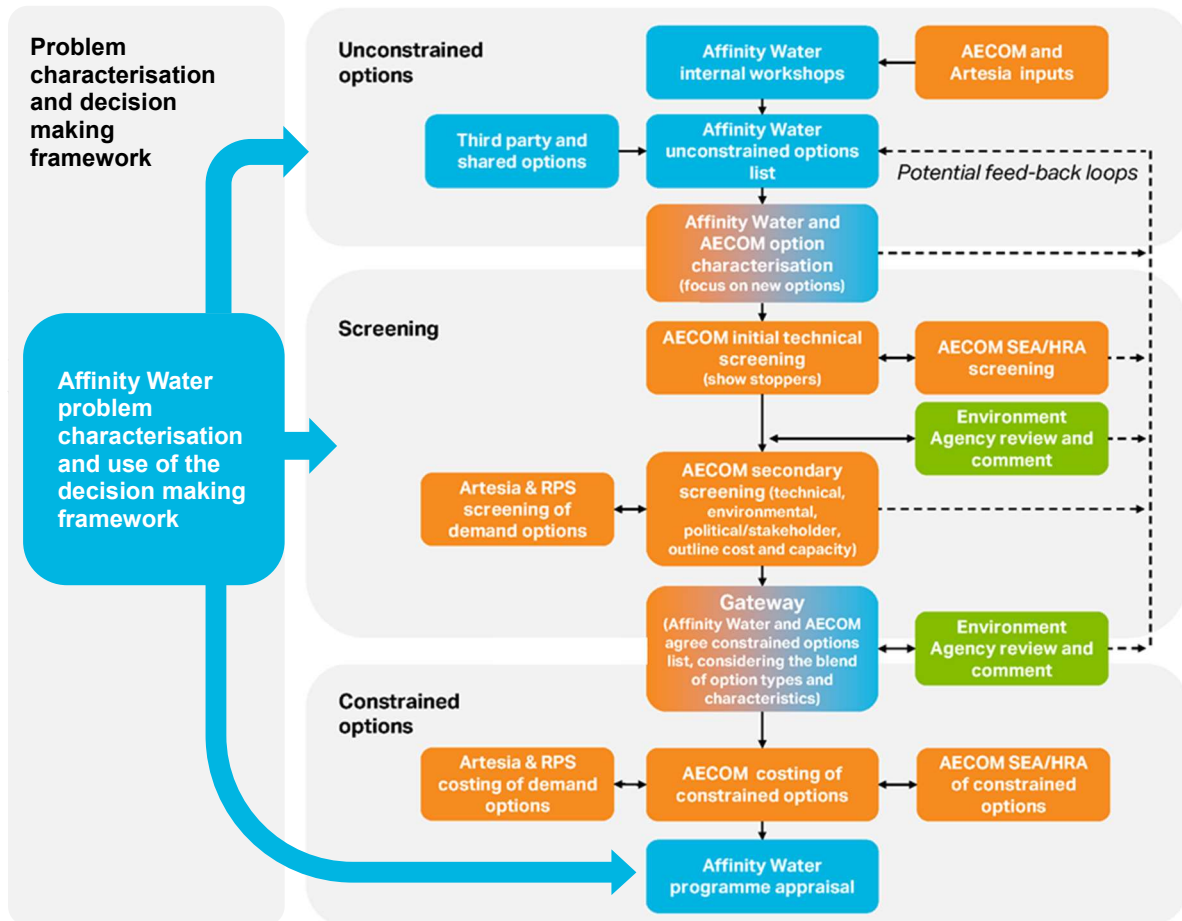
<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions (would the options / programme...?)</b>
1. Ensure the availability of adequate supply, and quality, of water to support health and hygiene and the regeneration ambitions of the study area?	1.a. Provide affordable access to clean water adequate to support health?
	1.b. Ensure that customers are not disproportionality affected by cost?
	1.c. Enable the growth ambitions of the study area to be realised?
2. Protect and enhance (and ensure access to) tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.	2.a. Result in increased water-based recreational opportunities or new tourist attractions?
	2.b. Alter water levels that affect water-based recreation assets?
	2.b. Sever public rights of way or the enjoyment of other land-based recreation or amenity assets?
3. Maintain key infrastructure in support of the local economy?	3.a. Impact on strategic transport infrastructure such as airports, major roads and railway lines?
	3.b. Impact on critical services and industries e.g. energy productions and hospitals?
4. Reduce material consumption and the generation of waste?	4.a. Require significant new construction or demolition of existing assets?
	4.b. Result in higher levels of reuse of waste?
5. Protect and enhance biodiversity including designated and other important habitats and species?	5.a. Impact on European sites?
	5.b. Lead to the loss or degradation of priority habitats / species or lead to the creation of new priority habitats?
	5.c. Impact on non-native species?
	5.d. Affect the condition of SSSIs, particularly those that have a trend of declining condition?
	5.e. Provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement?
6. Conserve and enhance landscape character and visual amenity?	6.a. Impact views from public rights of way, designated landscapes, parks or other valued places?
	6.b. Provide opportunities for landscape enhancement?
7. Minimise the effects of the option / plan on air quality and noise?	7.a. Impact an AQMA?
8. Minimise the carbon footprint of the Company?	8.a. Reduce / increase predicted carbon footprint?
	8.b. Maximise the company's resilience to a changing climate?
9. Adapt to climate change?	9.a. Affect the resilience of the local environment and Affinity Water assets to climate change?
10. Protect and improve surface and groundwater body status?	10.a. Contribute to the naturalisation of water bodies, for example through the removal of artificial structures or channel modifications?
	10.b. Improve water treatment and water quality before it returns to surface water bodies?
	10.c. Alter water table levels and amount of water within aquifers?
	10.d. Increase the risk of saline intrusion or other pollution risks to the aquifers?
11. Avoid adverse impact on surface and groundwater levels and flows?	11.a. Protect or restore adequate levels of flow in rivers and streams?
12. Minimise the risk of flooding taking account of climate change?	12.a. Lead to the loss of floodplain and / or potentially increase rates of surface water run-off (e.g. due to additional areas of hard standing)?
13. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings?	13.a. Conserve and / or enhance heritage assets and the historic environment?
	13.b. Alter the hydrological conditions of water-dependent heritage assets, including paleo-environmental deposits?
14. Minimise loss of soil quality and sterilisation of mineral resources?	14.a. Impact upon best and most versatile agricultural land (agricultural land classification grades 1 - 2)?

## 4. SEA of Options

### 4.1 Introduction

As part of the WRMP19 process, Affinity Water must identify and assess all realistic demand management and supply-side options that could help to meet predicted demands during the planning period. Affinity Water’s option appraisal process for the fWRMP19 is summarised in **Figure 4.1** below.

**Figure 4.1: Affinity Water options appraisal process**



The SEA has informed decision-making at each key stage in the Affinity Water options appraisal process. The key stages are explained below along with a summary of the SEA findings.

### 4.2 Unconstrained options

The first stage in Affinity Water’s options appraisal process was to identify a list of so-called ‘unconstrained options’ for consideration. The aim of this stage is to identify a full set of technically feasible options for balancing supply and demand over the planning horizon, which are yet to be constrained by factors such as environmental or planning restrictions, health and safety regulations, legal restrictions, promotability or risk. The Unconstrained Option Study Reports (supply-side<sup>16</sup> and demand management<sup>17</sup> available separately) set out the approach and method for identifying unconstrained options and this is not repeated here.

A long list of unconstrained options were identified to be screened through the next stage of the options appraisal process.

<sup>16</sup> Affinity Water (2017) Unconstrained Options Study (Supply-Side Options).

<sup>17</sup> Affinity Water (2017) Unconstrained Options Study (Demand Management Options).

### 4.2.1 Unconstrained supply-side options

A high-level traffic light shading system was used for the screening stage to assess the fWRMP19 unconstrained list of supply-side options:

- **Green** - no major issues or sensitivities identified for this option.
- **Amber** - some issues or sensitivities identified, which may not be show stoppers but which could result in risks or complicated design and implementation strategies. For example, this could be an option located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), where the option might need to be designed in a more sensitive way to gain approval.
- **Red** - significant issues or sensitivities that affect the ability to implement this option. This could include options in areas where there is no further water available or where the option might have a significant detrimental impact on a designated site.

The methodology for the screening stage included two key steps. The first initial screening task sought to identify any 'show stoppers' in order to determine if the unconstrained options were technically feasible. This includes consideration of the status of water for licensing purposes, the percentage of time water is available for abstraction as well as the status of the water body under current Environment Agency environmental programmes. If no show stoppers were identified then the option passed on to the secondary screening step.

It is important to recognise that in some instances an option passed the initial screening, but then failed upon reconsideration of the criteria at a later stage; for example, following improved characterisation of the option during secondary screening (explained below), or through subsequent stakeholder engagement (e.g. updated opinions from the Environment Agency, other water companies or third party). This is represented by the feedback loops shown on **Figure 4.1**.

Where the initial technical screening suggested an option might be feasible, additional assessments were carried out under the secondary screening headings of 'Technical', 'Environmental' and 'Stakeholder Acceptability'. The environmental feasibility of options was assessed as follows:

- **Option status with respect to environmental designations (including SEA and HRA considerations)** - a review of whether statutory designations of sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) were likely to affect the feasibility of the option. This was undertaken using a GIS based approach as part of the SEA screening. Where designated sites were located within a set distance of a proposed option, a specialist assessed whether the option was likely to impact the sites based on an understanding of impact pathways. Green shading indicated there were no designations of relevance; red shading was used where there were overlaps or an option was in close proximity to a designated site, implying significant challenges.
- **Overall SEA screening** - this criterion was used to identify if there were any concerns with respect to the wider SEA screening (sustainability), with red shading used to identify significant risks.
- **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** - River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) water body status was identified and any risks to 'no-deterioration' or 'future objectives' were identified. This test was used as an initial consideration of whether the option might lead to a downward change in the ecological status of a water body (e.g. through a reduction in river flows), or prevent a water body reaching good status (e.g. via obstructions in rivers).
- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Planning** - identification of the likely need for EIA as part of the planning process. A high level assessment of whether the option type might require EIA and a planning application (e.g. a new reservoir would be shaded red, but a simple enhancement at a groundwater source would be green).

The detailed SEA screening criteria that were used to inform the secondary screening along with any data limitations are presented in **Appendix IV** of this report. It is important to note that red shading for a secondary screening criterion was not used to identify show stoppers, although a large number of criteria with red shading would increase the likelihood of an option not being selected for the constrained list at the gateway stage.

The table below sets out the number of unconstrained supply-side options identified for each option type and how many were progressed through the screening stage as constrained options.

**Table 4.1: No. of unconstrained supply-side options<sup>18</sup>**

Option type	Total number of unconstrained options	Options screened out	Constrained options	Merged with other option	Comments
Outage	4	4	0	0	Considered to be placeholders and not taken forward
Catchment Management	1	1	0	0	Catchment management options are dealt with outside of the WRMP options appraisal (see Affinity Water, April 2017)
Desalination	18	14	4	0	Affinity Water WRZ7 (AWSE) & WRZ8 (AWE) options
Groundwater	111	81	29	2	These include the majority of the third party options.
Effluent Reuse	10	7	2	1	Affinity Water WRZ7 options (AWSE) plus Stevenage STW option
Surface Water	56	47	8	1	Numerous options screened out owing to a lack of available water within AWC and AWSE catchments
Transfer	135	75	57	2	Constrained options have been selected to provide a coherent strategy.
Treatment	17	11	6	0	Standalone water treatment works that are dependent on the implementation of other options
<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>6</b>	

The detailed findings of the screening stage and reasons for rejecting unconstrained supply-side options are set out in the Supply-side Constrained Options Report (Volume 1) which is available separately.<sup>19</sup>

Any options that passed through the screening were progressed to the gateway stage (see **Figure 4.1**) which included a number of workshops with the Environment Agency (area offices and the Environment Agency's lead for Affinity Water) to present and discuss the unconstrained options and screening results. The feedback from these workshops was used to inform the selection of options for the constrained options list.

#### 4.2.2 Unconstrained demand management options

A set of qualitative screening criteria were used to screen the long list of unconstrained demand management options. The screening was undertaken by technical specialists from Affinity Water and Artesia using qualitative methods to score options against the criteria, and this was based on a simple five point scale. Criteria relevant to the SEA process are set out in **Table 4.2** below.

<sup>18</sup> Affinity Water (2019) Supply-side Constrained Options Report - Volume 1.

<sup>19</sup> Affinity Water (2019) Supply-side Constrained Options Report - Volume 1.

**Table 4.2: Relevant screening criteria for unconstrained demand management options**

Criteria	Description	Scoring Scale
Environmental impact	Will the option result in environmental impacts? <i>Impacts on biodiversity, landscape, heritage. Use of materials, generation of waste or pollution.</i>	Very positive (1) positive (2) neutral (3) negative (4) very negative (5) impacts
Sustainability	What is the impact of the option on wider sustainability? <i>The scheme's impacts on energy use, social effects, carbon footprint etc.</i>	1 (very sustainable) to 5 (very unsustainable)

An initial long list of 144 unconstrained demand management options were identified. A number of options were then rejected by Artesia prior to the qualitative screening in order to:

- Remove duplicates, or very similar options that had been sourced from different locations;
- Remove options that were considered unjustified, such as metering sewage flow;
- Some options were removed as Affinity Water is already in the process of delivering these as part of Water Saving Programme (WSP) and Home Water Efficiency Checks (HWEC); and
- Remove options which were considered very unlikely to pass through the qualitative screening, for example an option to participate in a national media campaign.

This reduced the initial list of unconstrained options from 144 to 69. Option evaluation workshops and subsequent discussions then took place whereby each option was evaluated in turn and this led to the progression of 26 feasible demand management options. The detailed findings of the screening stage and the reasons for rejecting unconstrained demand management options are set out in the Unconstrained Options Study (demand management options) which is available separately.<sup>20</sup>

## 4.3 Constrained options

### 4.3.1 SEA method for constrained options

Each constrained option (including supply-side, demand management and drought) was assessed against the full SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions presented in Chapter 3.

The likely significant effects for each constrained option during the construction and operational phase were evaluated against the baseline (see scoping information set out in Chapter 3 and **Appendix II**). The assessment matrix clearly set out and considered the characteristics of the effects (probability, duration and permanence) set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. The nature and significance of effects was categorised according to the symbols set out in the **Table 4.3** below.

**Table 4.3: Significance key**

Symbol	Effect
3	Major positive effect
2	Moderate positive effect
1	Minor positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-1	Minor negative effect
-2	Moderate negative effect
-3	Major negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

Numbers were used instead of symbols, such as a '+', to more effectively input findings from the SEA into the final stage in Affinity Water's option appraisal process (see **Figure 4.1**), the programme

<sup>20</sup> Affinity Water (2017) Unconstrained Options Study (Demand Management Options).

appraisal. In order to determine the significance of the effect, the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor was taken into account, see **Table 4.4** below.

**Table 4.4: Effect significance scale**

Magnitude/ Scale of impact	Sensitivity					
	Low (Local designations)		Medium (Regional)		High (International / national)	
None - negligible	0		0		0	
Minor loss or change to receptor	Negligible		Minor		Moderate	
	N	N	1	-1	2	-2
Moderate loss or change to receptor	Minor		Moderate		Major	
	1	-1	2	-2	3	-3
Significant loss or change to receptor	Moderate		Major		Major	

The assessment predicted the likely residual effect, taking mitigation into account, for each assessment question during construction and operation. It is important to note that any effects identified as 'moderate' or 'major' were considered to be 'significant' in terms of the definition set out in the SEA Regulations.

Every effort was made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of SEA. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by the availability of information and the length of the planning period (60 years). In light of this, there was a need to make considerable assumptions regarding how options would be implemented 'on the ground' and what the effect on particular receptors would be. Where there are significant uncertainties these are reflected in the assessment by using a '?'.

From the predicted residual operational effects identified for each assessment question, a 'worst case' operational effect was also derived for each SEA Objective for input to the model (see Chapter 5 in this report for further information).

It should be noted that the SEA process, including the assessment of the constrained options, has been informed by the HRA and WFD assessment. SEA Objective 5 (Protect and enhance biodiversity including designated and other important habitats and species) has been informed by the findings of the HRA. SEA Objectives 10 (Protect and improve surface water and groundwater body status) and 11 (Avoid adverse impact on surface and groundwater levels and flows) inherently require consideration of WFD requirements for Good Ecological Status/ Potential. The WFD assessment for the WRMP19 therefore informed the assessment against SEA Objectives 10 and 11.

It is important to reiterate that the fWRMP19 and SEA process are strategic in nature. It is recognised that there is the potential to avoid or provide further mitigation at the detailed design stage for schemes, which will remove or reduce the significance of predicted negative effects.

#### 4.3.2 SEA findings for constrained options

A detailed assessment of each feasible demand management, supply-side and drought option was undertaken to determine the likelihood for significant effects when considered against the SEA Framework, taking into account the baseline. The detailed assessment matrices are presented in **Appendix V** and summary findings are presented below. The SEA objectives and assessment questions are presented in Chapter 3 and the significance key provided in **Table 4.3** above. The predicted residual effects of the options during construction and operation are represented in the summary tables (**Tables 4.6, 4.8 to 4.15 and 4.17**) and by a 'C' and 'O'.



#### 4.3.2.1 Demand management options

A description of each of the constrained demand management options subject to detailed assessment is provided in the table below.

**Table 4.5: Constrained demand management options subject to SEA**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Option title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Water efficiency</b>		
567	Community water efficiency scheme	Based on the outcomes of the Neighbourhood water efficiency project results to help quantify savings and behavioural changes from changes made to water use. To be focused on areas of low water availability and based upon the "Save Water Swindon" model.
569	Housing Associations - Targeted water efficiency promotion	Liaison works with housing associations on an ongoing basis to promote water efficiency to residents. An initial assessment and advice is followed up with regular communications and mini-projects as new techniques and devices enter the market.
901	Comprehensive household water audit & retrofit	Customers selected on a "most to save". Company agent conducts comprehensive survey, installs devices free of charge and offers others at cost via 3rd party. Supporting literature given to customer at time of survey. Follow-up literature sent periodically after visit.
990	Sustainable new homes (a,b,c)	This option was encouraged by regulators and provides a more innovative option that would lead to more ambitious PCC reduction. It also becomes more feasible with additional information available around new developments.
1000	Water Audits - Retail (Non-process)	Commercial water audits delivered by retail arm, and funded by wholesale to target specific activities (CWEC).
1050	Concerted action on Water Efficiency	This was a business requirement for more innovative options, that would allow more ambitious PCC reduction. The options would allow WEFF options that are largely outside of Affinity Water's direct control to be implemented more rapidly leading to earlier savings.
<b>Metering</b>		
186	Change of Owner Metering	The Company pursued a policy of metering on change of occupier during AMP5. Current strategy is for no COH in AMP6 - any additional metering above and beyond metering optants is assumed to be made up from street by street metering. Might be feasible for AWE zone.
532	Metering of "left over" Commercials	There are currently around 8,600 unmeasured non-household properties in the supply area. These are believed to be a mix of small, mixed use and "difficult to meter" properties. Scheme is to enforce existing powers and to install meters for 8,500 of these remaining properties. (Issue of wholesale retail split)
904	Compulsory metering - fixed network	All customers have fixed network meters installed, to reach 90% meter penetration. This is for zones 4 & 6 the so far unmetered zones. Additional to the WSP currently allowed for in AMP7
1002	Conversion of AMR drive-by to fixed network	Conversion of AMR drive-by installed under WSP feasible from 2020. AMP 6 meters retrofitted. Linked to option 904.
1010	Enhanced use of WSP meters	Smart use of existing WSP meters to identify supply pipe leaks / high consumption when leakage techs go into a DMA to identify leakage locations. (Partial DMA water balance)
<b>Reuse</b>		
603	Communal rainwater reuse	Speculative scheme to fit rainwater recycling systems (with dual network) in a new housing development, at a community scale. After basic disinfection, the rainwater to be used for toilet flushing, clothes washing and outdoor use. The installation of a recycling system could be promoted through different water incentives: capital cost subsidizing, block tariff. Domestic properties so not subjected to retail competition.
606	Large user water recycling scheme (Stansted Airport)	Exploratory scheme involving water recycling within Stansted airport's facility. The recycled water would come from greywater and / or surface waters. Study required to establish savings and detailed design.
620	Large user - rainwater harvesting (Luton Airport)	Implementation of rainwater harvesting system in Terminal and Hangar Buildings. Installation of rainwater tanks on roofs, storage tank - water for toilets

ID	Option title	Description
		flushing only. Study required to establish the detailed design.
621	Large user - surface water reuse (Luton Airport)	Use of water coming from run-off and collected into central drainage pipework, then reaccepted in a contact tank, then treated via Reed Beds Filter and finally stored in a tank. This water would be used for non-potable usage such as toilet flushing and ground surface cleaning. Study required to establish the scale of the project.
<b>Leakage</b>		
423	Leakage reduction - pressure management with new PRVs	Still scope to do this.
424	Leakage control - better control of PRVs/boosters	PRV upgrades. Fixed outlet PRVs changed to 2 stage or fully modulated. Expand to zone 8.
637	Leakage reduction by 1 MI/d	Extensive Active Leakage Control (ALC) to meet any deficit gap. Assumes that ALC increase is possible. These options need to be condensed down to ALC option (for RPS). Extend to Zones 7 and 8.
955	Leakage detection - District metering - reduction of DMA size to less than 1500 properties per DMA. RZ 7	A second version to be worked up for reduction at night. Factor in extra costs on finding leaks as bets savings recovered from AMP6.
1006	Leakage detection - District metering - reduction of DMA size to less than 2000 properties per DMA RZ8	Creation of 5 DMA's in rest of area zone, encompassing small villages <2000 props.
1007	Enhanced SP free repair policy	This would require funds for free repairs and/or enhancement of the waste notice process.
1008	CP replacements as part of mains renewals	
1009	DMA complete renewal (DM, CP)	This is a combination of 935 and 270. 2 DMA's/year for 5 years = ~40km/year for 5 years.
1010	Enhanced use of WSP meters	Smart use of existing WSP meters to identify supply pipe leaks / high consumption when leakage techs go into a DMA to identify leakage locations. (Partial DMA water balance).
1011	Trunk Mains Leakage	Improvements in distribution of correlation points on trunk mains (increased frequency) - better ways of measuring trunk mains leakage using air valves.
1012	Asset Renewal on specific DMAs	

The summary findings of the SEA for these demand options are presented in **Table 4.6** below. The detailed assessment tables are provided in **Appendix V**.

Significance key

Symbol	Effect
3	Major positive effect
2	Moderate positive effect
1	Minor positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-1	Minor negative effect
-2	Moderate negative effect
-3	Major negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

Table 4.6: SEA summary findings for demand management options

Option	SEA Objectives and assessment questions																																														
	1			2			3			4			5					6		7			8			9			10			11		12		13		14									
	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	6a	6b	7a	7b	7c	7d	8a	8b	8c	8d	9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	10c	10d	11a	11b	12a	12b	13a	13b	14a	14b						
<b>Water efficiency</b>																																															
WEFF567	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
WEFF569	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
WEFF901	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
WEFF1000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
WEFF990	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
WEFF1050	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Metering</b>																																															
MET186	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
MET531	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
MET904	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
MET1002	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MET1010	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Reuse</b>																																															
REUSE603	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
REUSE606	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REUSE620	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REUSE621	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Leakage</b>																																															
LE423	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LE424	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LE637	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE955	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1006	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1007	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1008	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1009	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1010	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1011	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LE1012	-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

As illustrated **Table 4.6** above there are no significant differences between the demand management options in terms of likely effects against the SEA Framework. No significant negative effects are predicted and there is the potential for a significant (moderate) positive effect for the metering options against assessment question 8a (Reduce/increase predicted carbon footprint?) through a medium term carbon saving associated with the reduced water requirement. Some minor differences between the options have been identified and these are highlighted below:

- Some of the leakage options would require construction works to repair or replace pipes and this could have a short term minor negative effect on assessment questions relating to water supply (1a) and transport infrastructure (3a), as there could be temporary disruption of supply and disturbance through increased traffic on the road network during construction.
- The collection of rainwater and its reuse (options 603 to 621) could result in a minor long term positive effect against assessment question 4b (Result in higher levels of reuse of waste?).
- A minor negative effect is predicted during operation for 603 against assessment question 1b (ensure that customers are not disproportionately affected by cost) as the fitting of rainwater recycling systems to a new housing development could affect housing costs.
- There is no minor negative effect predicted for 637 against assessment question 8a (Reduce / increase predicted carbon footprint?) during construction as this option does not appear to require the use or installation of any new materials / infrastructure.

#### 4.3.2.2 Supply-side options

The ID, name and type of each constrained supply-side option subject to detailed assessment through the SEA is provided in the table below. For a more detailed description of each option please refer to the Supply-side Constrained Options Report (Volume 1) which is available separately.<sup>21</sup>

**Table 4.7: Constrained supply-side options subject to SEA**

Option ID	Option Name	Option ID	Option Name
<b>Option Type: Groundwater</b>			
<b>AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174</b>	Egham ASR	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ1-1050</b>	Canals & Rivers Trust - Cow Roast
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ1-0613</b>	Gerrards Cross Peak Licence Scheme	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ2-0120</b>	Poorsfield, Ruislip & Northwood Scheme
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0087</b>	Shakespeare Road Source Optimisation	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ2-0610</b>	Poorsfield Borehole
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090</b>	Stoncross source optimisation	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ3-0548</b>	Hartham borehole replacement for Porthill
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0622</b>	Hilfield Park Dual Pump Option	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1053</b>	Kings Walden [later removed following licence decision at Runleywood]
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ3-0502</b>	Musley Lane Peak Licence Scheme	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1068</b>	Runley Wood ( LGS Borehole) [later removed following licence decision at Runleywood]
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ5-0882</b>	Wenden Upgrade	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1075</b>	Nomansland Increased Abstraction
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ5-1057</b>	Roydon Peak Scheme	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624</b>	Canals & Rivers Trust Slough borehole
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173</b>	Clandon Source Optimisation	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0342</b>	Essex Confined Aquifer - No Storage
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0306</b>	Cow Lane Upgrade	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0496</b>	Debden Road Peak Licence Scheme
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0322</b>	Tilmanstone Pump & Treat	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0877</b>	Essex Confined Chalk Aquifer, with ASR
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629</b>	Lye Oak	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005</b>	Horsley source recommissioning
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908</b>	Tappington South	<b>AFF-TPO-WRZ3-0134</b>	Vauxhall (IBC Vehicles) Groundwater
<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ1-0062</b>	Chartridge Relocation	<b>AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083</b>	Surrey University (Guildford Site)
<b>AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412</b>	Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	<b>AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101</b>	Iver LGS development
<b>Option Type: Surface Water</b>			
<b>AFF-ESW-WRZ6-0801</b>	Chertsey Reservoir upgrade	<b>AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832</b>	Brent Reservoir
<b>AFF-NSW-WRZ6-0462</b>	Egham 182 Peak Scheme	<b>AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809</b>	Birds Green Reservoir
<b>AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814</b>	Honeywick Rye Reservoir	<b>AFF-RES-WRZ6-0829</b>	West End Reservoir
<b>AFF-RES-WRZ3-0815</b>	Edelsborough Reservoir	<b>AFF-RES-WRZ7-0839</b>	Dover Docks Reservoir
<b>Option Type: Transfers</b>			

<sup>21</sup> Affinity Water (2019) Supply-side Constrained Options Report - Volume 1 Asset Strategy.

Option ID	Option Name	Option ID	Option Name
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ1-0751</b>	Iver to Harefield	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-0860</b>	New Anglian Water Imports
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ1-1097</b>	Batchworth to Boxted (Strat B)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-1028</b>	Lowerfields supply -3rd dry winter
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ2-2020</b>	Boxted to Shakespeare Road	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-1067</b>	Grand Union Canal (Pitsford Transfer)
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0028</b>	Iver Arkley Transfer Upgrade	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-0654</b>	Kempton Park to Iver
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0076</b>	Bulls Green to Preston	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-1029</b>	Kempton to Iver upgrade
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0349</b>	Bulls Green to Sacombe additional trunk main (10MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-1038</b>	Sunnymeades to Iver 2 (50 MI/d capacity)
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0707</b>	Iver to Harrow to Arkley	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-1040</b>	Sunnymeades to Iver 2 (100 MI/d capacity)
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099</b>	Boxted to Chaul End	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ5-0161</b>	Lowersfield Bulk Import Increase
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-2001</b>	Chaul End to Preston	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ5-0849</b>	Brentwood to Harlow transfer
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-0716</b>	North Surrey North	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ5-1047</b>	Braintree to Sibleys
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-0750</b>	Iver Upgrade and Transfer to Harrow	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752</b>	Ladymead Optimisation
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ5-0753</b>	Uttlesford Bridge to Sibleys Link Main	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ6-1094</b>	Egham to Surrey Hills Reduction (10MI/d)
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ5-0869</b>	Preston to Wicker Hall Transfer	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301</b>	Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ5-1043</b>	Bulls Green to Hadham Mill	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639</b>	Deal continuation after 2020
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ5-2006</b>	Hadham Mill to Ryehill (Strat A & B)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842</b>	Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase 3MI/d
<b>AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626</b>	Broome Network Improvement	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909</b>	Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)
<b>AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900</b>	Dover Constraint Removal	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0910</b>	Deal Supply Scheme
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1007</b>	Sunnymeades to Harefield Transfer (50 MI)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066</b>	Grand Union Canal Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001</b>	Egham to Iver	<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4002</b>	Blackford Re-lift to Ickenham BPS
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ2-4003</b>	Ickenham to Oxheywood	<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4004</b>	Bushey to Arkley
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005</b>	Arkley North	<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4006</b>	Bi-directional Resilience Infrastructure (Lee Community)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010</b>	Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011</b>	Abingdon to Iver 2 (50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012</b>	Abingdon to Iver 2 (100 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4013</b>	South Lincs Res (50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014</b>	South Lincs Res (100 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4015</b>	Minworth Strategic Transfer (50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016</b>	Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4017</b>	Severn Thames Transfer (Iver 2 – 50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4018</b>	Severn Thames Transfer (Iver 2 – 100 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4019</b>	Severn Thames Transfer (Harefield – 50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020</b>	Grand Union Canal (GUC – Berkhamsted / Hemel Hempstead, 100 MI/d)	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ8-4022</b>	Clacton Resilience Link
<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4023</b>	Fortis Green Increased Import	<b>AFF-RTR-WRZ6-4026</b>	4MI/d Trade
<b>AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025</b>	Egham AMP8		
<b>Option Type: Treatment</b>			
<b>AFF-EGW-WRZ4-1064</b>	Ickenham Groundwater	<b>AFF-NTW-WRZ4-1003</b>	Iver ('2') - New Treatment Works (50 MI/d)
<b>AFF-NTW-WRZ1-1011</b>	Harefield New Treatment Works (50MI)	<b>AFF-NTW-WRZ4-1005</b>	Iver ('2') - New Treatment Works (100 MI/d)
<b>AFF-NTW-WRZ3-1042</b>	Sundon Treatment Works - New	<b>AFF-NTW-WRZ4-1088</b>	Replacement Iver Treatment Works (450 MI)
<b>Option Type: Desalination</b>			
<b>AFF-DES-WRZ7-0008</b>	Hythe Beach Wells RO Desalination (brackish water)	<b>AFF-DES-WRZ7-0396</b>	Desalination Plan (Option C) Hythe Beach Well
<b>AFF-DES-WRZ7-0309</b>	Full Desalination Scheme	<b>AFF-DES-WRZ8-4021</b>	Tending Desalination
<b>Option Type: Reuse</b>			
<b>AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180</b>	Stevenage STW	<b>AFF-EFF-WRZ7-0605</b>	Hythe Effluent Reuse Scheme

Further details on the different variations of option types and their IDs are set out below.

### Groundwater

- ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery);
- TPO (Third Party Option, to buy or lease an existing borehole or buy part of the abstracted volume);

- NGW (New Groundwater Scheme); and
- EGW (Existing Groundwater scheme e.g. closing the yield gap to licence, licence transfer / variation, borehole re-commissioning).

**Surface water**

- RES (Reservoir options);
- NSW (New Surface Water schemes); and
- ESW (Existing Surface Water scheme).

**Transfers**

- CTR (Internal Transfers),
- RNC (Network Improvement); and
- RTR (External Transfers).

**Treatment**

- New water treatment options were classified using the code 'NTW'.

**Desalination**

- DES (Desalination)

**Reuse**

- EFF (sewage treatment works effluent reuse)

The summary findings of the SEA for supply-side options are presented in **Tables 4.8 to 4.15** below and structured according to WRZs. The detailed assessment tables are provided in **Appendix V**.





**Significance key**

Symbol	Effect
3	Major positive effect
2	Moderate positive effect
1	Minor positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-1	Minor negative effect
-2	Moderate negative effect
-3	Major negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

**Table 4.10: SEA summary findings for supply-side options in WRZ 3**

WRZ 3	SEA Objectives and assessment questions																																																	
	1			2			3			4			5					6		7		8			9				10				11		12		13		14											
	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c	5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	6a	6b	7a	7b	8a	8b	8c	9a	9b	9c	9d	9e	10a	10b	10c	10d	11a	11b	12a	12b	13a	13b	14a	14b									
	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O						
<b>Transfer</b>																																																		
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0028 : Iver Arkley Transfer Upgrade	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0076 : Bulls Green to Preston	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0349 : Bulls Green to Sacombe additional trunk main	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-2001 : Chaul End to Preston	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
AFF-CTR-WRZ3- 4015 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (50MI/d)	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
AFF-CTR-WRZ3- 4016 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (100MI/d)	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
AFF-CTR-WRZ3- 4005 : Arkley North	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4006 : New Cell at Bulls Green, BPS Bulls Green to Preston, BPS Prest	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0707 : Iver to Harrow to Arkley	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-0860 : New Anglian Water Imports	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-1028 : Lowerfields supply 3rd dry winter	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-1067 : Grand Union Canal (GUC) (Pitsford Transfer)	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-RTR-WRZ3- 4013 : South Lincs Res (50MI/d)	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-RTR-WRZ3- 4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-TPO-WRZ3-0134 : Vauxhall (IBC Vehicles) Groundwater	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Groundwater</b>																																																		
AFF-NGW-WRZ3-0548 : Hartham borehole replacement for Porthill	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1075 : Nomansland Increased Abstraction	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-EGW-WRZ3-0502 : Musley Lane Peak Licence Scheme	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Surface water</b>																																																		
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0815 : Edelsborough Reservoir	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Reuse</b>																																																		
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0







### 4.3.2.3 Drought options

The ID, name and type of each drought option subject to detailed assessment through the SEA is provided in **Table 4.16** below. For a more detailed description of each option please refer to the Supply-side Constrained Options Report (Volume 1)<sup>22</sup> and the Drought Plan (2018) which are available separately.

The drought options are essentially groundwater options across a number of Affinity Water WRZs that involve increasing peak (and in the case of prolonged drought, average) abstraction above existing licensed volumes or drought related environmental (river flow or groundwater level) constraints.

**Table 4.16 Drought options**

Option ID	Option Name	Description
AMER	WRZ1 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels
BOWB	WRZ2 drought permit	increase abstraction with re-instatement of a borehole
FRIA	WRZ2 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels
FULL	WRZ3 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels
HUGH	WRZ1 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels
HUNT	WRZ1 drought permit	increase abstraction with re-instatement of borehole
OUGH	WRZ3 drought permit	re-direct abstraction for flow augmentation to supply
PICC	WRZ1 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels
SBUC	WRZ7 drought permit	increase abstraction above licensed quantities but maintain augmentation
SHOL	WRZ7 drought permit	maintain non-drought levels of abstraction despite environmental flow / level being triggered
SDRE	WRZ7 drought permit	maintain non-drought levels of abstraction despite environmental flow / level being triggered
SLYE	WRZ7 drought permit	maintain non-drought levels of abstraction despite environmental flow / level being triggered
THUN	WRZ5 drought permit	maintain non-drought levels of abstraction despite environmental flow / level being triggered
UTTL	WRZ5 drought permit	re-direct abstraction for flow augmentation to supply
WELL	WRZ3 drought permit	re-direct abstraction for flow augmentation to supply
WHIH	WRZ3 drought permit	increase abstraction to pre-sustainability reduction levels

The summary findings of the SEA for the drought options are presented in **Table 4.17** below. The detailed assessment tables are provided in **Appendix V**. The assessment found that there are no significant effects likely to arise as a result of the drought options against the SEA objectives.

<sup>22</sup> Affinity Water (2019) Supply-side Constrained Options Report - Volume 1 Asset Strategy.

Significance key

Symbol	Effect
3	Major positive effect
2	Moderate positive effect
1	Minor positive effect
0	Neutral effect
-1	Minor negative effect
-2	Moderate negative effect
-3	Major negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

Table 4.17: SEA summary findings for drought options

Option	SEA Objectives and assessment questions																															
	1			2			3		4		5					6		7	8		9	10				11	12	13		14		
	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	6a	6b	7a	8a	8b	9a	10a	10b	10c	10d	11a	12a	13a	13b	14a		
AMER	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOWB	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRJA	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULL	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUGH	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HUNT	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OUGH	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PICC	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SBUC	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHOL	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDRE	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SLYE	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THUN	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UTTL	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELL	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WHIH	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

As illustrated by the summary table above no significant effects are predicted and there are only minor differences between the options against the SEA Framework. Generally, minor negative effects are identified if an option will require new infrastructure and/ or if it temporarily reduces water volume with potential impacts SEA Objectives relating to biodiversity and surface and groundwater body status and levels/ flows.

## 5. SEA of the Alternative Programmes and final WRMP19 Decision Making

### 5.1 Introduction

The final task in Affinity Water's option appraisal process (see **Figure 4.1**) is the programme appraisal. Essentially the aim of the programme appraisal process is to find the 'best value' programme of supply and/ or demand management options to secure a supply-demand balance across the Affinity Water supply area.

This Chapter provides a summary of Affinity Water's programme appraisal process and explains how the findings of the SEA for the constrained options were taken into account to inform decisions on the development of the WRMP19. It also sets out the findings of the SEA for the reasonable alternative programmes and provides outline reasons for their selection or rejection.

### 5.2 Affinity Water's Decision Making Process

To address the concerns raised during the consultation for the dWRMP19 in 2018, a revised decision making process has been used for the fWRMP19 and fWRMP19. The process developed and used by Affinity Water is fully compliant with both the Environment Agency Water Resources Planning Guidance, and the modelling processes and tools described within the UKWIR Decision Making Method guidance. A summary of the revised decision-making process used (covering stages 6 to 8 of the UKWIR guidance) is provided in **Figure 5.1** below.

**Figure 5.1: Summary of the Selected Decision Making Process**

Decision Making Process Stage	What it Achieves	UKWIR Method Reference
<p>Step 0: Constrain the problem to suitable options and an acceptable level of drought resilience</p>	Apply 1:200 year drought resilience and remove unacceptable options based on dWRMP feedback and the Business Plan consultation	N/A -pre modelling step
<p>Step 1: Run a conventional EBSD model to determine the least cost solution [based on 'best estimates' of option benefits]</p>	Sets the initial understanding of what a least cost plan looks like	Conventional EBSD
<p>Step 2a: Consider how customer and stakeholder preferences might affect the solution</p> <p>Step 2b: Consider how other planning considerations might affect the preferred solution</p>	Explores the influences of risks and customer /stakeholder expectations on the Plan. Uses this to set preferences in the 'best value' solutions <i>and</i> define the nature of the 'branches' in the adaptive pathways assessment.	Modelling to Generate Alternatives
<p>Step 3: Create an adaptive plan to address issues of timing, customer protection and inter-generational equity in the proposals</p>	Sets out a small number (4) of potential futures containing risks or opportunities as identified in Stage 2. Identifies a 'best value' solution for each based on EBSD modelling with preferences as set in Stage 2. Examines the timing of interventions and the cost/benefit trade-off of taking early action to allow adaptation in the future	Adaptive Pathways

In essence, the approach comprised a pre-modelling definition step and three stages of modelling, which are summarised below.

**Step 0: Defining the Problem Constraints.** Prior to the modelling process Affinity Water incorporated high level customer and stakeholder feedback to constrain the scope of the fWRMP analysis. Specifically, they:

- a) adopted the drought resilience and environmental sustainability objectives that were contained within the 'alternative plan' that was consulted on following the dWRMP (2018) and included within the Business Plan. This was reflected in our baseline supply/ demand balance.
- b) removed options associated with new Chalk groundwater abstractions in the Central Region to align with the findings of the SEA, HRA and WFD as well as feedback received from our customers and statutory consultees (in particular from Natural England), these included:
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ1-0613 : Gerrards Cross Peak Licence Scheme
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0087 : Shakespeare Road Source Optimisation
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0622 : Hilfield Park Dual Pump Option
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ3-0502 : Musley Lane Peak Licence Scheme
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ4-1064 : Ickenham Groundwater
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ5-0882 : Wenden Upgrade
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ5-1057 : Roydon Peak Scheme
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0306 : Cow Lane Upgrade
  - AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0322 : Tilmanstone Pump & Treat (Minewater)
  - AFF-ESW-WRZ6-0801 : Chertsey Reservoir upgrade
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ1-0062 : Chartridge Relocation
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ1-1050 : Canals & Rivers Trust - Cow Roast
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ2-0120 : Poorsfield, Ruislip & Northwood Treatment Scheme
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ2-0610 : Poorsfield Borehole
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ3-0548 : Hartham borehole replacement for Porthill
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1075 : Nomansland Increased Abstraction
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0342 : Essex Confined Aquifer - No Storage
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0496 : Debden Road Peak Licence Scheme
  - AFF-NGW-WRZ5-0877 : Essex Confined Chalk Aquifer, with Artificial Recharge and Storage
  - AFF-TPO-WRZ3-0134 : Vauxhall (IBC Vehicles) Groundwater

**Step 1: Derivation of the economic Least Cost Plan.** At this stage, Affinity Water generated the basic output that is expected for the WRMP. All changes from that to the 'best value' preferred plan need to be supported by evidence and suitable decision-making methods. They therefore used the 'EBSO' economic model that we initially developed for WRMP14 to generate this starting point plan. It should be noted that the EBSO model uses the same economic modelling principles as the regional Water Resources in the South-East model.

**Step 2: Refinement of customer and stakeholder preferences, and analysis of non-monetised risks.** At this stage, Affinity Water analysed feedback from customers and stakeholders to determine how this might affect the plan. In practical terms, this meant they used the detailed feedback from the dWRMP and Business Plan customer consultation, dWRMP customer and stakeholder responses, further customer pre-consultation for the rdWRMP and a few other data sources to understand how they could amend the options inputs to the Plan to better reflect customer and stakeholder preferences.



They also used a 'bottom up' multi-criteria analysis to determine where the key risks and uncertainties lie in the Plan and used these, along with the customer and stakeholder preferences, to structure the Adaptive Pathways analysis in the next stage. The SEA findings helped to inform this stage as Affinity Water evaluated the environmental and yield scoring on the multi-criteria analysis, where any schemes scoring a 4 or 5 were identified as potentially high risk. As a result of that analysis key uncertainties were raised around the potential yield benefits that might be realised from the Runley Wood, Kings Walden and Brent Reservoir options. For Runley Wood and Kings Walden Lower Greensand, these were identified as potentially posing a WFD compliance risk if abstractions start to affect the northwards flow of groundwater, which is a long-term risk that can only be ascertained through monitoring. This would be mitigated through reduction in abstraction licence or possibly not developing the Kings Wood source. For the Brent Reservoir there is uncertainty around how much yield could be obtained without affecting the benefits from the river support that is currently effectively provided by the reservoir. In both cases the WFD risk can therefore be addressed through a reduction in yield, and is not an unavoidable feature of the scheme. These yield risks were therefore incorporated into the adaptive pathways analysis.

**Step 3: Adaptive Pathways Analysis.** The adaptive pathways analysis used the step 2 outputs to develop the versions of the future that could occur and need to be solved if Affinity Water is going to be able to resiliently plan supplies over the next 60 years. They carried out Economics of Balancing Supply and Demand (EBS) modelling for each future, modified to account for delivery risks and customer preferences, to determine the 'best value' plan for that future. Affinity Water then examined when key investments and decisions (so called 'trigger points') need to be made to ensure that they can respond in a timely way under each future. This then allowed Affinity Water to determine which actions they need to take in AMP7 to enable their adaptive plan. They then carried out a 'least regrets' analysis where they compared the adaptive plan against a 'wait and see' alternative that did not include the relevant enabling actions and hence lower cost, long lead time strategic options, to confirm whether or not the longer-term benefits of the enabling actions outweigh the shorter-term costs, on an economic, probability weighted basis.

All reasonable alternative programmes/ adaptive futures identified by Affinity Water were assessed through the SEA process. This included consideration of potential cumulative effects between schemes under each programme as well as with other WRMPs. The findings of this work informed Affinity Water's decision of which programmes/ adaptive futures to progress.

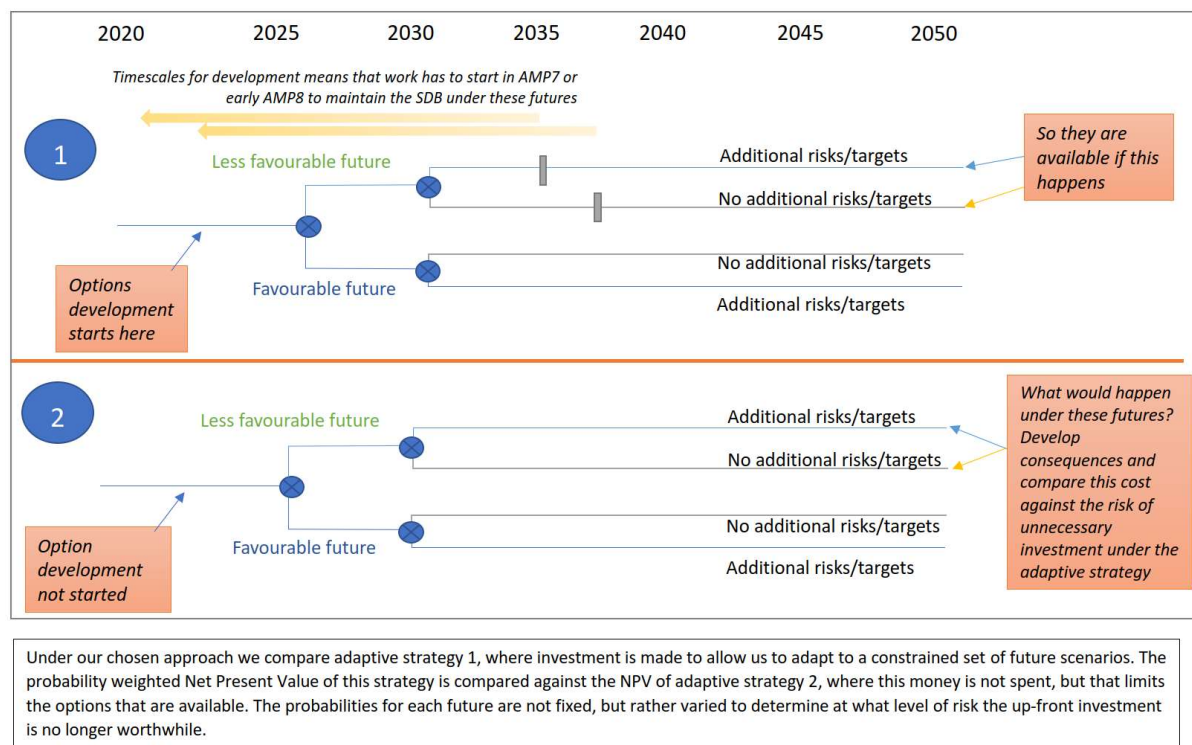
Because Adaptive Pathways Planning is potentially a very complex form of modelling, Affinity Water used the analyses contained in Step 1 (least cost economic modelling) and Step 2 (customer preference and MCA impact analysis) to identify which uncertainties had the most impact on the best value plan. The uncertainties were then packaged into a relatively small number of future branches, which represented the plausible futures that Affinity Water might have to adapt to within the 2080 time horizon.

Whilst the methodology that Affinity Water has adopted is innovative, which is necessary to address the significant problems that they face (large forecast deficits, uncertainties of ambitious long-term demand management activities and the long lead times on our strategic supply side solutions), it was made sure that it complies with regulatory guidance and is transparent to stakeholders. Specifically, the decision-making process incorporated the following elements:

- It maintains the 'least cost' EBS modelling as the initial stage of assessment and demonstrates how and why Affinity Water have changed from that in our final 'best value' Plan.
- It provides a reasoned justification for the decision on the preferred solution, which is supported by stages customer and stakeholder analysis and appropriate, conventional economic modelling.
- The adaptive pathways analysis component demonstrates the ability of the solution to cover a range of possible futures and provide resilience, whilst at the same time fully demonstrating (using 'least regrets' analysis) that the benefits of the proposed enabling actions are cost beneficial in the medium and long term.

Each of the adaptive pathways shown in **Figure 5.2** were modelled within EBSD with various stipulations applied to the modelling conditions to simulate different futures. For example, the less favourable future will see less demand management reduction as to represent a pessimistic view, and the futures with additional risks/ targets will include 50% leakage reduction and/ or low PCC targets fixed into the modelling.

**Figure 5.2: Summary of the Selected Decision Making Process**



For further details on the programme appraisal and Affinity Water's decision-making process for the fWRMP19 please refer to the separate Decision Making Report (2019).

### 5.2.1 Integration of SEA into the programme appraisal

Affinity Water, AECOM (SEA consultants) and DecisionLab (who created the model) worked closely to develop an integrated approach to programme modelling for the fWRMP19. In line with extant guidance, it is important to ensure that the SEA effectively influences the decision making process for the fWRMP19.

As demonstrated in the **Section 4.3** and **Appendix V** of this Environmental Report, each constrained option (including supply-side, demand management and drought) were assessed against the full SEA Framework of objectives. From the predicted residual operational effects identified for each assessment question, a 'worst case' operational effect was also derived for each SEA Objective for input to the model. It should also be noted that Affinity Water had view of the detailed assessments for each of the constrained options, i.e. the likely significant effects during construction and operation, throughout the programme appraisal stage.

In their own right the findings of the assessment for each option and the twelve SEA objectives cannot be effectively utilised in the EBSD modelling, so a collation approach was developed. The collated score was simply calculated by counting the number of "moderate" or "major" positives and "moderate" or "major" negatives ( $\geq +2$  or  $\leq -2$ ). That means the maximum and minimum scores would be +/-12. It was discussed if more weighting should be applied to specific SEA objectives (i.e. some objectives are more important than others) but it was determined that this depends on an individual's perspective and would mean that we risk introducing arbitrary weightings so it was agreed that an un-weighted approach should be used.

As an example an option that had the following scores across the 12 categories would result in a positive +2 and negative -3 output, so would score -1 overall.

4 are 0  
 3 are -1  
 2 are +2  
 2 are -2  
 1 is -3

These SEA scorings were converted into an overall metric score using the matrix shown in Table 15.

**Table 5.1: Effect on significance scale**

**Negative**

SEA Score	0	-1 to -3	-4 to -6	-7 to -9	-9 to -12
Environmental Score	1	2	3	4	5

**Positive**

SEA Score	0	+1 to +3	+4 to +6	+7 to +9	+9 to +12
Environmental Score	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5

Table 5.1 above shows that the SEA negative scores have been flipped into positive environmental scores, and vice versa for the positive scores. The reason for this 'flip' is that we had a series of other metrics within our modelling that had negative scores as high values, and positive scores as negative values - simply to show the higher the score, the worse performing against that particular metric.

It is important to note that this approach and proposed method for integrating the SEA into the programme appraisal stage was set out in the Environmental Report (2018) that accompanied the dWRMP19 on consultation in 2018. No objections to the proposed approach were received from statutory consultees.

As well as the findings being fed into the computer model/ programme appraisal stage, the SEA also informed Affinity Water's decision making (Figure 5.1) at a number of key points.

**Step 0** - At this stage a number of options/ supply-side schemes were removed from consideration to reflect the findings of the SEA, HRA and WFD as well as feedback received from customers and statutory consultees. These schemes related to new chalk groundwater schemes in the Central Region.

**Step 2** - During this stage the SEA findings informed the 'bottom up' multi-criteria analysis to determine where the key risks and uncertainties lie in the Plan. The SEA findings along with the customer and stakeholder preferences were used to structure the Adaptive Pathways analysis at the next stage. Affinity Water evaluated the environmental and yield scoring on the multi-criteria analysis, where any schemes scoring a 4 or 5 were identified as potentially high risk. As a result of that analysis key uncertainties were raised around the potential yield benefits that might be realised from the Runley Wood (AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1068), Kings Walden (AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1053) and Brent Reservoir (AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832) schemes. For Runley Wood and Kings Walden Lower Greensand, these were identified as potentially posing a WFD compliance risk if abstractions start to affect the northwards flow of groundwater, which is a long-term risk that can only be ascertained through monitoring. This would be mitigated through reduction in abstraction licence or possibly not developing the Kings Wood source. For the Brent Reservoir there is uncertainty around how much yield could be obtained without affecting the benefits from the river support that is currently effectively provided by the reservoir. In both cases Affinity Water considered that the WFD risk can therefore be addressed through a reduction in yield, and is not an unavoidable feature of the scheme. These yield risks were therefore incorporated into the adaptive pathways analysis as part of Step 3 in Affinity Water's decision-making process (Figure 5.1).

**Step 3** - Following Step 2 a comparative assessment of all reasonable alternative programmes/ adaptive futures was carried out and the findings of this informed the selection of the preferred programme and adaptive futures in Step 3 of the decision-making process.

It is important to remember that SEA is an assessment tool that is used to inform plan/ decision making. Decisions are not solely based on the findings of the SEA and are also informed by wider assessments, consultation responses and business considerations.

## 5.2.2 Integration of Ecosystem Services

The potential to undertake a high level ecosystem services assessment to feed into the programme modelling was explored by Affinity Water and AECOM at an early stage in plan-making. An initial approach was set out within the SEA Scoping Report published in December 2016.

The UK National Ecosystem Assessment<sup>23</sup> (NEA) classification of ecosystem services was discussed as a starting point for potentially undertaking a high level ecosystem services assessment. The UK NEA provides an assessment of the ecosystem services delivered by different habitat types on a national scale. To try and tailor this assessment more closely to the Study Area, it was proposed that the UK NEA information could be combined with habitat information from relevant Natural England National Character Area (NCA) summaries.

Following further discussions between AECOM and Affinity Water a proposed method was refined and the following steps were identified:

1. Identify the significant effects of the each constrained option through the SEA;
2. For any constrained option identified as having the potential for a residual moderate (2 or -2) or major (3 or -3) effect during operation:
  - a. Undertake an high level analysis linking the option effects to ecosystem services by identifying the:
    - i. habitats affected by the option (e.g. waterways);
    - ii. the ecosystem services associated with those habitats (e.g. provision of water supply, recreation, fish stocks);
    - iii. relative importance of the habitats in delivering ecosystem services (e.g. waterways are essential for supporting fish stocks whereas grasslands are not); and
    - iv. direction of change of the ecosystem service associated with the habitat (e.g. fish stocks are generally declining).
3. Provide a qualitative assessment or commentary on the potential implications of implementing the option on identified habitats and services.

The high level ecosystem service assessment to be undertaken in Step 2 would be based on information from the UK NEA (UNEP-WCMC, 2014) and National Character Area profiles (Natural England, 2014) for the relevant geographic locations.

Once an option has been subjected to further assessment under Part 2 above, an overall ecosystem services score would be provided and this would be informed by the evidence available and based on professional judgment. A three point scoring system +1, 0, and -1 would be used. A positive score would reflect an ecosystems service benefit whereas a negative score would reflect an adverse effect on ecosystem service provision. A '0' would reflect a neutral effect or indicate uncertainty if there is insufficient evidence to make a judgement in terms of a positive or negative effect. The ESS would reflect the predicted effects in the long-term during the operational phase rather than short-term or temporary effects arising during construction. The intention was that the ecosystem services score would be incorporated separately into the modelling to provide more 'levers' for the model to adjust.

Following a more detailed review and consideration of evidence, it was determined that there was insufficient data available to undertake a meaningful assessment in terms of the impact of constrained options on ecosystem services. The limited data available in relation to habitats present within the footprint of constrained options and the services they provide would mean that the assessment would not add any value to what was already being considered through the SEA and other assessments, including environmental costs.

To allow for the integration of ecosystem services in the future as part of the next Periodic Review it is recommended that:

<sup>23</sup> UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis of Key Findings. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge [online] @ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

- Further data is gathered about the habitats present within Affinity Water’s operating area and the ecosystem services and natural capital they provide; and
- Hold discussions with the Environment Agency and Natural England to identify and address potential data gaps, as well as agree an approach for the consideration of ecosystem services and natural capital as part of Affinity Water’s decision-making framework.

### 5.3 Identifying reasonable alternative programmes

The SEA Directive states in Article 5 that “*an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated*”.

Whilst the fWRMP19 has a number of objectives, it is clear that meeting the water supply needs of customers over the next 25 years is at the heart of the plan. It is the key issue to be addressed, and taken to be the primary objective of the plan. This is reflected in Environment Agency’s WRPG (2018), which states in Section 3 that, “*If there is a deficit you must identify options to increase supply or reduce demand so that you achieve a secure supply of water*”.

There are a number of important secondary objectives that have been derived as a result of the guidance and/ or customer, stakeholder or regulator representations to the Affinity Water draft WRMP19 submission in 2018. The secondary objectives are as follows:

1. 1 in 200 Deployable Output (DO Drought Resilience);
2. WINEP3 Sustainability Reductions;
3. No drought options post 2024;
4. To not include source options that pose a risk to the environment in our Central region (no new chalk groundwater options, these are listed earlier in this Chapter);
5. Headroom at 95<sup>th</sup> percentile;
6. Plan based growth forecast; and
7. AMP7 Leakage Reduction of 18%.

For a programme to be considered a reasonable alternative for the purposes of the SEA it must meet the primary and secondary objectives set out above. **Table 5.2** below identifies the model scenarios (and resultant programmes) that were not taken forward in the modelling process and provides outline reasons why they are not considered to represent reasonable alternative programmes.

**Table 5.2: Outline reasons for programmes identified as not reasonable**

Model scenarios	Outline reasons for rejection
Worst Historic DO	Fails to meet objective 1 as this model scenario would not provide the additional level of DO resilience.
1 in 80 DO	Fails to meet objective 1 as this model scenario would not provide the additional level of DO resilience.
1 in 40 DO	Fails to meet objective 1 as this model scenario would not provide the additional level of DO resilience.
1 in 20 DO	Fails to meet objective 1 as this model scenario would not provide the additional level of DO resilience.
1 in 10 DO	Fails to meet objective 1 as this model scenario would not provide the additional level of DO resilience.
SELL leakage reduction target	SELL provides a much lower leakage reduction than the regulator supported 15% AMP7 target. Fails to meet objective 7.
Headroom at 90th percentile	This headroom percentile did not meet secondary objectives which received stakeholder support and fails to meet objective 5.

Headroom at 85th percentile	This headroom percentile did not meet secondary objectives which received stakeholder support and fails to meet objective 5.
Headroom at 80th percentile	This headroom percentile did not meet secondary objectives which received stakeholder support and fails to meet objective 5.
Headroom at 75th percentile	This headroom percentile did not meet secondary objectives which received stakeholder support and fails to meet objective 5.
90% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
85% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
80% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
75% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
70% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
65% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
60% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
55% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
50% WINEP3	This scenario would not meet the requirements of the secondary objective to meet WINEP3. Fails to meet objective 2.
Grafham full licence from 2020	This scenario is not technically feasible to deliver within the timescale. This scenario therefore fails to meet the water supply needs of customers and fails the primary objective of the plan.
Grafham full licence from 2030	Though this scenario is feasible, it would not meet the secondary objective to remove drought options from 2024 onwards. Fails to meet objective 3.
No Ardleigh agreement revert	This scenario poses a risk to the WRZ8 supply demand balance and uncertain WINEP in the future. Fails to meet objective 2.
Trend based growth forecast	Not in line with recent growth pattern. Fails to meet objective 6.
Econometric based growth forecast	Not in line with recent growth pattern. Fails to meet objective 6.
Hybrid growth forecast	Not in line with recent growth pattern. Fails to meet objective 6.
Chalk groundwater options available	Does not meet the secondary objective to not include options that pose a risk to the environment. Fails to meet objective 4.
LC_1 Least Cost	Does not meet appropriate levels of demand management expected of Affinity Water by representations to the draft WRMP19, nor the 15% AMP7 leakage target that is a secondary objective. Fails to meet objective 7.

The model scenarios identified above and their subsequent programmes have not been carried forward for further consideration in the SEA process as they are not reasonable alternatives, in that they do not meet the objectives of the fWRMP19.

The model runs and resultant programmes identified by Affinity Water as meeting the objectives (primary and secondary) of the fWRMP19 are set out below:

- **LC\_2** - This is a least cost run with 2025 targets on leakage and PCC.
- **ATL\_1** - This run introduced four metrics into our modelling process based on the data collated through the optioneering. Each option was scored against these metrics which were based on Risk, Resilience, Environment and Deliverability. The purpose of this approach was to be able to

have the functionality to model different 'priorities' within a least cost model. We could allow the model to select options which only allow for low risk for example, and see to what extent that would change the outputs, or with a certain level of environmental benefit required etc. This run was ultimately not taken forward as it excluded key demand management and leakage options on the basis of risk whereby these options would be required to meet specific targets.

- **DMT\_1** - This run explores the utilisation of a relatively high amount of water efficiency schemes.
- **AD\_1** - This run contains optimistic demand management savings with an expected supply-side future i.e. no supply side restrictions.
- **AD\_2** - This run contains expected levels of demand management savings, and also will not allow any strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit) to be selected. This model run has an otherwise expected supply-side future. This would help to simulate what options would be required if Affinity Water were unable to progress with a strategic option. It should be noted that the model could not balance supply and demand with no strategic options selected under this scenario. As a result, Affinity Water allowed the selection of AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d) based on the findings of the SEA, WFD and HRA as it was not identified as having any significant negative effects during operation (apart from the carbon related SEA objective).
- **AD\_3** - This run contains low levels of demand management savings, and also will not allow any strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit) to be selected. This would help to simulate what options would be required if Affinity Water were unable to progress with a strategic option.
- **Aspirational Adaptive Run** - This run contains optimistic levels of demand management savings and the expected supply-side future; however, it looks towards long-term 'stretch' targets. These targets are a reduction in PCC to 110 l/p/d and a 50% reduction in leakage by 2050.
- **Expected Future Adaptive Run** - This run is Affinity Water's central, expected future. This contains the levels of demand management option savings that Affinity Water would expect to see, as well as an expected supply-side future, i.e. no restrictions.
- **High Growth Future Adaptive Run** - This run looks to simulate a challenging future by incorporating greater levels of population growth within our forecasts. All of the supply-side options are available, including strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit).
- **Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run** - This run includes expected levels of demand management savings, but is challenging on the supply-side as it looks to simulate greater levels of Sustainability Reductions to determine potential solutions, and the yields of some schemes flagged by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19 have been halved to understand the impact this would have.
- **Optimistic Adaptive Run** - This run is an adaptation of the **Aspirational Adaptive Run** which looks to bring the 50% reduction leakage target forward to 2044/45.
- **Environmental Adaptive Run** - This run is an adaptation of the **Expected Future Adaptive Run** and focuses on minimising environmental effects taking account of the findings of the SEA. Options which are identified in the SEA (see Section 4) as having the potential for a moderate (-2) or major negative (-3) effect during operation are not selected for this run<sup>24</sup>. This run includes expected levels of demand management savings.

It should be noted that demand management options could have an upper (optimistic), central (expected) and lower (reliable) levels of savings. So they have 3x potential savings. Utilisation of supply side options can vary (from 100% maximum to 0%), whereas demand side options are simply used or not used, hence this ability to change the savings.

Not all of the programmes identified above were carried forward for further assessment through the SEA process:

<sup>24</sup> In line with extant SEA guidance for WRMPs, schemes identified as having a moderate (-2) or major (-3) major negative effect during operation against SEA Objective 8 (Carbon Footprint) were not excluded as part of this run to avoid double counting. Carbon impacts and costs are already monetised through the programme appraisal stage.

- **LC\_2** was not progressed as it is not ambitious enough in terms of demand management levels expected of Affinity Water as informed by the representations to the draft WRMP19 and as a result, this programme was deemed to not meet secondary objectives 4 and 7.
- **DMT\_1** was not carried forward as it includes the selection and utilisation of a relatively high amount of water efficiency schemes, which in combination are recognised to generate a high level of delivery risk. Affinity Water deems this level of risk to be unacceptable with regards to meeting the primary objective of the plan; meeting the supply needs of customers. For this reason, it was not progressed as a reasonable alternative programme for the fWRMP19.
- **ATL\_1** was not taken further in the modelling process as it involved metric scoring (explained earlier), which excluded key demand management options on the basis of risk. In reality, Affinity Water are willing to accept the level of risk associated with these excluded demand management options and have covered this within their final plan headroom allocation. As these demand management schemes were excluded in this run, the programme of options lacked the ambition our stakeholders and customers requested through the draft WRMP19 consultation and for this reason this programme did not meet the objectives of the plan.

It should be noted that, based on expected levels of demand management savings, the **Environmental Adaptive Run** would result in supply deficits near the end of the planning horizon from 2070. This is due to the removal of a number of key supply-side schemes based on the criteria used for this programme of excluding options identified in the SEA as having the potential for moderate (-2) or major negative (-3) effects during operation. This could be mitigated by expecting optimistic levels of demand management savings but this then reduces the flexibility and resilience of this programme. As a result of the supply deficit late in the plan period, it could be argued that the **Environmental Adaptive Run** is not a reasonable alternative because it does not meet the primary objective of the fWRMP19. Despite this, the programme was carried forward for further consideration through the SEA process as it provides a useful comparison to the other programmes, in particular the **Expected Future Adaptive Run**.

Taking the above into account, the following programmes were considered further through the SEA reasonable alternative programme assessment process:

- AD\_1;
- AD\_2;
- AD\_3;
- Aspirational Adaptive Run;
- Expected Future Adaptive Run;
- High Growth Future Adaptive Plan;
- Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run;
- Optimistic Adaptive Run; and
- Environmental Adaptive Run.

## 5.4 SEA of reasonable alternative programmes for the revised draft WRMP19

### 5.4.1 Introduction

Nine programmes were identified as reasonable alternatives and carried forward for further consideration through the SEA process. The supply-side schemes and their delivery dates (DD) proposed under each of the reasonable alternative programmes (Dry Year Annual Average (DYCAA)) are presented in **Table 5.3** below and are structured according to WRZs.



Table 5.3: Supply-side schemes under each reasonable alternative programme (DYAA)

Supply-side scheme	AD_1		Aspirational		Expected		High Growth		AD_2		AD_3		Supply-side Challenging		Optimistic		Environmental	
	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP
<b>WRZ1</b>																		
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010:Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2059	14	2071	17	2054	13							2063	15	2062	15		
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066:GUC (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2070	17			2066	16	2032	9					2051	13	2073	17		
<b>WRZ2</b>																		
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation					2061	15	2041	11	2071	17	2071	17			2048	12	2069	16
<b>WRZ 3</b>																		
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2067	16	2073	17	2059	14	2042	11					2059	14	2064	15		
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2046	12	2054	13	2035	9							2035	19	2046	11		
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)											2042	11					2034	9
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse					2079	18	2078	18	2075	18	2075	18						
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir							2079	18	2077	18	2077	18						
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)							2060	15										
<b>WRZ 4</b>																		
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2042	11	2055	14	2037	10	2038	10	2031	9	2031	9	2077	18	2046	12		
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : C&R Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2040	11	2057	14	2026	8	2026	8	2030	9	2030	9	2026	8	2034	9		
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2044	11	2058	14	2033	9	2057	8	2040	11	2040	11	N/A		2049	12		
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2047	12	2059	14	2042	11							2035	10	2050	13		
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes					2065	16	2041	11	2041	11	2041	11	2079	18			2058	14
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8			2051	13	2029	8	2029	8					2029	8	2029	8		
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)							2042	11										
<b>WRZ 5</b>																		

	AD_1		Aspirational		Expected		High Growth		AD_2		AD_3		Supply-side Challenging		Optimistic		Environmental	
	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP	DD	AMP
<b>Supply-side scheme</b>																		
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir					2077	18	2077	18	2072	17	2072	17	2078	18				
<b>WRZ 6</b>																		
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)			2070	17					2074	18	2074	17			2072	17	2076	18
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation					2065	16	2075	18	2076	18	2076	18	2077	18	2072	17		
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation					2078	18	2030	9	2076	18	2076	18	2034	9			2076	18
AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 : Egham ASR					2076	18	2076	18			2074	17						
AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning					2078	18	2078	18			2079	18						
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade					2036	10	2029	8					2050	13				
<b>WRZ 7</b>																		
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7	2021	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7	2022	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2059	14	2069	16	2036	10	2037	10	2044	11	2044	11	2041	11	2051	13	2048	12
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2071	17			2051	13	2051	13	2068	16	2068	16	2056	14	2064	15		
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement					2061	15	2061	15	2057	14	2057	14	2065	16	2074	17	2058	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d					2075	18	2072	17									2072	17
<b>Total number of supply-side options</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>13</b>	

## 5.4.2 SEA of AD\_1

This run contains optimistic demand management savings with an expected supply-side future i.e. no supply side restrictions. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.4: AD\_1 supply-side schemes (DYAA)**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2040	11
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2042	11
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2044	11
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2046	12
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2047	12
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2059	14
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2059	14
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2067	16
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2070	17
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2071	17

### 5.4.2.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.5**.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14Ml/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 Ml/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 Ml/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP10 (2035-40)**

Under this programme no further supply-side options would be delivered until 2035 in AMP10.

**AMP11 (2040-45)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP11 under this programme.

**AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the re-

instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes** option involves obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

### **AMP12 (2045-50)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP12 under this programme. The first of these, **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North**, will be delivered in 2046. This scheme allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation.

The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

The second supply-side is a strategic scheme to be delivered in 2047. **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)** involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) to augment river flows to support the downstream abstraction at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP14 under this programme. The first is a strategic scheme, **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which is closely linked to **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** delivered in AMP12.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)** utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011**. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP14 during the same year is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

Only one supply-side scheme is proposed during AMP14. **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End** involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of priority habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the priority habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP16. The first of these is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)** and is scheduled to be delivered in 2070. This scheme proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw



water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2070, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to the landscape during construction. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The second scheme to be delivered in AMP17 in 2071 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

#### 5.4.2.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment provided in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater

Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive cumulative effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to improve water levels and flow rates, improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB, South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified cumulative effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2059) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2047) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study into potential cumulative effects between water company WRMPs in South East England identified five schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes four schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908, and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and as such it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) is identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect in regards to the SEA topic water, are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

### 5.4.3 SEA of Aspirational Adaptive Run

This run contains optimistic levels of demand management savings and the expected supply-side future; however, it looks towards long-term 'stretch' targets. These targets are a reduction in PCC to 110 l/p/d and a 50% reduction in leakage by 2050. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.6: Aspirational Adaptive Run supply-side schemes (DYAA)**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2051	13
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2054	13
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2055	14
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2057	14
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2058	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2059	14
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2069	16
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	2070	17
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2071	17
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2073	17

#### 5.4.3.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.7**.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14MI/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 MI/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 MI/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)****AMP13 (2050-55)**

Under this programme no further supply-side options would be delivered until 2051 in AMP13 when two supply-side schemes are proposed.

The first of these schemes to be delivered in 2051 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 MI/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 MI/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North** is the second scheme to be delivered in 2054. This scheme allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP14. The first is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** in 2055, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes** will be delivered in 2058. The scheme proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a

result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP14 in 2059 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)**, which involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:



- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.

Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

#### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered under this programme is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation** in 2069. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP17 under this programme. The first to be delivered in 2070 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)**, which is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

The second is a strategic scheme, **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which is closely linked to **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** delivered in AMP14.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)** utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011**. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

The final scheme to be delivered in 2073 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End**, which involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once

mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of Priority Habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the Priority Habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

#### 5.4.3.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body, and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/ flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to, improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB, and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2071) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2059) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study identified five schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect. This includes three schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

These schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on three water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water and South East Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) is identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

#### 5.4.4 SEA of Expected Future Adaptive Run

This run is Affinity Water's central, expected future. This contains the levels of demand management option savings that Affinity Water would expect to see, as well as an expected supply-side future, i.e. no restrictions. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.8: Expected Future Adaptive Run supply-side schemes (DYCP)**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2026	8
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2029	8
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2033	9
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2035	9
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2036	10
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade	2036	10
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2037	10
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2042	11
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2051	13
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2054	13
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2059	14
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2061	15
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2061	15
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2065	16
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2065	16
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2066	16
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d	2075	18
AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 : Egham ASR	2076	18
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2077	18
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	2078	18
AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning	2078	18
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse	2079	18

##### 5.4.4.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.9**.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14Ml/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 Ml/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 Ml/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)**

The first scheme to be delivered in 2029 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 Ml/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 Ml/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

The second **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes** would be delivered in 2026 and proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the

existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2026 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further once the 2023 decision point has been reached..

### **AMP9 (2030-35)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

The second supply-side to be delivered during AMP9 in 2035 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North**, which allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

### **AMP10 (2035-40)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP10. The first in 2036 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The second in 2036 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade**. The scheme proposes trading 4MI/d from an existing abstraction license from a third party. RWE's power station is capable of reducing the volume of consumptive water which it abstracts from the River Thames by managing the volume of electricity generation, i.e. leaving the consumptive evaporative water in the Thames. This enables an equivalent volume of water to be abstracted by a downstream user. In this case, the downstream user is Affinity Water at its existing Egham surface water treatment works. The RWE Didcot Abstraction Licence would remain unchanged. The scheme involves no new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The final scheme to be delivered during AMP10 in 2037 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space



surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

#### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

The main AMP11 scheme, scheduled in 2042 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)**, which involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.

- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

### **AMP13 (2050-55)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed in AMP13. The first of these is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP13 in 2054 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to a point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP14 in 2059 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End**, which involves a transfer of 40Ml/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40Ml capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of Priority Habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the Priority Habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

### **AMP15 (2060-65)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP15 and both delivered in 2061. **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 Ml/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement** is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

#### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP16. The first two to be delivered in 2065 are **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**.

**AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 MI/d at average and 1.00 MI/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation** is an import of 2.7 MI/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The final scheme to be delivered in 2066 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)**. It proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2070, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to landscape during construction phase. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically

to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Under this programme six supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery. The first of these to be delivered in 2075 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842: Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI**. This scheme is an import of water from South East Water to WRZ7 via an interconnection point at Aldington for transfer to Saltwood Reservoir. This scheme requires a 3MI capacity upgrade of Saltwood Reservoir, a new 12.2 km 200 mm Diameter Main from the interconnection point to Saltwood Reservoir and a new pump station at the interconnection point (3 x 22 kW Booster Pumps).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. Moderate negative effects identified during construction for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, the landscape, historic environment and agricultural land. In terms of the landscape, approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB. The new pump house falls just outside the AONB and the expansion of the Saltwood service reservoir would fall within the AONB, as a result the potential for negative effects during construction is predicted to be moderate. The new pipeline passes within 5m of a Scheduled Monument and within 20m of a Listed Building. There is therefore potential for a moderate negative effect during the construction phase due to the proximity of the designated heritage assets.

The assessment recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, and walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. The new pump house building should also be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape/ historic environment and screening used where appropriate. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects once mitigation is taken into account. Key issues during operation relate to medium to long-term effects on the landscape and historic environment (mitigation referred to above) as well as potential issues in relation to water quality through the creation of new preferential pathways into the aquifer due to below ground workings and construction of mains. The WFD assessment concluded that best practice design, construction and operation should ensure that impacts are minor, localised and temporary.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2076 is **AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR**. This is a speculative scheme to inject winter excess water into the confined chalk or Lower Greensand (LGS) for use in the summer peak demand period. The source of water is likely to be treated surface water (e.g. from the existing Egham or Chertsey sources). Exploration boreholes (LGS and Chalk) and testing will be required, at which point the option is likely to evolve based on the new data (groundwater levels and water quality); for example, it is possible that based on the new information a conventional groundwater abstraction (average and peak benefit) may be possible, albeit with a suitable level of treatment.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The new pipeline passes in close proximity to a number of designated biodiversity and heritage assets but there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that there are no significant residual negative effects.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2077 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The fourth supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2078 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

Also being delivered in 2078 is **AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005: Horsley source recommissioning**. The Horsley abstraction well was last pumped in 1997. There were water quality issues (coliforms and nitrates) that the available treatment (marginal chlorination) could not solve. This scheme is to investigate the groundwater source to confirm yields and to upgrade treatment as necessary; although the licence is for 0.69 Ml/d (average) and 1.14 Ml/d (peak) the most likely yield is believed to be 0.38 Ml/d at average and 0.62 Ml/d peak owing to an adit related constraint.

This is a small scale scheme with minimal new infrastructure; as a result the assessment found that there would not be any significant negative effects during construction or operation against any SEA objectives.

The final scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2079 is **AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse**. This scheme is for the provision of a new STW local to Stevenage in order to provide tertiary treated effluent that can be used to restore flows in the River Middle Beane, via Stevenage Brook.

The assessment found that the scheme is not likely to have any significant negative effects during construction. There is the potential for localised minor negative effects in the short-term as a result of the construction of the STW but this is unlikely to be significant once mitigation is taken into account.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against the SEA objective that relates to WFD status. The WFD assessment identified that the discharge of treated water into surface water channel could lead to increase in nutrients which could be mobilised to the hydraulically connected groundwater body. Conversely the assessment also identified potential benefits and moderate positive effects for WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows as the scheme would increase river flows in river Beane via discharge of treated effluent in Stevenage Brook. Chalk is unconfined at that location so there is a hydraulic connection and this would potentially increase recharge into the aquifer. WFD assessment states further information and investigation required to confirm the likelihood for negative and positive effects and inform the identification of mitigation measures if necessary.

#### 5.4.4.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and

management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body, and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body, and the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended. With respect to the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body, it is also recognised that further investigation once abstraction and recharge rates under schemes AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 and AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 are known will be required to confirm no impact on water quality and water balance.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2053) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2041) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study identified ten schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect. This includes six schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4MI/d)

- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 (Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir and AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 proposes a small upgrade of the Saltwood Reservoir along with a new mains and pump station at the interconnection point. Given the scale of the schemes and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2061. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2051. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on four water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water, South East Water and SES Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The preliminary WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2077; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes.



As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Effingham Tertiaries Groundwater Body as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for SES Water, however hydrogeological conditions indicate that the options between the two water companies are unlikely to interact and the study identifies that no further assessment is required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

### 5.4.5 SEA of High Growth Future Adaptive Run

This run looks to simulate a challenging future by incorporating greater levels of population growth within our forecasts. All of the supply-side options are available, including strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit). The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.10: High Growth Future Adaptive Run supply-side schemes (DYCP)**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2026	8
AFF-ESW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver Expansion	2029	8
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2029	8
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clendon Source Optimisation	2030	9
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2032	9
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2037	10
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2038	10
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2041	11
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2041	11
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2042	11
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)	2042	11
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2051	13
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade	2058	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)	2060	15
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2061	15
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d	2072	17
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2075	18
AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 : Egham ASR	2076	18
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2077	18
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse	2078	18
AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning	2078	18
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	2079	18

#### 5.4.5.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.11**.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14MI/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 MI/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 MI/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)**

Under the High Growth Future three supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP8

The first, scheduled for delivery in 2026 would be the **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes**. The scheme proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the

Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2026 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further once the 2023 decision point has been reached.

The second scheme to be delivered in AMP8 in 2029 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 MI/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 MI/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

The Egham AMP8 second stage transfer would be supported by **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade**. The scheme proposes trading 4MI/d from an existing abstraction license from a third party. RWE's power station is capable of reducing the volume of consumptive water which it abstracts from the River Thames by managing the volume of electricity generation, i.e. leaving the consumptive evaporative water in the Thames. This enables an equivalent volume of water to be abstracted by a downstream user. In this case, the downstream user is Affinity Water at its existing Egham surface water treatment works. The RWE Didcot Abstraction Licence would remain unchanged. The scheme involves no new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

### **AMP9 (2030-35)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery in AMP9. **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation** would be delivered in 2030 and seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)** is scheduled to be delivered in 2032. This scheme proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2070, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to the landscape during construction. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

### **AMP10 (2035-40)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP10 under this programme. **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation** is scheduled for delivery in 2037. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The second supply-side to be delivered during AMP10 in 2038 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery in AMP11. Two of these schemes are to be delivered in 2041. **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 Ml/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on

water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

**AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 MI/d at average and 1.00 MI/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

The next two schemes are to be delivered in 2042 during AMP11. **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End** involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of priority habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the priority habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

The second scheme to be delivered in 2042 and final during AMP11 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)**. This is a strategic scheme that involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 100 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

### **AMP13 (2050-55)**

The only supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP13 in 2051 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.



The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

The scheme scheduled for delivery in AMP14 is the **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option, which was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development. This would be delivered in 2029.

#### **AMP15 (2060-65)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP14. The first to be delivered is a strategic scheme in 2060. **AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)** is a transfer of 100MI/d of raw water from Anglian Water from their Grafham Water reservoir in Cambridgeshire. A new reservoir will be constructed in South Lincolnshire and will be used instead of Grafham Water as the feed to the Ruthamford South WRZ (via Ruthamford North WRZ), resulting in additional water being available for abstraction from Grafham Water. This option is based on transferring this surplus to Sundon for final water conditioning, storage and use as a potable water supply. The 100 MI/d option is based on Anglian Water's supported option for the South Lincolnshire reservoir.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA objective 2 (tourism and recreation) as a result of the delivery of over 100km of new pipelines well as other infrastructure. These pipelines cross numerous footpaths along the routes and may cause short term disruption along public rights of way during construction. Mitigation could include the diversion of public rights of way.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 (infrastructure) due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure. Mitigation measures could include creation of road diversions and haul roads at the start of the construction, agreement of HGV routes and working hours. The phased delivery of infrastructure will also help to minimise impacts.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 4 (material consumption) as a result of the new infrastructure required.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) as a result of the delivery of infrastructure in close proximity and possibly within SSSIs. Potential for the loss and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance (noise and light) as well as pollution (water and dust). The pipeline route should avoid designated sites and further assessments including more detailed mitigation should be set out at the detailed feasibility stage if this scheme is progressed. Construction of the new pump station and main in proximity to Grafham Water SSSI should be carried out mid-August to end of September to avoid disturbance to any breeding or wintering birds.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of a new water treatment works and approx. 2.7km of new main within the Chilterns AONB as well as the delivery of a new water reservoir. The option includes a further 127km of new mains. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be required to determine the sensitivity of the receiving landscape and potential effects of the scheme.
- Major negative effect for SEA Objective 8 (carbon footprint) as a result of the scale of new infrastructure.

- Moderate negative effect for SEA Objective 14 (soil and minerals) as the pipeline route crosses Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land and the new raw water reservoir is located on Grade 1 agricultural land.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effect for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) given that the abstraction is from Grafham Water reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. Given that the scheme is utilising surplus remaining for abstraction it is unlikely to result in any further or more frequent drawdown of the existing reservoir than was already occurring as a result of abstractions by Anglian Water. However, a precautionary approach has been taken and the potential for a moderate negative effect identified.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for positive effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Minor positive effects for SEA Objective 2 (tourism and recreation in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities through the delivery of a new raw water reservoir.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain through the delivery of a new raw water reservoir. There is also the potential for enhancements to Grafham Water SSSI.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 (landscape) as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements through the delivery of the new raw water reservoir.
- Major positive effects for SEA Objective 8 (carbon footprint) as the scheme is upgrading transfer capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

The next scheme to be delivered during AMP15 in 2061 is **AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement**. The scheme is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

One supply-side scheme is proposed for delivery during AMP18. **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842: Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI** is scheduled for delivery in 2076. This scheme is an import of water from South East Water to WRZ7 via an interconnection point at Aldington for transfer to Saltwood Reservoir. This scheme requires a 3MI capacity upgrade of Saltwood Reservoir, a new 12.2 km 200 mm Diameter Main from the interconnection point to Saltwood Reservoir and a new pump station at the interconnection point (3 x 22 kW Booster Pumps).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. Moderate negative effects identified during construction for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, the landscape, historic environment and agricultural land. In terms of the landscape, approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB. The new pump house falls just outside the AONB and the expansion of the Saltwood service reservoir would fall within the AONB, as a result the potential for negative effects during construction is predicted to be moderate. The new pipeline passes within 5m of a Scheduled Monument and within 20m of a Listed Building. There is therefore potential for a moderate negative effect during the construction phase due to the proximity of the designated heritage assets.

The assessment recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, and walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. The new pump house building should also be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape/ historic environment and screening used where appropriate. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects once mitigation is taken into account. Key issues during operation relate to medium to long-term effects on the landscape and historic environment (mitigation referred to above) as well as potential issues in relation to water quality through the creation of new preferential pathways into the aquifer due to below ground workings and construction of mains. The WFD assessment concluded that best practice design, construction and operation should ensure that impacts are minor, localised and temporary.

#### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Six supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery in AMP18 under this programme. The first of these is **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation** for delivery in 2075. The scheme is an import of 2.7 Ml/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 Ml/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2076 is **AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR**. This is a speculative scheme to inject winter excess water into the confined chalk or Lower Greensand (LGS) for use in the summer peak demand period. The source of water is likely to be treated surface water (e.g. from the existing Egham or Chertsey sources). Exploration boreholes (LGS and Chalk) and testing will be required, at which point the option is likely to evolve based on the new data (groundwater levels and water quality); for example, it is possible that based on the new information a conventional groundwater abstraction (average and peak benefit) may be possible, albeit with a suitable level of treatment.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The new pipeline passes in close proximity to a number of designated biodiversity and heritage assets but there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that there are no significant residual negative effects.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2077 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The fourth scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2078 is **AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse**. This scheme is for the provision of a new STW local to Stevenage in order to provide tertiary treated effluent that can be used to restore flows in the River Middle Beane, via Stevenage Brook.

The assessment found that the scheme is not likely to have any significant negative effects during construction. There is the potential for localised minor negative effects in the short-term as a result of the construction of the STW but this is unlikely to be significant once mitigation is taken into account.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against the SEA objective that relates to WFD status. The WFD assessment identified that the discharge of treated water into surface water channel could lead to increase in nutrients which could be mobilised to the hydraulically connected groundwater body. Conversely the assessment also identified potential benefits and moderate positive effects for WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows as the scheme would increase river flows in river Beane via discharge of treated effluent in Stevenage Brook. Chalk is unconfined at that location so there is a hydraulic connection and this would potentially increase recharge into the aquifer. WFD assessment states further information and investigation required to confirm the likelihood for negative and positive effects and inform the identification of mitigation measures if necessary.

**AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005: Horsley source recommissioning** is also proposed for delivery in 2078. The Horsley abstraction well was last pumped in 1997. There were water quality issues (coliforms and nitrates) that the available treatment (marginal chlorination) could not solve. This scheme is to investigate the groundwater source to confirm yields and to upgrade treatment as necessary; although the licence is for 0.69 MI/d (average) and 1.14 MI/d (peak) the most likely yield is believed to be 0.38 MI/d at average and 0.62 MI/d peak owing to an adit related constraint.

This is a small scale scheme with minimal new infrastructure; as a result the assessment found that there would not be any significant negative effects during construction or operation against any SEA objectives.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2079 is **AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir**. This is an augmentation scheme proposed to help offset the Runley Wood and Periwinkle Lane 10 MI/d sustainability reductions (AMP7). The scheme involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint and the landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint as well as WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The WFD assessment found that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body. The WFD assessment recommends that the timing of the abstraction needs to be confirmed and that further investigation and assessment is required.

Conversely the assessment also notes that there is the potential for benefits/ positive effects. The WFD assessment found that there is also the potential for this scheme to have benefits for the Lee (from Luton to Luton Hoo Lakes) surface water body and the Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk Groundwater body as a result of increased treated discharge into the Upper Lee catchment. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates.

The assessment also identified the potential for moderate positive effects in the medium to long-term during operation once the new raw water reservoir is established. It has the potential to provide new opportunities for recreation as well as biodiversity net gain by providing new habitat for waders and waterfowl as well as other species.

#### 5.4.5.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended. It is also recognised that further investigation once abstraction and recharge rates under schemes AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 and AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 are known will be required to confirm no impact on water quality and water balance.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 (2042) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the

programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study identified ten schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes six schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 (Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir and AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 proposes a small upgrade of the Saltwood Reservoir along with a new mains and pump station at the interconnection point. Given the scale of the schemes and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2061. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2051. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on four water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water, South East Water and SES Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2077; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further

investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Effingham Tertiaries Groundwater Body as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for SES Water, however hydrogeological conditions indicate that the options between the two water companies are unlikely to interact and the study identifies that no further assessment is required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

## 5.4.6 SEA of AD\_2

This run contains expected levels of demand management savings, and also will not allow any strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit) to be selected. This model run has an otherwise expected supply-side future. This would help to simulate what options would be required if Affinity Water were unable to progress with a strategic option. It should be noted that the model could not balance supply and demand with no strategic options selected under this scenario. As a result, Affinity Water allowed the selection of AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d) based on the findings of the SEA, WFD and HRA as it was not identified as having any significant negative effects during operation (apart from the carbon related SEA objective).

**Table 5.12: AD\_2 supply-side schemes**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2030	9
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2031	9
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2040	11
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2041	11
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)	2042	11
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2044	11
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2057	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2068	16
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2071	17
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2072	17
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	2074	17
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse	2075	18
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	2076	18
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2076	18
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	2077	18

### 5.4.6.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.13**.





**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14Ml/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 Ml/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 Ml/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)****AMP9 (2030-35)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme.

The first scheme scheduled for delivery in AMP9 is the **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option, which was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

The second supply-side to be delivered during AMP9 in 2031 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP11 under this programme. The first scheme scheduled to be delivered in 2040 is **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes**, which proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2041 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes**. This scheme seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the

Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 Ml/d at average and 1.00 Ml/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

The third supply scheme delivered under this programme during AMP11 in 2042 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 Ml/d)**. This scheme involves the transfer of 100Ml/d of raw water by a new main from Minworth Sewage Treatment Works (a Severn Trent asset) to a new Sundon Treatment Works. The scheme will require a new 130km long 800mm diameter main from Minworth STW to a new WTW at Sundon.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for major negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape, carbon footprint and road infrastructure primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. With regard to landscape, this scheme requires the construction of new water treatment works and approx 3.3km of new main within the Chilterns AONB. The assessment also identifies potential issues for biodiversity, the historic environment and local water quality during construction. These primarily arise as a result of the proximity of the new pipeline to waterbodies as well as designated biodiversity and heritage assets. It is considered that there are suitable mitigation measures available to ensure that residual negative effects are not significant. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed where possible to avoid designated biodiversity and heritage assets.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be significant negative effects against the majority of SEA objectives. Although it is noted that significant negative effects are identified in terms of the carbon footprint of the company.

The assessment recognises that the new WTW falls within the Chilterns AONB and recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation on the landscape and historic environment are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP11 in 2044 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP14 in 2057 is **AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement**. The scheme is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken

into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP16 in 2068 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2 MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP17 under this programme. The first of these is **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** to be delivered in 2071. The scheme involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 MI/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2074 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are

low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP17 in 2074 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)**, which is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

#### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP18 under this programme. The first to be delivered in 2075 is **AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse**. This scheme is for the provision of a new STW local to Stevenage in order to provide tertiary treated effluent that can be used to restore flows in the River Middle Beane, via Stevenage Brook.

The assessment found that the scheme is not likely to have any significant negative effects during construction. There is the potential for localised minor negative effects in the short-term as a result of the construction of the STW but this is unlikely to be significant once mitigation is taken into account.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against the SEA objective that relates to WFD status. The WFD assessment identified that the discharge of treated water into surface water channel could lead to increase in nutrients which could be mobilised to the hydraulically connected groundwater body. Conversely the assessment also identified potential benefits and moderate positive effects for WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows as the scheme would increase river flows in river Beane via discharge of treated effluent in Stevenage Brook. Chalk is unconfined at that location so there is a hydraulic connection and this would potentially increase recharge into the aquifer. WFD assessment states further information and investigation required to confirm the likelihood for negative and positive effects and inform the identification of mitigation measures if necessary.

The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2076 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2076 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**. This scheme is an import of 2.7 MI/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west

and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2077 is **AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir**. This is an augmentation scheme proposed to help offset the Runley Wood and Periwinkle Lane 10 Ml/d sustainability reductions (AMP7). The scheme involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint and the landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint as well as WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The WFD assessment found that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body. The WFD assessment recommends that the timing of the abstraction needs to be confirmed and that further investigation and assessment is required.

Conversely the assessment also notes that there is the potential for benefits/ positive effects. The WFD assessment found that there is also the potential for this scheme to have benefits for the Lee (from Luton to Luton Hoo Lakes) surface water body and the Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk Groundwater body as a result of increased treated discharge into the Upper Lee catchment. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates.

The assessment also identified the potential for moderate positive effects in the medium to long-term during operation once the new raw water reservoir is established. It has the potential to provide new opportunities for recreation as well as biodiversity net gain by providing new habitat for waders and waterfowl as well as other species.

#### 5.4.6.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimize the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 found that the schemes with the potential to cumulatively affect the South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA are not likely to have significant effects on the European designated sites as there are no identified impact pathways.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study of potential cumulative effects between water company WRMPs in South East England identified seven schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes five schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2066. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2057. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on two water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water and Southern Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2072; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The



study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

## 5.4.7 SEA of AD\_3

This run contains low levels of demand management savings, and also will not allow any strategic options (Options with +50MI/d benefit) to be selected. This would help to simulate what options would be required if Affinity Water were unable to progress with a strategic option. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.14: AD\_3 supply-side schemes**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2030	9
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2031	9
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2040	11
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2041	11
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)	2042	11
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2044	11
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2057	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2068	16
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2071	17
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2072	17
AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 : Egham ASR	2074	17
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	2074	17
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180 : Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse	2075	18
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	2076	18
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2076	18
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	2077	18
AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning	2079	18

### 5.4.7.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.15**.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14Ml/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 Ml/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 Ml/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)****AMP9 (2030-35)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme.

The first scheme scheduled for delivery in AMP9 is the **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option, which was identified as a potential once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

The second supply-side to be delivered during AMP9 in 2031 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

#### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP11 under this programme. The first scheme scheduled to be delivered in 2040 is **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes**, which proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2041 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes**. This scheme seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the

Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 Ml/d at average and 1.00 Ml/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

The third supply scheme delivered under this programme during AMP11 in 2042 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 Ml/d)**. This scheme involves the transfer of 100Ml/d of raw water by a new main from Minworth Sewage Treatment Works (a Severn Trent asset) to a new Sundon Treatment Works. The scheme will require a new 130km long 800mm diameter main from Minworth STW to a new WTW at Sundon.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for major negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape, carbon footprint and road infrastructure primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. With regard to landscape, this scheme requires the construction of new water treatment works and approx 3.3km of new main within the Chilterns AONB. The assessment also identifies potential issues for biodiversity, the historic environment and local water quality during construction. These primarily arise as a result of the proximity of the new pipeline to waterbodies as well as designated biodiversity and heritage assets. It is considered that there are suitable mitigation measures available to ensure that residual negative effects are not significant. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed where possible to avoid designated biodiversity and heritage assets.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be significant negative effects against the majority of SEA objectives. Although it is noted that significant negative effects are identified in terms of the carbon footprint of the company.

The assessment recognises that the new WTW falls within the Chilterns AONB and recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation on the landscape and historic environment are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP11 in 2044 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP14 in 2057 is **AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement**. The scheme is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken

into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP16 in 2068 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2 MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP17 under this programme. The first of these is **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** to be delivered in 2071. The scheme involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 MI/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2072 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are

low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The third scheme to be delivered during AMP17 in 2074 is **AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR**. This is a speculative scheme to inject winter excess water into the confined chalk or Lower Greensand (LGS) for use in the summer peak demand period. The source of water is likely to be treated surface water (e.g. from the existing Egham or Chertsey sources). Exploration boreholes (LGS and Chalk) and testing will be required, at which point the option is likely to evolve based on the new data (groundwater levels and water quality); for example, it is possible that based on the new information a conventional groundwater abstraction (average and peak benefit) may be possible, albeit with a suitable level of treatment.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The new pipeline passes in close proximity to a number of designated biodiversity and heritage assets but there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that there are no significant residual negative effects.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP17 in 2074 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)**, which is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Five supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP18 under this programme. The first to be delivered in 2075 is **AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse**. This scheme is for the provision of a new STW local to Stevenage in order to provide tertiary treated effluent that can be used to restore flows in the River Middle Beane, via Stevenage Brook.

The assessment found that the scheme is not likely to have any significant negative effects during construction. There is the potential for localised minor negative effects in the short-term as a result of the construction of the STW but this is unlikely to be significant once mitigation is taken into account.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against the SEA objective that relates to WFD status. The WFD assessment identified that the discharge of treated water into surface water channel could lead to increase in nutrients which could be mobilised to the hydraulically connected groundwater body. Conversely the assessment also identified potential benefits and moderate positive effects for WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows as the scheme would increase river flows in river Beane via discharge of treated effluent in Stevenage Brook. Chalk is unconfined at that location so there is a hydraulic connection and this would potentially increase recharge into the aquifer. WFD assessment states further information and investigation required to confirm the likelihood for negative and positive effects and inform the identification of mitigation measures if necessary.



The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2076 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2076 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**. This scheme is an import of 2.7 Ml/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 Ml/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The fourth supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2077 is **AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir**. This is an augmentation scheme proposed to help offset the Runley Wood and Periwinkle Lane 10 Ml/d sustainability reductions (AMP7). The scheme involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint and the landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint as well as WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The WFD assessment found that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body. The WFD assessment recommends that the timing of the abstraction needs to be confirmed and that further investigation and assessment is required.

Conversely the assessment also notes that there is the potential for benefits/ positive effects. The WFD assessment found that there is also the potential for this scheme to have benefits for the Lee (from Luton to Luton Hoo Lakes) surface water body and the Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk Groundwater body as a result of increased treated discharge into the Upper Lee catchment. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates.

The assessment also identified the potential for moderate positive effects in the medium to long-term during operation once the new raw water reservoir is established. It has the potential to provide new opportunities for recreation as well as biodiversity net gain by providing new habitat for waders and waterfowl as well as other species.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2079 is **AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005: Horsley source recommissioning**. The Horsley abstraction well was last pumped in 1997. There were water quality issues (coliforms and nitrates) that the available treatment (marginal chlorination) could not solve. This scheme is to investigate the groundwater source to confirm yields and to upgrade treatment as necessary; although the licence is for 0.69 Ml/d (average) and 1.14 Ml/d (peak) the most likely yield is believed to be 0.38 Ml/d at average and 0.62 Ml/d peak owing to an adit related constraint.

This is a small scale scheme with minimal new infrastructure; as a result the assessment found that there would not be any significant negative effects during construction or operation against any SEA objectives.

#### 5.4.7.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimize the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 found that the schemes with the potential to cumulatively affect the South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA are not likely to have significant effects on the European designated sites as there are no identified impact pathways.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study of potential cumulative effects between water company WRMPs in South East England identified eight schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes five schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern

Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2066. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2057. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on three water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water and SES Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2072; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Effingham Tertiaries Groundwater Body as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for SES Water, however hydrogeological conditions indicate that the options between the two water companies are unlikely to interact and the study identifies that no further assessment is required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

## 5.4.8 SEA of Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run

This run includes expected levels of demand management savings, but is challenging on the supply-side as it looks to simulate greater levels of Sustainability Reductions to determine potential solutions, and the yields of some schemes flagged by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19 have been halved to understand the impact this would have. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.16: Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run supply-side schemes**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2026	8
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2029	8
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clanton Source Optimisation	2034	9
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2035	9
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2035	10
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2041	11
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade	2050	13
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2051	13
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2056	14
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2059	14
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2063	15
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2065	16
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2077	18
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2077	18
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2078	18
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2079	18

### 5.4.8.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.17**.

Table 5.17: Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run summary SEA findings

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP	SEA Objectives and assessment questions																																				
			1			2			3			4		5			6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14						
			C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	C	O	
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2026	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS development	2030	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2029	8	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	2034	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2035	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2035	10	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	-1	-2	1	-2	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappingon South - Licence Variation	2041	11	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade	2050	13	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2051	13	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2056	14	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2059	14	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI/d)	2063	15	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	-1	-2	1	-2	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2065	16	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2077	18	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	-1	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2077	18	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	2078	18	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	-1	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2079	18	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **AMP7 (2020-25)**

Five supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP7 under this programme. The first four supply-side schemes to be delivered in AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14Ml/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 Ml/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 Ml/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

### **AMP8 (2025-30)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP8 under this programme. **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes** would be delivered first in 2026 and it proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

It should be noted that for the purposes of this programme the yield of this scheme was cut by 50% to help mitigate the risks flagged through the SEA and WFD assessment. It is likely that this would help to reduce the significance of the residual negative effects identified above during operation.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP8 in 2029 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 MI/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 MI/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

### **AMP9 (2030-35)**

Two schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme. The first to be delivered in 2034 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

The second and final scheme to be delivered during AMP9 in 2034 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North**. This scheme allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

### **AMP10 (2035-40)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP10 in 2035 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)**, a strategic scheme that involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.

- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

#### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP10 in 2035 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP13 (2050-55)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP13. The first to be delivered in 2050 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade**. The scheme proposes trading 4MI/d from an existing abstraction license from a third party. RWE's power station is capable of reducing the volume of consumptive water which it abstracts from the River Thames by managing the volume of electricity generation, i.e. leaving the consumptive evaporative water in the Thames. This enables an equivalent volume of water to be abstracted by a downstream user. In this case, the downstream user is Affinity Water at its existing Egham surface water treatment works. The RWE Didcot Abstraction Licence would remain unchanged. The scheme involves no new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The second to be delivered in 2051 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)**. This scheme proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2070, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include



a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to landscape during construction phase. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP13 under this programme. The first to be delivered in 2056 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

The second supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2059 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End**, which involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of Priority Habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the

pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the Priority Habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

### **AMP15 (2060-65)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP15 in 2063 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which is closely linked to **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** delivered in AMP11.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)** utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011**. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP16 in 2065 is **AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement**. The scheme is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Four suppli-side schemes are proposed during AMP18 under this programme. Two are proposed for delivery in 2077. **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape.

Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

The second scheme to be delivered in 2077 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**, which is an import of 2.7 Ml/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 Ml/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The third scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2078 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

It should be noted that for the purposes of this programme the yield of this scheme was cut by 50% to help mitigate the risks flagged through the SEA and WFD assessment. It is likely that this would help to reduce the significance of the residual negative effects identified above during operation.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2079 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes**. This scheme seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 Ml/d at average and 1.00 Ml/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

#### 5.4.8.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body, and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2063) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2035) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study identified eight schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes five schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2065. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2056. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on three water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water and South East Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need

for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2078; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

### 5.4.9 SEA of Optimistic Adaptive Run

This run is an adaptation of the **Aspirational Adaptive Run** which looks to bring the 50% reduction leakage target forward to 2044/45. The supply-side schemes proposed under this programme are set out in the table below along with their delivery dates.

**Table 5.18: Optimistic Adaptive Run supply-side schemes**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	2029	8
AFF-ESW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	2034	9
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005 : Arkley North	2046	11
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	2046	12
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2048	12
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	2049	12
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	2050	13
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2051	13
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	2062	15
AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	2064	15
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	2064	15
AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	2072	17
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	2072	17
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	2073	17
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2074	17

#### 5.4.9.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.19**.





**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14MI/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 MI/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 MI/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP8 (2025-30)**

The only scheme to be delivered in 2029 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 MI/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 MI/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

**AMP9 (2030-35)**

One supply-side scheme is proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme; the **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option, which was identified as a potential scheme once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the

EA. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

### **AMP11 (2040-45)**

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered under this programme is during AMP11 in 2046. **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North** allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

### **AMP12 (2045-50)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP12. The first of these to be delivered in 2046 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

The second scheme to be delivered in 2048 is **AFF-EGW-WR22-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation**. The scheme involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 MI/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

The final supply-side to be delivered during AMP12 in 2049 is **AFF-NGW-WR24-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes**, which proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WR24 (or WR22).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2044 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further.

### **AMP13 (2050-55)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP13. The first is **AFF-RTR-WR24-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)** to be delivered in 2050. This is a strategic scheme that involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WR24.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North

Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.

- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP13 in 2051 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP15 (2060-65)**

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP15. The first to be delivered in 2062 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which is closely linked to **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** delivered in AMP11.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)** utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011**. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

The second to be delivered in 2064 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End**, which involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative

effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of Priority Habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the Priority Habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

The third scheme to be delivered in AMP15 in 2064 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2 MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys.

The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

Four supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP17 under this programme. Two of these schemes are scheduled for delivery in 2072. **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**. This scheme is an import of 2.7 MI/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The other supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2072 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)**, which is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

The third supply-side scheme to be delivered during AMP17 in 2073 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)**. This scheme proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2065, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to landscape during construction phase. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP17 in 2074 is **AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement**. The scheme is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

#### 5.4.9.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body, and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to improve water levels and flow rates, improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2062) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2050) which will need to be taken into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study identified seven schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect. This includes five schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))

- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4MI/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2074. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2064. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on three water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water and South East Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) is identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The other schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.



### 5.4.10 SEA of Environmental Adaptive Run

This run is an adaptation of the **Expected Future Adaptive Run** and focuses on minimising environmental effects taking account of the findings of the SEA. Options which are identified in the SEA (see Section 4) as having the potential for a moderate (-2) or major negative (-3) effect during operation are not selected for this run.<sup>25</sup> This run includes expected levels of demand management savings.

**Table 5.20: Environmental Adaptive Run supply-side schemes**

Supply scheme	Delivery date	AMP
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	2020	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	2020	7
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	2021	7
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	2022	7
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	2022	7
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016 : Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)	2034	9
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	2048	12
AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412 : Hillingdon Hospital boreholes	2058	14
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	2058	14
AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	2069	16
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d	2072	17
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	2076	18
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	2076	18

#### 5.4.10.1 Assessment findings

A summary of the key findings for the supply-side schemes under this programme is provided below in **Table 5.21**.

<sup>25</sup> In line with extant SEA guidance for WRMPs, schemes identified as having a moderate (-2) or major (-3) major negative effect during operation against SEA Objective 8 (Carbon Footprint) were not excluded as part of this run to avoid double counting. Carbon impacts and costs are already monetised through the programme appraisal stage.



**AMP7 (2020-25)**

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** propose the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14MI/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 MI/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 MI/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would be a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

**AMP9 (2030-35)**

The only supply-side scheme delivered under this programme during AMP9 in 2034 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d)**. This scheme involves the transfer of 100MI/d of raw water by a new main from Minworth Sewage Treatment Works (a Severn Trent asset) to a new Sundon Treatment Works. The scheme will require a new 130km long 800mm diameter main from Minworth STW to a new WTW at Sundon.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for major negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape, carbon footprint and road infrastructure primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. With regard to landscape, this scheme requires the construction of new water treatment works and approx 3.3km of new main within the Chilterns AONB. The assessment also identifies potential issues for biodiversity, the historic environment and local water quality during construction. These primarily arise as a result of the proximity of the new pipeline to waterbodies as well as designated biodiversity and heritage assets. It is considered that there are suitable mitigation measures available to ensure that residual negative effects are not significant. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed where possible to avoid designated biodiversity and heritage assets.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be significant negative effects against the majority of SEA objectives. Although it is noted that significant negative effects are identified in terms of the carbon footprint of the company.

The assessment recognises that the new WTW falls within the Chilterns AONB and recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation on the landscape and historic environment are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

#### **AMP12 (2045-50)**

Only one supply-side scheme is proposed for delivery during AMP11 under this programme. **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation** is scheduled for delivery in 2048. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

#### **AMP14 (2055-60)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery in 2058 under this programme in AMP14. **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 MI/d at average and 1.00 MI/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement** is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

#### **AMP16 (2065-70)**

Only one supply-side scheme is proposed for delivery during AMP16 under this programme. **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** to be delivered in 2050. The scheme involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 MI/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

#### **AMP17 (2070-75)**

One supply-side scheme is proposed for delivery during AMP17. **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842: Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI** is scheduled for delivery in 2076. This scheme is an import of water from South East Water to WRZ7 via an interconnection point at Aldington for transfer to Saltwood Reservoir. This scheme requires a 3MI capacity upgrade of Saltwood Reservoir, a new 12.2 km 200 mm Diameter Main from the interconnection point to Saltwood Reservoir and a new pump station at the interconnection point (3 x 22 kW Booster Pumps).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. Moderate negative effects identified during construction for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, the landscape, historic environment and agricultural land. In terms of the landscape, approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB. The new pump house falls just outside the AONB and the expansion of the Saltwood service reservoir would fall within the AONB, as a result the potential for negative effects during construction is predicted to be moderate. The new pipeline passes within 5m of a Scheduled Monument and within 20m of a Listed Building. There is therefore potential for a moderate negative effect during the construction phase due to the proximity of the designated heritage assets.

The assessment recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, and walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. The new pump house building should also be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape/ historic environment and screening used where appropriate. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects once mitigation is taken into account. Key issues during operation relate to medium to long-term effects on the landscape and historic environment (mitigation referred to above) as well as potential issues in relation to water quality through the creation of new preferential pathways into the aquifer due to below ground workings and construction of mains. The WFD assessment concluded that best practice design, construction and operation should ensure that impacts are minor, localised and temporary.

#### **AMP18 (2075-80)**

Two supply-side schemes are proposed under this programme during AMP18 in 2076. The first is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)**, which is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

The final supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

#### 5.4.10.2 Cumulative effects

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic relating to landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB and Surrey Hills AONB.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The WRSE (updated 2018) study of potential cumulative effects between water company WRMPs in South East England identified five schemes proposed under this programme that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

All of the schemes are located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) and are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 (Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)

Three of the schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909, AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629) involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 proposes minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 proposes a small upgrade of the Saltwood Reservoir along with a new mains and pump station at the interconnection point. Given the scale of the scheme and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

Also, the schemes proposed within this programme and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

### 5.4.11 Assessment conclusions for reasonable alternative programmes

An assessment of each of the reasonable alternative programmes has been carried out to the same level of detail against the SEA objectives. The programmes are all based on different model conditions, which include varying levels of demand management savings (optimistic, expected and lower) as well as the number of supply-side schemes available for selection. As a result, there are differences between the programmes in terms of the overall number of supply-side schemes selected as well as differences between the individual schemes selected.

The programmes that are based on expected or lower demand management savings, higher levels of predicted demand or where strategic supply-side schemes (with +50Ml/d benefit) are removed from consideration tend to result in a greater number of supply-side schemes being selected for delivery. This includes the Expected Future (28 supply-side schemes), High Growth Future (28 supply-side schemes), AD\_2 (20 supply-side schemes), AD\_3 (23 supply-side schemes) and Supply-side Challenging (23 supply-side schemes). The Environmental Adaptive Run includes the fewest supply-side schemes at 13 as a number of schemes could not be selected based on the criteria adopted for this run (i.e. excluding options with the potential for a moderate or major adverse effect during operation as identified by the SEA).

All of the programmes propose the delivery of the same five supply-side schemes in the first five years of the plan period in AMP7 and with the same delivery date:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020 (Delivery in 2020)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20) (Delivery in 2020)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation (Delivery in 2021)
- AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver (Delivery in 2022)
- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal (Delivery in 2022)

All these schemes propose minimal new infrastructure and as a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The assessment identified potential issues and uncertainties in relation to AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir. During operation the scheme proposes the release of water from the Brent Reservoir, which is also a SSSI. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. All of the programmes except the Environmental Adaptive Run include the delivery of AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir. The earliest delivery is proposed through AD\_2 and AD\_3 in AMP9 with the Expected Future and High Growth Future proposing delivery in AMP10. The Supply-side Challenging Future proposes the latest delivery in AMP18. The Environmental Adaptive Future does not include the scheme. Given that the earliest this scheme is proposed for delivery is AMP9, it is considered that there is sufficient time to investigate this issue referred to above further.

Five programmes (Expected Future, High Growth Future, AD\_2, AD\_3 and Supply-side Challenging) include the delivery of AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir, which is also identified through the assessment as having the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment also identifies the potential for moderate positive effects during operation as once established the raw water reservoir will provide new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain. The four programmes all propose the delivery of this scheme late in the planning horizon in either AMP17 or 18, as a result it is considered that there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further and identify more detailed mitigation measures if necessary.

It is important to note that the Environmental Adaptive Run does not include any of the schemes identified above as potentially having issues relating to WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. Furthermore, the Supply-side Challenging Future Adaptive Run cut the yield of these schemes by 50% to help mitigate the risks flagged through assessment as well as help to explore potential alternatives. It is likely that reducing their yield would help to reduce the significance of/ potential risk of residual negative effects identified during operation but this is uncertain at this stage.



The assessment also identifies potential issues during operation in terms of WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows for AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse and AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir. The assessment also found that there are potential benefits associated with the delivery of a new raw water reservoir in relation to recreation and biodiversity net gain. Three programmes (High Growth Future, AD\_2 and AD\_3) include both these schemes either because of a higher predicted population growth or by restricting the selection of any strategic supply-side schemes. They are both proposed for delivery at the end of the planning horizon in AMP18. The Expected Future programme only includes the delivery of AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse in AMP18.

The model parameters associated with programmes AD\_2, AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run mean that they generally do not include any strategic supply-side schemes. The only exception to this is the inclusion of AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4016: Minworth Strategic Transfer (100 MI/d) within programmes AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run. The Minworth scheme is not identified through the SEA as being likely to have significant negative effects during operation<sup>26</sup> and no significant issues are highlighted through the HRA or WFD assessment.

AD\_2, AD\_3 and the Environmental Adaptive Run do not include any schemes related to the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir. Five of the programmes include two schemes that are linked to the delivery of the SESR. AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) is proposed for delivery first under all the programmes and is then followed by AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) at a later date. The Supply-side Challenging programme proposes the earliest delivery of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) in AMP10 followed by the Expected Future in AMP11. AD\_1, Optimistic Future and Aspirational Future propose delivery in AMP 12, 13 and 14 respectively. The assessment has highlighted for a number of significant negative as well as positive effects as a result of these schemes. The High Growth Future only includes the delivery of one 100 MI/d scheme related to the SESR rather than two 50 MI/d. It proposes the delivery of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d) in AMP11.

Given the higher levels of predicted population growth underpinning the High Growth Future it also includes the delivery of an additional strategic scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014: South Lincs Res (100MI/d) in AMP15 in order to help meet the increased demands. The assessment identified the potential for significant negative effects during construction as a result of the scale of infrastructure and proximity of sensitive receptors. It also identified the potential for a significant negative effect in terms of biodiversity during operation.

All of the programmes propose a variety of demand management measures throughout the planning horizon and the assessment found that these will generally perform positively or have a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives. Some of the leakage options would require construction works to repair or replace pipes and this could have local, temporary and short term minor negative effects; however, these are not likely to be significant.

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<sup>26</sup> Except relating to SEA Objective 8 which deals with carbon.

## 5.5 Outline reasons for the selection and rejection of reasonable alternative programmes

### 5.5.1 Outline reasons for the selection of the preferred programme and adaptive futures

As described in Section 5.2, Affinity Water has progressed with an adaptive modelling approach to help inform decision-making on the preferred programme and manage future uncertainties given the long planning horizon of the WRMP. This includes recognition of points in time whereby they would have to make a decision based on the realisation of benefits from demand-side and leakage measures. This decision-making point could take them down one of a number of adaptive futures.

At this stage, taking account of a wide range of factors, including the findings of the SEA (and associated HRA and WFD assessment), the Expected Future is selected by Affinity Water as the preferred programme and is based on expected demand management savings and leakage targets. It contains a suitable range of supply-side schemes throughout the planning horizon to minimise risk and enhance the resilience of the plan.

While it is recognised that the SEA and associated WFD assessment have highlighted a number of potential issues for schemes that are proposed under this programme, it is considered that there is sufficient time before they are implemented to allow for further investigation, assessment and consultation to be carried out in relation to the identified issues. This will establish the likelihood and significance of impacts as well as any detailed mitigation measures that are necessary. All but one of the schemes flagged by WFD are to be delivered in AMP8 or later. The one scheme that has been flagged through this assessment which is scheduled for AMP7 delivery is in the last year of the AMP, and has been recognised by the PR19 business planning process as a key area for investigation. We have already undergone works to investigate and study this particular area and have ongoing discussions with the local EA teams on this topic. To ensure we have all future eventualities covered however, our Supply-Side Challenging Future simulates what would happen if the volumes from this scheme were not able to be materialised as part of an adaptive future.

Alongside the Expected Future the following reasonable alternatives have also been progressed as possible adaptive futures under the fWRMP19:

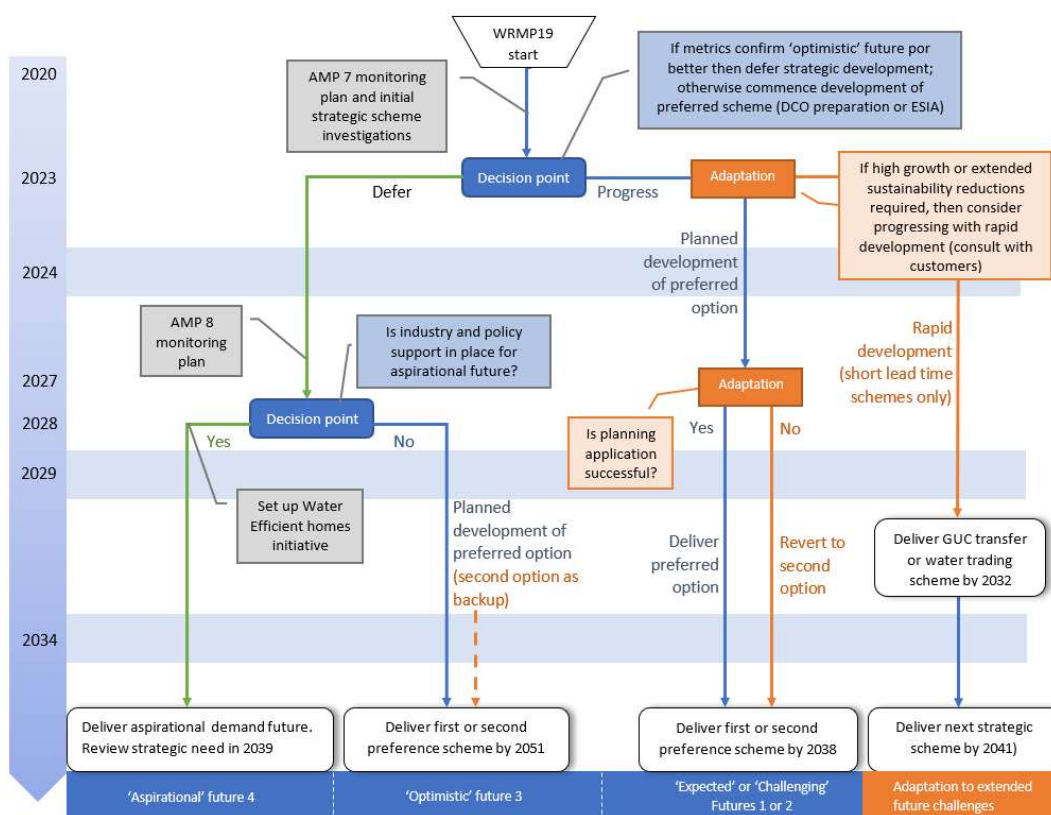
- Aspirational Future;
- High Growth Future;
- Supply-side Challenging Future; and
- Optimistic Future.

As noted above, given the adaptive planning approach there are points in the future (**Figure 5.3**) where a decision will be made, based on the evidence available, to determine if it would be more appropriate to progress down the Supply-side Challenging Future, High Growth Future, Optimistic Future or Aspirational Future programmes. Affinity Water's adaptive approach will dictate which of these programmes is progressed as a result of meeting the leakage and/ or demand-side targets set (or conversely not meeting these targets). The four adaptive programmes to our Expected Future are necessary to highlight the different pathways our future could materialise depending upon the realisation of demand management benefits and leakage reduction. They show that if the benefits of these measures are not realised, we will need to bring forward the delivery of specific supply-side schemes to compensate in order to maintain supply to our customers. Conversely, they also show the effect on the same supply-side schemes should we achieve optimistic levels of demand management savings and leakage reduction, which results in these schemes being pushed further into the future.

**Figure 5.3** shows each of these four adaptive futures in relation to a WRMP19 start point. For the majority of AMP7, the plan will continue along one pathway until 2023 whereby Affinity Water will meet a decision point. For the previous years, the demand management and leakage results will have been tracked so once Affinity Water meet this decision point it can then be determined if these demand-side measures are on track or not in delivering demand savings. If the proposed demand management and leakage schemes deliver their expected benefits (central/ expected estimate) as

opposed to the more optimistic forecast benefits, Affinity Water will progress down the Expected Future which involves developing a strategic source for delivery in 2041. This is represented by the right hand 'flow' direction from the first decision point in **Figure 5.3**.

**Figure 5.3: Flow diagram illustrating adaptive futures**



Under the Adaptive Planning process, there is the ability to switch between strategic sources depending upon the success of the DCO application. There is also an ability to bring forward the construction of either strategic source option on the grounds of Supply-side Challenging, or High Growth Futures. These Challenging Futures take consideration of possibilities such as demand management options not performing at their expected levels, higher levels of population growth and/or reduced yield of supply options as flagged by the WFD assessment. All schemes flagged by WFD as potentially having adverse impacts on status and where further investigation is required had their yields cut by 50% under the Supply-side Challenging Future to mitigate the flagged risks and highlight which alternative schemes would be implemented earlier and/ or introduced.

If, at the AMP7 decision point, Affinity Water finds they are on track with demand management or leakage targets, they can defer the construction of a strategic option and continue to monitor through AMP8. Another decision point would then be reached in 2027. If at this point Affinity Water finds the more ambitious, long term targets are not likely to be met, they have the ability to then construct a strategic option albeit a bit later than the expected and challenging futures.

Alternatively, if Affinity Water finds the demand management and leakage targets are being met at the 2027 decision point, they can continue down the Aspirational Future pathway with the view to reviewing the need for a strategic option in 2039.

## 5.5.2 Outline reasons for rejecting the remaining reasonable alternative programmes

The Environmental Adaptive Run, AD\_1, AD\_2 and AD\_3 alternative programmes have all been rejected for the reasons set out below.

The Environmental Adaptive Run is a viable alternative programme which will not select options that the SEA has flagged as being potentially negative without mitigation. This is a reasonable alternative programme; however, on the grounds that there are not enough options under the conditions of this model run, additional levels of leakage reduction are selected to infill the gap left by the supply-side options excluded. This generates a programme with quite a high level of risk and dependency on meeting leakage reduction targets and does not consider that further investigation and more detailed mitigation at the detailed design stage could remove or further reduce the significance of negative effects identified through the SEA. By doing this, we generate a programme with a high level of risk associated with meeting extremely ambitious levels of leakage reduction. We do not deem this to be an acceptable level of risk and have such removed this from our process.

Similarly, AD\_2 and AD\_3 meet the plan objectives. The intention of these modelling runs was to understand what a programme of options would look like, should a strategic source option not be available. We recognise through our fWRMP19 modelling that forecasted growth in the fWRMP19 is so significant that Affinity Water consistently need between 100MI/d and 150MI/d of strategic imports into their supply region. Therefore, options which satisfy this need have a great deal of weight, so by undertaking AD\_2 and AD\_3 Affinity Water can understand the implications of not having one of these schemes available.

AD\_2 and AD\_3 were removed from the process because they were overly pessimistic. Our Challenging Future runs cover the eventualities of investigations flagging potential reasons to not progress with a particular strategic source, or events like DCO applications being unsuccessful, by allowing for an alternative strategic option to be selected rather than simply not selecting any strategic options. These runs were still useful to allow us to understand the weight of these options on our future ability to provide supply.

AD\_1 was rejected because it was superseded by our Optimistic Future. Both runs had optimistic demand management futures involved; however, the long term targets (i.e. leakage reduced by 50% in 2044/45) exist in the Optimistic Future but not in AD\_1. This was not a secondary or primary objective, so we were not able to rule AD\_1 out of the process, but the run was not required further on the basis that the Optimistic Future does what AD\_1 does, and goes further in line with long term targets raised by stakeholders as desirable.

## 6. Summary findings for the final WRMP19

### 6.1 Introduction

This Chapter sets out key findings for the preferred programme (Expected Future) set out in the fWRMP19 as well as any additional schemes that have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under one of the adaptive futures (Supply-side Challenging, High Growth, Optimistic and Aspirational Futures).

### 6.2 The final WRMP19 (Expected Future)

The proposed schemes in the fWRMP19 (Expected Future) under Dry Year Annual Average (DYAA) and Dry Year Critical Period (DCYP) are set out below in **Table 6.1**, organised according to WRZ. The supply and demand management schemes are expected to deliver enough additional water to meet predicted demand until 2079/80. **Figures 6.1 and 6.2** show the location and spatial extent of supply-side options proposed under fWRMP19 (Expected Future DYCP), which includes all those supply-side options under the DYAA.

**Table 6.1: Expected future programme**

DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
<b>WRZ1</b>			
<b>Supply</b>			
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	AMP13 2054	AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	AMP16 2066
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)	AMP16 2066	AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	AMP13 2054
<b>Demand</b>			
AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ1-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WRZ1-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ1-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ1-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ1-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WRZ1-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ1-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WRZ1-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2026	AFF-MET-WRZ1-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2026
AFF-WEF-WRZ1-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2033	AFF-WEF-WRZ1-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2033
AFF-LEA-WRZ1-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP16 2065	AFF-LEA-WRZ1-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP16 2065

DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
<b>WR22</b>			
<b>Supply</b>			
		AFF-EGW-WR22-0090 : Stonecross Source Optimisation	AMP15 2061
<b>Demand</b>			
AFF-MET-WR22-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WR22-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR22-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WR22-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR22-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2021	AFF-WEF-WR22-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-LEA-WR22-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2021	AFF-LEA-WR22-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WR22-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2021	AFF-MET-WR22-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR22-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2021	AFF-WEF-WR22-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2021
AFF-WEF-WR22-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2021	AFF-WEF-WR22-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2021
AFF-MET-WR22-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2026	AFF-MET-WR22-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2026
AFF-WEF-WR22-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2031	AFF-WEF-WR22-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2031
<b>WR33</b>			
<b>Supply</b>			
AFF-CTR-WR33-4005 : Arkley North	AMP9 2034	AFF-CTR-WR33-4005 : Arkley North	AMP9 2035
AFF-CTR-WR33-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	AMP15 2064	AFF-CTR-WR33-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End	AMP14 2059
<b>Demand</b>			
AFF-WEF-WR33-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WR33-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR33-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WR33-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR33-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WR33-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WR33-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WR33-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WR33-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WR33-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020
AFF-LEA-WR33-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2020	AFF-LEA-WR33-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WR33-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WR33-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020

DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
AFF-WEF-WRZ3-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2022	AFF-WEF-WRZ3-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2022
AFF-MET-WRZ3-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2025	AFF-MET-WRZ3-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2025
AFF-REU-WRZ3-620 : Large user - rainwater harvesting (Luton Airport)	AMP8 2028	AFF-REU-WRZ3-620 : Large user - surface water reuse (Luton Airport)	AMP8 2028

#### WRZ4

##### Supply

AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	AMP7 2022	AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 : Egham to Iver	AMP7 2022
AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	AMP8 2029	AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8	AMP8 2029
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	AMP10 2037	AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir	AMP10 2037
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	AMP8 2026	AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	AMP8 2026
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	AMP11 2042	AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)	AMP11 2042
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	AMP9 2033	AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development	AMP9 2033

##### Demand

AFF-MET-WRZ4-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ4-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WRZ4-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ4-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ4-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ4-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2023	AFF-WEF-WRZ4-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2023
AFF-LEA-WRZ4-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP8 2028	AFF-LEA-WRZ4-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP8 2028
AFF-MET-WRZ4-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2029	AFF-MET-WRZ4-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2029
AFF-WEF-WRZ4-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2032	AFF-WEF-WRZ4-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP9 2032

#### WRZ5

##### Supply

DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	AMP18 2077	AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	AMP18 2077
<b>Demand</b>			
AFF-MET-WRZ5-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ5-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ5-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ5-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP7 2020
AFF-MET-WRZ5-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ5-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2020
AFF-LEA-WRZ5-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2020	AFF-LEA-WRZ5-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ5-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ5-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2024	AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP7 2024
AFF-MET-WRZ5-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2025	AFF-MET-WRZ5-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP8 2025
AFF-REU-WRZ5-606 : Large user - rainwater harvesting (Stansted Airport)	AMP8 2028	AFF-REU-WRZ5-606 : Large user - rainwater harvesting (Stansted Airport)	AMP8 2028
AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP15 2061	AFF-WEF-WRZ5-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP15 2061
<b>WRZ6</b>			
<b>Supply</b>			
AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 Ml/d Trade	AMP10 2036	AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 Ml/d Trade	AMP10 2036
		AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752 : Ladymead Optimisation	AMP16 2065
		AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 : Egham ASR	AMP18 2076
AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	AMP18 2078	AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173 : Clandon Source Optimisation	AMP18 2078
AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning	AMP18 2078	AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 : Horsley source recommissioning	AMP18 2078
<b>Demand</b>			
AFF-MET-WRZ6-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ6-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ6-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ6-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2021	AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2021



DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
AFF-MET-WRZ6-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2022	AFF-MET-WRZ6-1010 : Street level PHC	AMP7 2022
AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2025	AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2025
AFF-MET-WRZ6-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP9 2031	AFF-MET-WRZ6-0904 : Compulsory Metering fixed network	AMP9 2031
AFF-WEF-WRZ6-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP17 2074	AFF-WEF-WRZ6-1000 : Water Audits Retail - non process	AMP17 2074
AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP18 2075	AFF-WEF-WRZ6-0901 : Comprehensive household water audit and retrofit	AMP18 2075
AFF-LEA-WRZ6-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP18 2078	AFF-LEA-WRZ6-0423 : Option 423 New PRVs	AMP18 2078

WRZ7			
Supply			
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	AMP7 2020	AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639 : Deal Continuation After 2020	AMP7 2020
		AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 : Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)	AMP7 2020
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	AMP7 2021	AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 : Lye Oak Licence Variation	AMP7 2021
AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	AMP7 2022	AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900 : Dover Constraint Removal	AMP7 2022
AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	AMP10 2036	AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 : Tappington South - Licence Variation	AMP10 2036
		AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 : Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d	AMP13 2051
		AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 : Broome Network Improvement	AMP13 2061
		AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d	AMP18 2075
Demand			
AFF-MET-WRZ7-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ7-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ7-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ7-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ7-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ7-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ7-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2026	AFF-WEF-WRZ7-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2026

WRZ8			
Demand			

DYAA		DCYP	
Scheme	Delivery year	Scheme	Delivery year
AFF-MET-WRZ8-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020	AFF-MET-WRZ8-0531 : Metering of Leftover Commercials	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ8-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ8-0569 : Housing Associations - targeted programme	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ8-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020	AFF-WEF-WRZ8-1050 : Concerted action on Water efficiency	AMP7 2020
AFF-WEF-WRZ8-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2027	AFF-WEF-WRZ8-0567 : Community Water Efficiency Scheme	AMP8 2027

**Figure 6.1: revised draft WRMP19 supply schemes (Central Region)**

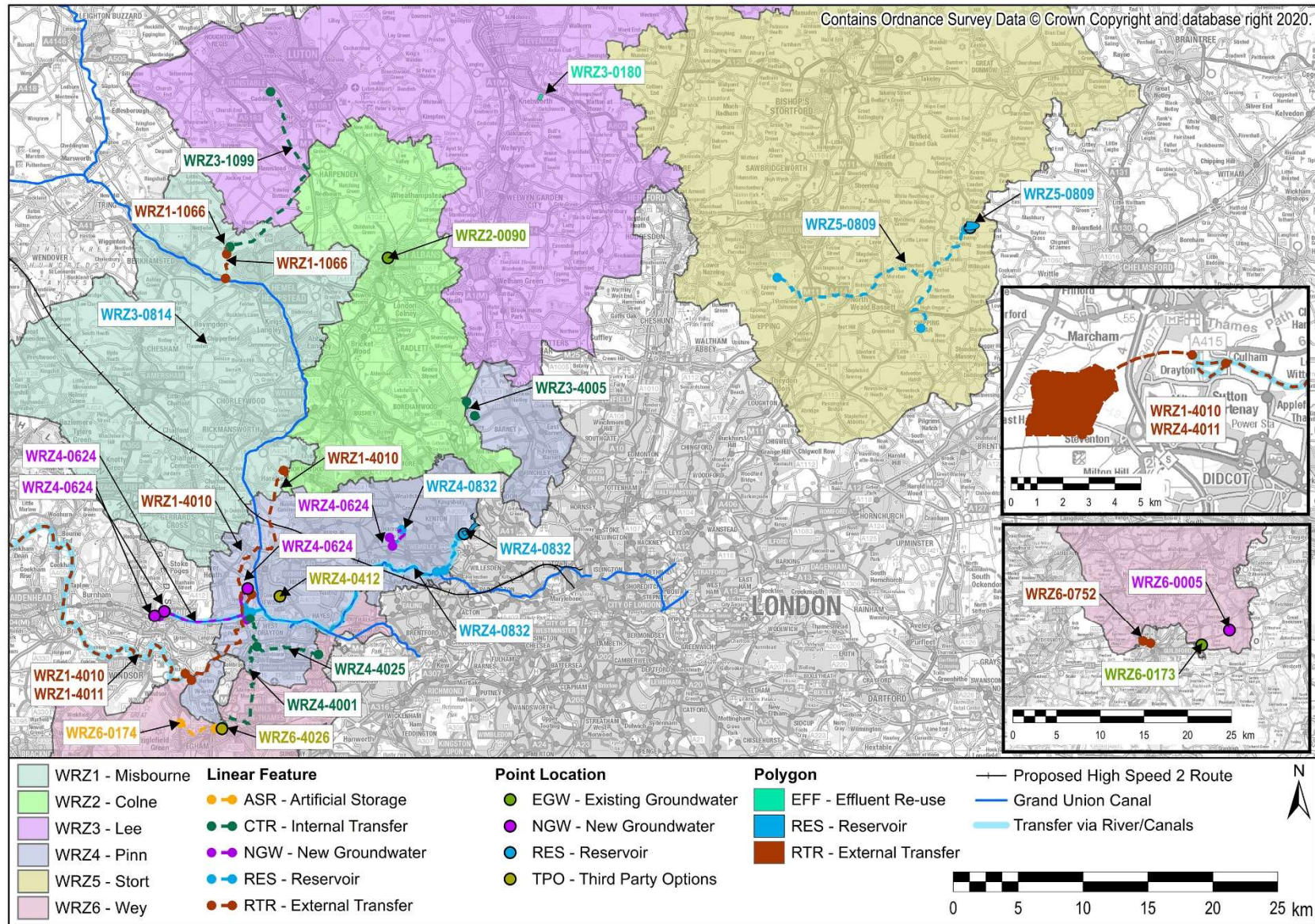
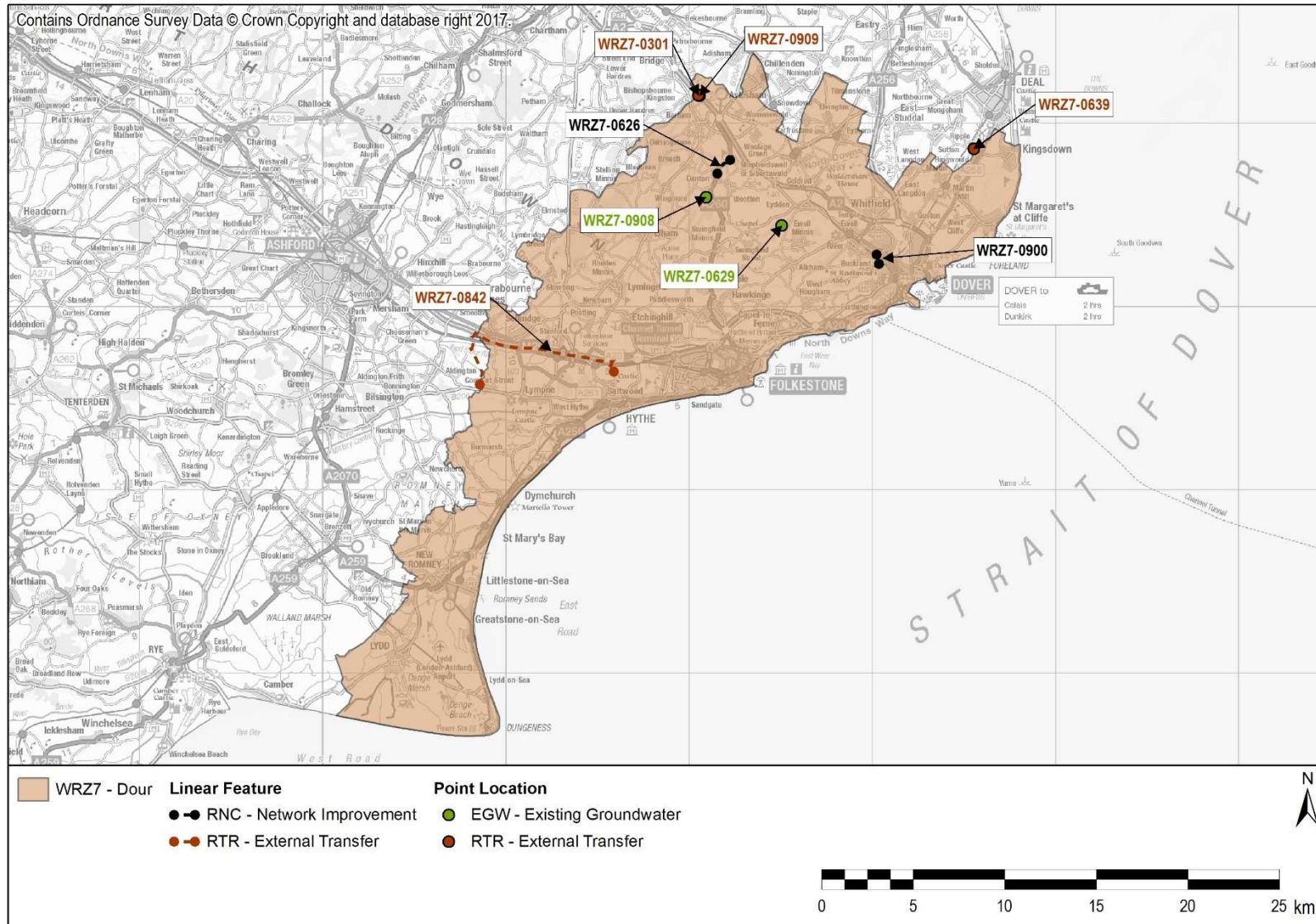


Figure 6.2: revised draft WRMP19 supply schemes (Southeast Region)



## 6.2.1 Adaptive futures

As explained in Chapter 5 of this report, Affinity Water has progressed with an adaptive modelling approach to help inform decision-making on the preferred programme and manage future uncertainties given the long planning horizon of the WRMP. This includes recognition of points in time whereby they would have to make a decision based on the realisation of benefits from demand-side and leakage measures. This decision-making point could take them down one of a number of adaptive futures (Supply-side Challenging, High Growth, Optimistic or Aspirational Futures).

It is important to note that in terms of strategic options all of the adaptive futures include the delivery of the SESR. The Expected, Aspirational, Optimistic and Challenging Future all propose the delivery of two 50 MI/d schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011), whereas the High Growth Future proposes the delivery of one 100 ml/d scheme (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4012) that relies on the delivery of the SESR. Affinity Water's preferred alternative if the SESR (schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010, AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 or AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012) were to not come forward is a strategic version of the Grand Union Canal (GUC) transfer (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066) that is currently proposed under all the adaptive futures apart from the Aspirational Future. A strategic version of the GUC transfer (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020) would deliver 100 MI/d instead of 50 MI/d.

The High Growth Future includes the delivery of an additional strategic scheme in order to meet increased levels of demand as a result of high growth driven by the GLA. The South Lincolnshire Reservoir (AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014) would involve a transfer of 100MI/d of raw water by a new main from a reservoir to be built by Anglian Water in South Lincolnshire (Grafham) to a new treatment works at Sundon.

The majority of the non-strategic supply-side schemes are common between the adaptive futures with the only differences being delivery dates. The differences between the adaptive futures in terms of the supply-side schemes proposed and delivery dates can be seen in Table 5.3 in Chapter 5. It is important to note that there are some additional supply-side schemes that have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under one of the adaptive futures. The Aspirational and Optimistic Futures contain AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site), which is not proposed in the Expected, Supply-side Challenging or High Growth Futures.

Given the increased demand under the High Growth Future it also includes the delivery of a scheme (AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814) that involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

Taking the above into account, the following schemes have therefore also been included for consideration within this Chapter as they have a reasonable prospect of coming forward under one of the adaptive futures:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012: Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead).
- AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014: South Lincs Res (100MI/d)
- AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)
- AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir

## 6.1 HRA findings

The HRA of the fWRMP19 found that following a test of Likely Significant Effects with the exception of two Options (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)), it can be concluded that no Likely Significant Effects will result either alone or in combination with other options, projects or plans as a result of the construction or operation of the options included in the fWRMP. Options AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) were subject to Appropriate Assessment both alone and in combination.

Following Appropriate Assessment 'alone' which investigated impacts on the South West London Waterbodies SPA/ Ramsar site, recommendations were made for the inclusion of protective mitigation

measures within the Plan to ensure that at the project level, no adverse effects on the integrity of this SPA/ Ramsar will result. These mitigation measures are as follows:

- It is recommended that the inclusion of these options within the WRMP are accompanied by an explicit commitment that the programming and construction processes for this scheme take into account the proximity of the SPA and Ramsar site. The WRMP should stipulate that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA will be programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely where possible. If this is not possible then a planning application a scheme-specific impact assessment including noise modelling will be undertaken and agreed with Natural England, to demonstrate that maximum noise levels will not exceed 70 dBA<sub>(LAmax)</sub> at the SPA boundary during the October to March period. If necessary to achieve noise levels below 70dBA<sub>(LAmax)</sub> mitigation will be implemented. British Standard BS5228 is tailored to human receptors rather than wildlife; therefore its assessment thresholds are not appropriate to use in this case. However, it is also an excellent source of noise mitigation measures which sets out tried and tested standard mitigation measures applicable in all situations. They include: using quieter techniques, use of cowling or damping to contain/limit noise and use of close-board fencing (if required). The detailed assessment at the project level will also consider which components of the construction programme (if any) do not have any adverse effects so that these can be programmed for delivery (where feasible) during October to March.
- As a precaution, it is recommended that the inclusion of this option within the WRMP is accompanied by an explicit commitment to carefully design the pipeline, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations as necessary, to ensure that there is no requirement for dewatering of the excavation, or that any dewatering that is required is returned immediately to ground. These measures would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that groundwater continuity to the gravel pits would not be disrupted and groundwater quality would be protected.

Affinity Water should work closely with Natural England and the SAC/ Ramsar site managers to agree the specific mitigation measures to be included in the project-specific HRA of both schemes to support applications for planning permission and environmental permits. The agreed mitigation measures will be expected to form part of planning conditions and/or conditions of relevant environmental permits, and their implementation managed through contractual obligations with supervision from an Environmental Clerk of Works appointed by Affinity Water.

The HRA concluded that if these recommendations are included in the fWRMP19 then there will be adequate mechanisms in place to ensure that adverse effects on site integrity will be avoided for these two Options (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)) either alone or in combination with each other. Moreover, there are five alternative supply options that are not included in the fWRMP19 but are included in Affinity Water's alternative "futures" under the adaptive planning approach (runs 7, 9, 12 & 13) and which could come forward to make up for any supply shortfall in the unlikely event that the mitigation for these two options could not be avoided and thus the options could not be delivered. All five of these alternative options have been assessed and found not to pose likely significant effects. There is therefore a high degree of confidence that the fWRMP19 could be delivered without an adverse effect on the integrity of South West London Waterbodies SPA or Ramsar site.

In-combination effects were also considered in relation to the Local Plan of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and other relevant WRMP options, projects and plans. Aside from the two Affinity Water options acting in combination with each other, there are also three options included in the Thames Water Revised Draft WRMP that could potentially lead to adverse in combination effects. The appropriate assessment has concluded that there would be no in combination adverse effects arising from the construction or operation of these five options on the integrity of any European site, subject to the application of mitigation measures in relation to the South West London Waterbodies SPA and Ramsar site only.

No other WRMP options, projects or plans were identified that could lead to any adverse in combination effects with the two Affinity Water options on the integrity of any European site.

The HRA therefore concludes that Affinity Water's options AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 will have no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site during construction or operation.

## 6.2 WFD assessment findings

The WFD assessment for the fWRMP19 identified six schemes that have the potential for a risk of deterioration in status or potential, under Article 4.7 of the WFD. Six schemes were identified that may provide a potential improvement to status/ potential or may allow good status/ potential to be achieved. The options are identified in the table below.

**Table 6.2: WFD assessment findings for fWRMP19**

fWRMP19 scheme	Potential adverse impact	Potential benefit
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW	Yes	Yes
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir	Yes	Yes
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir	Yes	
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	Yes	Yes
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	Yes	Yes
AFF- NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal and River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	Yes	
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)		Yes
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		Yes

The potential risks of deterioration in status or potential are expected to be mitigated by appropriate design and management of the options. For example, measures can be taken to minimise the risk of invasive species for surface water schemes at the point of abstraction and transfer; groundwater abstraction options could be operated at lower abstraction rates dependent on hydrogeological investigations to identify a sustainable yield; and specific abstraction licensing conditions to protect WFD water bodies will be developed in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Affinity Water's proposed strategy is to manage the identified WFD compliance risks through a robust adaptive approach that includes, if necessary, reducing abstraction from schemes, or not developing them at all. Should this prove necessary following completion of the further WFD investigations, any remaining supply deficit will be addressed by bringing forward implementation of strategic solutions that have been demonstrated to have no WFD compliance risks. Application of this adaptive strategy would be discussed in detail with the Environment Agency, but the fWRMP19 demonstrates that there are viable alternatives available that can be implemented in time to address the supply deficit and with no WFD compliance risks.

## 6.3 SEA findings

### 6.3.1 Assessment of the fWRMP schemes

A summary of the key findings for the supply and demand schemes proposed in the fWRMP19 (Expected Future) is provided below in **Table 6.3**. A narrative summary of the assessment findings for the demand management schemes is then provided next and followed by a summary narrative for the supply-side schemes and this is structured according to the Asset Management Period (AMP).





### 6.3.1.1 Demand management schemes

As illustrated in **Table 6.3** above there are no significant negative effects identified as a result of the proposed demand management schemes. Significant (moderate) positive effect for the metering options against assessment question 8a (Reduce/increase predicted carbon footprint?) through a medium term carbon saving associated with the reduced water requirement.

Some of the leakage options would require construction works to repair or replace pipes and this could have a short term minor negative effect on assessment questions relating to water supply (1a) and transport infrastructure (3a), as there could be temporary disruption of supply and disturbance through increased traffic on the road network during construction.

### 6.3.1.2 AMP7 (2020-25)

The five supply-side schemes to be delivered within the first five years (2020-25) of the plan period during AMP7 all propose minimal new infrastructure. As a result, they are not identified as having the potential for a significant negative effect either during construction or operation through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0639: Deal Continuation After 2020** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909: Barham Continuation (After 2019/20)** these options involve the continuation of current agreements with Southern Water and South East Water respectively for the import of water. No new infrastructure is required for either of these schemes and no negative effects identified through the assessment.

**AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation** involves a negotiation to increase the abstraction license at Lye Oak. The increase in abstraction would be by 0.14MI/d consistent with the volume of the “returned” water (around 4% of the abstraction). The assessment found that there is the potential for minor negative effects during operation against SEA objectives relating to East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater levels given the increased abstraction; however, this is likely to be local and minor given the small increase. As a result of this there is also some uncertainty identified against the SEA objective relating to biodiversity as a result of the potential for indirect effects and close proximity of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI. However, it is again considered that given the small increase in abstraction there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water level in the East Kent Chalk Stour groundwater body and condition status of the Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI are monitored.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0900: Dover Constraint Removal** involves the removal of network constraints by construction of a new main from Primrose Treatment Works to The Cricketer's Public House with connection into the existing network; this will allow increased abstraction from the groundwater sources and transfer to Folkestone. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure with a new 1.19km main and 1 x 1 m<sup>3</sup> Surge Vessel. Minor negative effects are identified during construction against SEA objectives relating to recreation/ tourism, road infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new pipeline. Impacts will be temporary, local and minor and good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

**AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001: Egham to Iver** involves the installation of a new booster station on an existing site, which will allow 17 MI/d to be pushed through the existing main. This will allow transfer of 17 MI/d from Egham to Harefield, which will allow use of the existing surplus within the Wey community (WRZ4). The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and the assessment found that there would a residual neutral effect against the majority of SEA objectives during construction and operation. Standard construction practices should ensure that there are no significant impacts during the construction phase.

### 6.3.1.3 AMP8 (2025-30)

The first AMP8 scheme, **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes** would be delivered in 2026 and proposes obtaining supplies from existing Lower Greensand boreholes that are currently owned by third parties in the Slough area. The Lower Greensand water is to be pumped via a new pipeline along the Grand Union Canal towpath for treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW location (the existing Iver WTW is at full capacity). A new pipeline will then take the water to

existing Iver for onward transfer to an upgraded Harrow Service Reservoir for use in WRZ4 (or WRZ2).

The assessment identifies the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives relating to surface and groundwater body status and flows. The WFD assessment notes that the GSK abstraction is/ was discharged to the Salthill stream following its use as non-evaporative cooling. As a result the WFD assessment found that there is a potential for a reduction in water returned to the surface water body that may lead to deterioration of status and flows. The proposed scheme may involve diverting this discharge to Affinity Water for consumptive use. The WFD assessment recommends that further information and assessment required. The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2026 there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further after the key decision point has been passed in 2023.

The second scheme to be delivered in 2029 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4025 : Egham AMP8**. It involves the installation of a new booster pumping station which will allow a total of 15 MI/d to be pushed through a new 500mm ID trunk main. It also involves a 710mm reinforcement of a section of trunk main between Egham Reservoir and Ashford. This will allow for future phases of supply through the transfer of 15 MI/d from Hatton Cross into distribution and therefore the transfer of unused surplus water from within WRZ6 (Wey) to WRZ4 (Pinn). The key issue during the construction phase relates to the delivery of the new pumping station and associated pipeline. The assessment identified that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect during construction in relation to SEA objective 5 (biodiversity), due to the potential loss of woodland at Cranford Park. It is recommended that the loss of woodland should be avoided if possible and if the scheme is taken forward the pipeline route is shifted slightly east, into the more open grassland parts of the Park. The assessment found that there is unlikely to be any moderate or major residual negative effects on SEA objectives during operation.

#### 6.3.1.4 AMP9 (2030-35)

Two supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP9 under this programme.

The **AFF-NGW-WRZ4-4101 : Iver LGS Development** option, which was identified as a potential scheme once development on the northern side of the LGS basin (Runleywood LGS scheme) was rejected by the EA, represents the first development. It seeks to drill a new Lower Greensand borehole in the centre of the basin in the Iver area. This would exploit a known thickening in the aquifer at this location, but the highly confined nature means that any surface impacts should be very unlikely, and there is currently no known connectivity between the LGS and surface water bodies in this area. The potential for the abstraction is uncertain and investigative drilling and hydrogeological testing will be required prior to development.

The second supply-side to be delivered during AMP9 in 2035 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-4005: Arkley North**, which allows for the bypass of Arkley 2 Reservoir and seeks to improve the interconnectivity between reservoirs. It involves minimal new infrastructure (50m of new main) and is not identified in the SEA, HRA or WFD assessment as having the potential for a significant negative effect during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

#### 6.3.1.5 AMP10 (2035-40)

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP10. The first in 2036 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908: Tappington South - Licence Variation**. This scheme involves the re-commissioning of the currently disused borehole at Tappington Source to provide resilience for the licence group. The scheme involves minimal new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The second in 2036 is **AFF-TPO-WRZ6-4026 : 4 MI/d Trade**. The scheme proposes trading 4MI/d from an existing abstraction license from a third party. RWE's power station is capable of reducing the volume of consumptive water which it abstracts from the River Thames by managing the volume of electricity generation, i.e. leaving the consumptive evaporative water in the Thames. This enables an equivalent volume of water to be abstracted by a downstream user. In this case, the downstream

user is Affinity Water at its existing Egham surface water treatment works. The RWE Didcot Abstraction Licence would remain unchanged. The scheme involves no new infrastructure and was not identified as having the potential for a significant effect through the SEA, HRA or the WFD assessment.

The final scheme to be delivered during AMP10 in 2037 is **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir**, which proposes the import of water from the Canal & River Trust reservoir at Brent. The water would be transmitted via the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal to the existing Iver Water Treatment Works for abstraction and subsequent treatment at a new Iver 2 WTW. The option includes upgraded storage at a new Harrow Service Reservoir within WRZ4.

The assessment identified that during the construction phase there is the potential for negative effects on SEA objectives 6 (landscape) and 13 (historic environment). The scheme includes a new Harrow service reservoir at Harrow on the Hill, which is an important local area of open/ green space surrounded by the existing built area that provides areas for recreation and contributes to the character of the landscape/ townscape. The new reservoir is also situated in close proximity to the Harrow Park Registered Park and Garden. Potential for moderate negative effects during construction against SEA objectives relating to the landscape and historic environment. The assessment recommends the retention of hedgerows, trees, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. It also proposes the use of construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. Where possible any opportunities to merge the reservoir embankment into the landscape should be explored.

During operation **AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir** proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. These discussions should include Natural England and more detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme; and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

#### 6.3.1.6 AMP11 (2040-45)

The key scheme, to be delivered in 2042 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)**, which involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 50 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

#### 6.3.1.7 AMP13 (2050-55)

Two supply-side schemes are proposed in AMP13. The first of these is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301: Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4 MI/d**. An agreement between Affinity Water and South East Water exists for the import of 2 MI/d via the Barham Interconnection Point. This scheme proposes an increase of this import by 2 MI/d to a total of 4 MI/d for transfer to Chalksole Reservoir. This scheme will require a 2 MI upgrade of Chalksole Service Reservoir.

The Chalksole Reservoir is situated within the Kent Downs AONB and is surrounded by areas of Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland) that is also listed as Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland. Potential for moderate negative effects on SEA objectives relating to biodiversity and the landscape during construction; however, it is acknowledged that there is uncertainty as the precise direction and area of land lost to the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage. The assessment notes that there are a number of areas around the existing reservoir where there are no designated habitats. It is therefore considered that there is high likelihood that the upgrade of the reservoir can avoid the important habitats and this should be explored as a first step at the detailed design stage. Further consultation with NE will be necessary as well as more detailed ecological surveys. The assessment recommends that any new structures (such as the above ground concrete tank structure associated with the reservoir upgrade) should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the

surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP13 in 2054 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)**, which utilises the same infrastructure as **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011** up to a point near Iver 2 WTW. It would then extend the mains northward to an upgraded Harefield Reservoir and Harefield Treatment Works. The detailed assessment of this scheme was carried out on the basis that this scheme could include the delivery of the South East Strategic Reservoir (SESR). However, the SESR would already be established at this point given the earlier delivery of **AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011**. While there is still the potential for negative effects as a result of the delivery of the pipeline and expanded Harefield reservoir it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that residual effects are minor. It is also considered that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects during operation.

#### 6.3.1.8 AMP14 (2055-60)

The only scheme to be delivered in AMP14 in 2059 is **AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099: Boxted to Chaul End**, which involves a transfer of 40MI/d of treated water by a new main from Boxted Pump Station to Chaul End Reservoir via Friars Wash. The scheme includes a 40MI capacity upgrade of Chaul End Reservoir amongst other new infrastructure.

Key issues identified during the construction phase include potential impacts on landscape and biodiversity. A small proportion (approx 500m) of the pipeline route falls within the Chilterns AONB. The rest of the pipeline predominantly falls within rural areas and follows existing infrastructure, such as roads. The construction of the pipeline is identified as having the potential for a minor negative effect in the short term and a residual neutral effect during operation once buried. The upgrade of the Chaul End Service Reservoir is likely to have moderate negative effects on landscape during construction and it should be noted that the Chilterns AONB is around 550m from the reservoir. Once mitigation is taken into account it is unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects during operation, particularly given that the Chaul Reservoir lies in close proximity to the M1 and is separated from the AONB by new residential development. A new pump house may be required and other minor structures but these will be installed at a pre-existing pump station and will therefore not result in significantly visible new infrastructure.

Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment should be used. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage.

The construction of the new pipeline route may result in the loss of Priority Habitats (in particular deciduous woodland) near to the Chaul End Reservoir. The assessment recommends that the pipeline is re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the Priority Habitat near to Chaul End Reservoir. There is also the potential for disturbance to species during the construction of the pipeline route; however, good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no significant negative effects.

#### 6.3.1.9 AMP15 (2060-65)

Two supply-side schemes are proposed during AMP15 and both delivered in 2061. **AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090: Stonecross Source Optimisation** involves upgrading the borehole pumps at the existing Stonecross chalk groundwater source, as well as treatment works, and a network modification to close the 0.41 MI/d gap between DO and licence. The scheme would result in minimal new infrastructure and the assessment does not identify the potential for any residual moderate or major negative effects during construction or operation.

The assessment identifies that there is the potential for minor negative effects in the medium to long-term during operation as the increased abstraction at peak times may have some potential impact on water level in the aquifer and impact base flow in the linked surface water body (Ver River). The WFD assessment notes that these impacts are likely to be local, minor and temporary. The assessment

also acknowledges that the issue above could have indirect effects on biodiversity. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. This should be given further consideration at the detailed design stage.

**AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626: Broome Network Improvement** is designed to remove a network constraint on the Barham South East Water Import Main and a demand constraint, by transferring the existing Broome Borehole Source to Denton rather than via the Barham Import Main (WRZ7).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

It should be noted that this scheme falls entirely within the Kent Downs AONB. Construction of the new pipeline could have a minor negative effect on the landscape in the short-term, but this will be temporary and once it is buried there will be a residual neutral effect during operation. At this stage there is some uncertainty about the scale of the new building for treatment but it is assumed that it will not be significant and be located within the existing treatment site. Once mitigation has been taken into account, including planting/ screening it is predicted that the significance of residual effects can be reduced. Despite the small scale of development, it is considered that there is the potential for a minor negative effect during operation, in recognition of the AONB.

#### 6.3.1.10 AMP16 (2065-70)

Three supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery during AMP16. The first two to be delivered in 2065 are **AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** and **AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation**.

**AFF-TPO-WRZ4-0412: Hillingdon Hospital boreholes** seeks to purchase or lease and then transfer any potential spare capacity from three boreholes owned by Hillingdon Hospital. Two boreholes (B & A) are in use, while borehole C has been out of use for years owing to high iron levels (water quality). According to the Environment Agency website, the licence 28/39/28/0513 (HILLINGDON HOSPITAL NHS TRUST) is for 0.55 MI/d at average and 1.00 MI/d at peak.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752: Ladymead Optimisation** is an import of 2.7 MI/d of treated water from Thames Water via Ladymead Interconnection Point for transfer to Park Barn Drive Reservoir. The increase will provide an additional 2.7 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of the new pipeline and upgrading of the WTW but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The assessment identifies some uncertainty as the precise area required for the reservoir expansion is not known at this stage and there is priority habitat to the north, west and south of the site. The detailed design stage should ensure that priority habitats are avoided as part of the reservoir expansion.

The final scheme to be delivered in 2066 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)**. It proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Given the delivery date of this scheme in 2070, there would be sufficient time to undertake further investigative work and detailed assessments to determine the likelihood and significance of effects along with suitable mitigation measures. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to landscape during construction phase. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

#### 6.3.1.11 AMP18 (2075-80)

Under the Expected Future six supply-side schemes are proposed for delivery. The first of these to be delivered in 2075 is **AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842: Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI**. This scheme is an import of water from South East Water to WRZ7 via an interconnection point at Aldington for transfer to Saltwood Reservoir. This scheme requires a 3MI capacity upgrade of Saltwood Reservoir, a new 12.2 km 200 mm Diameter Main from the interconnection point to Saltwood Reservoir and a new pump station at the interconnection point (3 x 22 kW Booster Pumps).

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. Moderate negative effects identified during construction for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, the landscape, historic environment and agricultural land. In terms of the landscape, approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB. The new pump house falls just outside the AONB and the expansion of the Saltwood service reservoir would fall within the AONB, as a result the potential for negative effects during construction is predicted to be moderate. The new pipeline passes within 5m of a Scheduled Monument and within 20m of a Listed Building. There is therefore potential for a moderate negative effect during the construction phase due to the proximity of the designated heritage assets.

The assessment recommends that mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, and walls wherever possible and the re-instatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. The new pump house building should also be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape/ historic environment and screening used where appropriate. More detailed mitigation measures should be set out at the detailed design stage.

During operation the assessment found that there is unlikely to be any significant negative effects once mitigation is taken into account. Key issues during operation relate to medium to long-term effects on the landscape and historic environment (mitigation referred to above) as well as potential issues in relation to water quality through the creation of new preferential pathways into the aquifer due to below ground workings and construction of mains. The WFD assessment concluded that best practice design, construction and operation should ensure that impacts are minor, localised and temporary.

The second scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2076 is **AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR**. This is a speculative scheme to inject winter excess water into the confined chalk or Lower Greensand (LGS) for use in the summer peak demand period. The source of water is likely to be treated surface water (e.g. from the existing Egham or Chertsey sources). Exploration boreholes (LGS and Chalk) and testing will be required, at which point the option is likely to evolve based on the



new data (groundwater levels and water quality); for example, it is possible that based on the new information a conventional groundwater abstraction (average and peak benefit) may be possible, albeit with a suitable level of treatment.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. The new pipeline passes in close proximity to a number of designated biodiversity and heritage assets but there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that there are no significant residual negative effects.

The next supply-side scheme to be delivered in 2077 is **AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir**. The scheme includes a river intake and pumping station at Marden Ash (River Roding), a new fully bunded bankside storage reservoir located at Birds Green, an onsite WTW and pumping station, and a treated water pipeline to Rye Hill service reservoir.

During construction the assessment identifies that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives relating to material consumption, landscape and carbon footprint primarily as a result of the scale of new infrastructure required. There is also a moderate negative effect identified during construction in relation to agricultural land, given the presence of best and most versatile agricultural land.

During operation moderate negative effects are identified for SEA objectives relating to carbon footprint, WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The assessment identifies that there is the potential for the scheme to reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body during operation. This is informed by the WFD assessment which recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required. The SEA suggests that the water levels and flows in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) should be monitored and hands-off flow conditions used when water levels and flows are low. Another issue identified during operation is that the new Birds Green Reservoir will lead to the loss of Best and Most versatile agricultural land.

Additional benefits/ moderate positive effects were identified during operation as once established the raw water reservoir provides new opportunities for recreation as well as opportunities for biodiversity net gain.

The fourth supply-side scheme to be delivered in AMP18 in 2078 is **AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173: Clandon Source Optimisation**. This scheme seeks to optimise the Clandon source by changing the software to allow water level based control of the pump speed, which should allow an increase in DO. The assessment found that this scheme is not likely to have significant negative effects during construction or operation given that it involves a change in software.

Also being delivered in 2078 is **AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005: Horsley source recommissioning**. The Horsley abstraction well was last pumped in 1997. There were water quality issues (coliforms and nitrates) that the available treatment (marginal chlorination) could not solve. This scheme is to investigate the groundwater source to confirm yields and to upgrade treatment as necessary; although the licence is for 0.69 Ml/d (average) and 1.14 Ml/d (peak) the most likely yield is believed to be 0.38 Ml/d at average and 0.62 Ml/d peak owing to an adit related constraint.

This is a small scale scheme with minimal new infrastructure; as a result the assessment found that there would not be any significant negative effects during construction or operation against any SEA objectives.

The final scheme to be delivered during AMP18 in 2079 is **AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW - Effluent Reuse**. This scheme is for the provision of a new STW local to Stevenage in order to provide tertiary treated effluent that can be used to restore flows in the River Middle Beane, via Stevenage Brook.

The assessment found that the scheme is not likely to have any significant negative effects during construction. There is the potential for localised minor negative effects in the short-term as a result of the construction of the STW but this is unlikely to be significant once mitigation is taken into account.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against the SEA objective that relates to WFD status. The WFD assessment identified that the discharge of treated water into surface water channel could lead to increase in nutrients which could be mobilised to the hydraulically connected groundwater body. Conversely the assessment also identified potential benefits and moderate positive effects for WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows as the scheme would increase river flows in river Beane via discharge of treated effluent in Stevenage Brook. Chalk is unconfined at that location so there is a hydraulic connection and this would potentially increase recharge into the aquifer. WFD assessment states further information and investigation required to confirm the likelihood for negative and positive effects and inform the identification of mitigation measures if necessary.

### 6.3.2 Assessment of the adaptive future schemes

A summary of the key findings for the five additional supply-side schemes that could come forward under the adaptive (Aspirational, Optimistic, High Growth and Supply-side Challenging) futures is provided below in **Table 6.4**. A summary of the assessment findings for the demand management schemes is initially provided. A summary narrative for the supply-side schemes is then provided setting out the key issues identified and this is structured according to the AMP.

**Table 6.4: Additional adaptive future scheme SEA findings**

Schemes	SEA Objectives and assessment questions																																																										
	1			2			3		4		5					6		7	8		9	10				11	12	13		14																													
	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	6a	6b	7a	8a	8b	9a	10a	10b	10c	10d	11a	12a	13a	13b	14a																													
<b>Supply-side</b>																																																											
AFF-RTR-WRZ4- 4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100M/d)	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	-1	-2	1	-2	-1	-1	0	-3	0	-1	0	-2	-1	-2	-1	?	?	-2	-1	?	2	-3	-2	?	2	-2	-1	-3	-3	0	3	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1		
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead ; 100 M	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	-1	0	0	-1	0	?	-1	0	0	?	?	-2	-1	?	?	0	0	-1	-1	0	3	0	-1	0	0	-1	-2	0	-2	0	0	0	-2	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
AFF-RTR-WRZ3- 4014 : South Lincs Res (100M/d)	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	-2	0	-2	0	-3	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	?	-1	-2	?	2	-3	-1	?	1	-1	0	-3	-3	0	3	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-2	-1	
AFF-TPC-WRZ6-1083 : Surrey University (Guildford Site)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	-2	0	?	?	0	0	?	?	-1	0	?	?	0	0	-1	-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	?	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	?	-1	-1	?	?	2	-2	-1	?	1	-1	0	-2	-2	0	1	0	-1	-1	-2	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-2	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0		

**AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)** is a strategic scheme that involves an increased abstraction from the River Thames at Sunnymeads, onwards transfer by a new main for treatment at Iver 2 WTW. Water will be discharged from a new South East Strategic Reservoir (within the Thames Water Supply Area) for abstraction downstream from the River Thames at Sunnymead. The increased abstraction will provide an additional 100 MI/d during both peak and average conditions for use within WRZ4.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Major negative effects for SEA objectives relating to material consumption and carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure, including public rights of way and major roads.
- Moderate negative effects also anticipated for SEA Objective 7 relating to Hillingdon AQMA and Marcham AQMA given the level of traffic anticipated during construction.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 due to temporary and permanent disruption to biodiversity, including internationally and nationally designated sites and other important habitats and species.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of Abingdon reservoir is likely to have significant effects on the landscape. This includes impact on the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and extensive disruption to views, visual amenity and landscape character.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 13 as a result of the heritage assets located within close proximity to the new reservoir and pipeline (including archaeological assets).

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given that the new reservoir ancillary infrastructure would be a prominent new feature in the landscape. Notably, three towers will be seen against the visual context of the North Wessex Downs AONB to the south and east.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant positive (moderate) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 2 in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements. Specific mitigation measures and enhancements will be developed in the detailed design stages.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 8 as the scheme is upgrading transfer and storage capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020:** (GUC – Berkhamsted/ Hemel Hempstead, 100 MI/d) is a strategic 100 MI/d version of **AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066**. The two schemes include the same infrastructure except that AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 includes a larger capacity upgrade of the existing Boxted Service Reservoir. As for AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 it proposes the cascade of water from the Severn Trent Minworth Sewerage Treatment Plant via the Grand Union Canal for abstraction at Hemel Hempstead. From here raw

water would be transferred to a new Boxted Treatment Works for treatment and ultimately stored in an expanded Boxted Reservoir.

The assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect for SEA objectives 10 (WFD status) and 11 (surface/ ground water levels and flows). This was informed by the WFD assessment for the fWRMP19, which identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body. It suggests that this needs to be confirmed through further hydrogeological survey work. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction at low flows below a certain level. As a result, it is recommended that the water levels in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body are monitored.

The scheme proposes new infrastructure that is in close proximity to the Chilterns AONB. Potential for a moderate negative effect on the SEA objective relating to the landscape during construction. The assessment recommends that any new visible infrastructure should be designed sympathetically to fit in with the surrounding landscape, and/or screened as appropriate by landscaping and planting. Residual minor negative effect identified during operation primarily as a result of the expanded Boxted Reservoir.

**AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)** is a strategic scheme proposing the transfer of 100MI/d of raw water from Anglian Water from their Grafham Water reservoir in Cambridgeshire. A new reservoir will be constructed in South Lincolnshire and will be used instead of Grafham Water as the feed to the Ruthamford South WRZ (via Ruthamford North WRZ), resulting in additional water being available for abstraction from Grafham Water. This option is based on transferring this surplus to Sundon for final water conditioning, storage and use as a potable water supply. The 100 MI/d option is based on Anglian Water's supported option for the South Lincolnshire reservoir.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effects for SEA objective 2 (tourism and recreation) as a result of the delivery of over 100km of new pipelines well as other infrastructure. These pipelines cross numerous footpaths along the routes and may cause short term disruption along public rights of way during construction. Mitigation could include the diversion of public rights of way.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 3 (infrastructure) due to temporary disruption to local and strategic transport infrastructure. Mitigation measures could include creation of road diversions and haul roads at the start of the construction, agreement of HGV routes and working hours. The phased delivery of infrastructure will also help to minimise impacts.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 4 (material consumption) as a result of the new infrastructure required.
- Moderate negative effects for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) as a result of the delivery of infrastructure in close proximity and possibly within SSSIs. Potential for the loss and fragmentation of habitats, disturbance (noise and light) as well as pollution (water and dust). The pipeline route should avoid designated sites and further assessments including more detailed mitigation should be set out at the detailed feasibility stage if this scheme is progressed. Construction of the new pump station and main in proximity to Grafham Water SSSI should be carried out mid-August to end of September to avoid disturbance to any breeding or wintering birds.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 6 given the construction of a new water treatment works and approx. 2.7km of new main within the Chilterns AONB as well as the delivery of a new water reservoir. The option includes a further 127km of new mains. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be required to determine the sensitivity of the receiving landscape and potential effects of the scheme.
- Major negative effect for SEA Objective 8 (carbon footprint) as a result of the scale of new infrastructure.

- Moderate negative effect for SEA Objective 14 (soil and minerals) as the pipeline route crosses Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land and the new raw water reservoir is located on Grade 1 agricultural land.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for significant negative (moderate and major) effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Moderate negative effect for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) given that the abstraction is from Grafham Water reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. Given that the scheme is utilising surplus remaining for abstraction it is unlikely to result in any further or more frequent drawdown of the existing reservoir than was already occurring as a result of abstractions by Anglian Water. However, a precautionary approach has been taken and the potential for a moderate negative effect identified.
- Major negative effects for SEA Objective 8 relating to carbon footprint due to the scale of infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for positive effects against a number of SEA objectives as a result of this scheme due to the scale of new infrastructure required. This includes:

- Minor positive effects for SEA Objective 2 (tourism and recreation in relation to tourism, recreation and amenity facilities through the delivery of a new raw water reservoir.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 5 (biodiversity) as the scheme is anticipated to provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and net gain through the delivery of a new raw water reservoir. There is also the potential for enhancements to Grafham Water SSSI.
- Moderate positive effects for SEA Objective 6 (landscape) as the scheme presents opportunities for landscape enhancements and improvements through the delivery of the new raw water reservoir.
- Major positive effects for SEA Objective 8 (carbon footprint) as the scheme is upgrading transfer capacity, resulting in positive effects on the resilience of Affinity Water's assets to climate change.

**AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083: Surrey University (Guildford Site)** is a third party scheme to obtain a supply from the Surrey University site in Guildford. The option requires further discussions with Surrey University to lease the use of the borehole, a licence application to the Environment Agency, and pipework to take the water into the existing Affinity Water network; the site is just outside WRZ6.

The assessment does not identify any moderate or major negative effects in relation to this scheme during construction or operation for the majority of SEA objectives. The potential for minor negative effects are identified during construction of new or upgraded infrastructure but it is considered that there is suitable mitigation available through standard construction practices to ensure that there are no residual significant negative effects. A moderate negative effect is predicted against biodiversity as the pipeline currently passes through priority habitat (deciduous woodland). The assessment recommends that the pipeline should be re-routed at the detailed design stage to avoid the loss of any priority habitat.

**AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814: Honeywick Rye Reservoir** is an augmentation scheme proposed to help offset the Runley Wood and Periwinkle Lane 10 Ml/d sustainability reductions (AMP7). The scheme involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

During construction the assessment found that there is the potential for a moderate negative effect against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint and the landscape primarily as a result of the delivery of the new infrastructure.

During operation the assessment found that there is the potential for moderate negative effects against SEA objectives that relate to carbon footprint as well as WFD status and surface and groundwater levels/ flows. The WFD assessment found that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the

Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body. The WFD assessment recommends that the timing of the abstraction needs to be confirmed and that further investigation and assessment is required.

Conversely the assessment also notes that there is the potential for benefits/ positive effects. The WFD assessment found that there is also the potential for this scheme to have benefits for the Lee (from Luton to Luton Hoo Lakes) surface water body and the Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk Groundwater body as a result of increased treated discharge into the Upper Lee catchment. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates. This will help to improve water levels and flow rates.

The assessment also identified the potential for moderate positive effects in the medium to long-term during operation once the new raw water reservoir is established. It has the potential to provide new opportunities for recreation as well as biodiversity net gain by providing new habitat for waders and waterfowl as well as other species.

### 6.3.3 Cumulative effects

#### 6.3.3.1 Cumulative effects (Intra-plan) for the fWRMP19 (Expected Future) schemes

Overall the cumulative effects assessment in **Appendix VI** has found that there is a low risk arising during construction of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topic of population and human health. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

Regarding the SEA water topic, the assessment has identified a low risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Lower Thames Gravels Groundwater Body, the Thames (Cookham to Egham) Surface Water Body, and the Colne (from confluence with Chess to River Thames) Surface Water Body, and the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body; where mitigation, including CoPC and best practice for design, construction and operations is recommended. With respect to the Mid-Chilterns Chalk Groundwater Body, it is also recognised that further investigation once abstraction and recharge rates under schemes AFF-EGW-WRZ2-0090 and AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174 are known will be required to confirm no impact on water quality and water balance.

The assessment has also identified a medium risk of cumulative adverse effects as a result of schemes interacting with the potential to affect the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body. The WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. It is also recommended that water levels/flows in the Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands Groundwater Body are monitored and mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level.

The assessment has also identified the potential for positive effects arising as a result of schemes (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011) interacting to improve habitats and improve low flows and chemistry within the Thames (Evenlode to Thame, Wallingford to Caversham, and Reading to Cookham) Surface Water Bodies.

Overall the assessment has also found that there are low risks arising (predominantly through construction phases), of cumulative adverse effects regarding the SEA topics relating to biodiversity and landscape and visual amenity. Sensitive receptors found to be at low risk are the Kent Downs AONB, Chilterns AONB, Surrey Hills AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB and South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA.

The identified effects in relation to the AONBs are likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

The HRA for the fWRMP19 recommended a number of mitigation measures in relation to the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (2053) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (2041) which will need to be taken

into consideration during construction and operation to minimise the risks associated with the European designated sites (South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA). This mitigation includes an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for the schemes take into account the proximity of the SPA and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.

### 6.3.3.2 Cumulative effects (Intra-plan) for the adaptive future schemes

When considering the potential additional schemes that might come forward under one of the adaptive futures (AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012, AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020, AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014, AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083, AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814) there are a number of additional potential cumulative adverse effects that might arise which are explored further below.

The strategic scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: (GUC – Berkhamsted/ Hemel Hempstead, 100 Ml/d) is a strategic 100 Ml/d version of AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066, which is currently proposed under the Expected Future (i.e. the fWRMP19), High Growth Future, Supply-side Challenging Future and Optimistic Future. The two schemes include the same infrastructure except that AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 includes a larger capacity upgrade of the existing Boxted Service Reservoir.

A delivery date for AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 is not known at this stage; however, it is recognised that there is the potential, in combination with scheme AFF-CTR-WRZ3-1099, for cumulative impacts during construction given their proximity (within 5km) should the scheme be delivered between 2061 and 2066. Overall, it is considered that there is low risk of cumulative effects as if required, extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise any residual effects.

Given that the scheme proposes minimal additional infrastructure (a larger capacity upgrade) than identified for AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 the cumulative effects regarding the Chilterns AONB and SEA topic of landscape and visual amenity are considered likely to be similar and the same proposed mitigation measures will apply.

Scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 has the potential to interact with Expected Future schemes. Although the delivery date is unknown at this stage, it is recognised that there is the potential (in combination with AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 and AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832) for cumulative impacts during construction given their proximity (within 5km). Again if required, extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times will minimise the potential cumulative effects identified.

In regards to the SEA topic relating to water, scheme AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 interacts with schemes AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1053 and AFF-NGW-WRZ3-1068 and the WFD assessment identifies that further hydrogeological assessment to consider linkage between deep Lower Greensand aquifer and Upper Bedford Ouse Woburn Sands is required. Mitigation could include a hands-off flow condition to prevent abstraction if water levels/ flows drop below a certain level. Until further hydrogeological assessments are carried out it is considered that there is an overall medium risk of cumulative adverse effects regarding groundwater and the SEA water topic.

In terms of landscape, schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012, AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020, and AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 interact with six of the Expected Future schemes; and the potential for cumulative impacts on the Chilterns AONB is identified. These effects are predominantly likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Longer term impacts are likely to be minor and relate to visible new infrastructure affecting the AONB and its setting. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential for negative cumulative effects during construction. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

Scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 also has the potential to interact with the other supply schemes proposed in the Expected Future (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010) on the North Wessex Downs AONB. These



impacts are predominantly likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Longer term impacts are likely to be minor and relate to visible new infrastructure affecting the AONB and its setting. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

Further to this, scheme AFF-TPO-WRZ6-1083 also has the potential to interact with three other supply schemes proposed in the Expected Future (AFF-EGW-WRZ6-0173, AFF-RTR-WRZ6-0752, and AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005) on the Surrey Hills AONB. Similarly, these impacts are predominantly likely to be short-term and temporary associated with traffic and access disruption - including disruption to public rights of way, noise and disturbance (potentially affecting tranquillity and landscape character in the short term). Longer term impacts are likely to be minor and relate to visible new infrastructure affecting the AONB and its setting. Extended construction related mitigation such as detailed routing, traffic planning and management and limitation of works within peak periods/ times are considered likely to minimise the potential cumulative effects identified. Any new visible infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

Scheme AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 also has the potential to interact with two other supply schemes proposed in the Expected Future (AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and WRZ-RTR-WRZ4-4011), with a low risk of cumulative effects on the South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA. The HRA recommends in relation to schemes 4010, 4011 and 4012 that the inclusion of these schemes is accompanied by an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for this scheme take into account the proximity of the SPA/ Ramsar site and that construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level. As a precaution, it is further recommended that the inclusion of this option within the WRMP is accompanied by an explicit commitment to carefully design the pipeline, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations as necessary, to ensure that there is no requirement for dewatering of the excavation, or that any dewatering that is required is returned immediately to ground. These would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that groundwater continuity to the gravel pits would not be disrupted and groundwater quality would be protected.

### 6.3.4 Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

#### 6.3.4.1 fWRMP19 (Expected Future) schemes

For the majority of schemes proposed in the fWRMP19 the assessment found that there are no pathways for impacts to SSSIs, or that there is suitable mitigation available to ensure that there is a residual neutral effect during construction and/ or operation.

The assessment identified four schemes with the potential for a negative effect on a SSSI during construction and these are:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) (Delivery in 2042)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) (Delivery in 2054)
- AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR (Delivery in 2076)
- AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir (Delivery in 2077)

AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) both rely on a new pipeline within the Affinity Water supply area that passes adjacent to the Wraysbury No.1 Gravel Pit SSSI. There is the potential for disturbance (dust emissions, noise and light) that could affect the interest features (wintering Gadwall).

There are standard dust suppression measures that could be introduced in line with the relevant British Standard. In terms of noise and light disturbance, depending on the noise levels generated during construction (which are unknown at this point) works may need to be timed to avoid the winter (October to March). This would usually be the preference for construction crews but is a matter to consider further during detailed design.

It is also noted that depending on the depth of the pipeline there is the potential for changes in hydrology at the SSSIs. In practice impacts of the pipeline can be avoided through careful design and construction, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations. These would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that water levels and quality would be protected. This would need to be developed further during detailed scheme design.

The Environmental Report for Thames Water fWRMP19 states that there are no designated nature conservation sites within the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir site. While there are SSSIs within 1km of the reservoir site the assessment found that it will not have any significant negative effects on any SSSIs during construction. The assessment of AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4010 through the SEA for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 also concluded that there would be no significant effects on SSSIs during the construction of the South East Strategic Reservoir.

AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir proposes the expansion of Rye Hill Reservoir, which is approximately 300m from Harlow Woods SSSI. The SSSI is broadly designated for its broadleaved mixed and yew woodland) and is currently in a favourable and unfavourable recovering condition. The citation for the SSSI suggests that site level management, such as coppicing, is one of the most important factors in maintaining a favourable condition status.

It is assumed that the expansion of the reservoir can be carried out within the existing Affinity Water site. As a result of this and given the interest features and condition status of the SSSI, it is considered that there will be no significant impacts during the construction of the expanded Rye Hill Reservoir. There are standard dust suppression measures that could be introduced in line with the relevant British Standard. Good practice construction methods should ensure that there are no impacts on water quality and levels during construction.

A section of the pipeline route is approximately 320m from Epping Forest SSSI. While it is recognised that Epping Forest SAC has been discussed and screened out in the HRA for the WRMP19 this area of the SSSI (to the north east of Epping) is not within the SAC boundary. Additionally, some SSSI interest features are not interest features of the SAC and so would not have been included in the HRA. The features are set out in the detailed assessment of this scheme in Appendix V.

Given the site interest features and condition status the assessment identified that the construction of the pipeline could have impacts the SSSI through pollution and disturbance. Notably as a result of the increased level of HGV vehicles anticipated during the construction period. While these effects are likely to be temporary, it is noted that the NE Condition Unit Report for the SSSI states that in the absence of air pollution, the SSSI habitats would probably be in a better condition to be able to cope with the recreational pressures.

Standard construction practice should ensure that there is no significant disturbance to the SSSIs. Mitigation measures should be explored to reduce potential air quality impacts on Epping Forest SSSI during construction. This may include the phased delivery of new infrastructure as well as the creation of road diversions and haul roads at the start of the construction, agreement of HGV routes and working hours.

AFF-ASR-WRZ6-0174: Egham ASR includes the delivery of a new pipeline that runs along a section of the A30 that passes within 100m of the Langham Pond SSSI. Interest features include assemblages of breeding birds. There is the potential for disturbance (dust emissions, noise and light) that could affect the interest features (assemblages of breeding birds). There is also the potential for impacts on water quality/ and hydrology depending on the depth of the pipeline and this could have indirect effects on the assemblages of breeding birds.

The impacts identified above as a result of disturbance (dust emissions, noise and light) during construction will be temporary and local. There are standard dust suppression measures that could be introduced in line with the relevant British Standard. Careful design and construction of the pipelines, informed by further geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations, would enable them to

be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner (including return of any dewatering volumes immediately back to ground) that water levels and quality at the SSSIs would not be significantly affected. This would need to be developed further during detailed scheme design.

In terms of noise and light disturbance, depending on the noise levels generated during construction (which are unknown at this point) works may need to be timed to avoid the winter (October to March) and avoid impacts on the interest features of the Wraysbury No.1 Gravel Pit SSSI and Langham Pond SSSI.

The assessment identified four schemes with the potential for a negative effect on a SSSI during operation and these are:

- AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir (Delivery in 2034)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) (Delivery in 2041)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI) (Delivery in 2053)
- AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir (Delivery in 2078)

During operation AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir proposes the release of water from the reservoir, which is also a SSSI. The Brent Reservoir SSSI is currently in a favourable condition and is designated for breeding wetland birds, in particular for significant numbers of nesting great crested grebe, as well as wetland plant communities. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme. The Great Crested Grebe nest in reed beds and the Passerines (bullfinch, greenfinch, jay, willow warbler and wren) nest in willow woodland broadly between March and July so higher/ lower water levels in these periods could affect them. The wintering birds (Pochard, Gadwall, Snipe, Jack snipe and Smew) could also be affected as again; changing water levels could affect the amount of terrestrial habitat surrounding the waterbody that could be available for them to rest on when out of the water. The wetland plant species are sensitive to changes in water levels. It will be important to prevent the water levels from fluctuating significantly and frequently as this could displace plants as they move up/ or down in the inundation zone.

There are ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Canal & River Trust who operate the reservoir. These discussions should include Natural England and more detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme; and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The condition status of the Brent Reservoir SSSI should also be monitored.

The SEA Environmental Report for the Thames Water fWRMP19 identifies that the habitat types most at risk as a result of the South East Strategic Reservoir during operation are the weir pools in the River Thames due to the potential change in their level and flow regime. Overall, it is expected that the ecological status will remain the same with flows regulated and discharges subject to licencing from the Environment Agency. The provision of three drawdown towers will allow the draw off to be controlled to minimise any potential water quality issues and manage the quality of the water released. Further assessment of the water quality of the releases is required and therefore low certainty but it is expected that any water quality impacts relating to temperature or DO issues can be mitigated.

Furthermore, the Thames Water SEA states that discharge from the reservoir to the River Thames to regulate river flows will be subject to a discharge permit granted by the Environment Agency and is not expected to have an adverse impact on water quality or ecology, including the ecology of Culham Brake SSSI. The regulated reservoir releases could also provide a benefit to aquatic ecosystems during times of low flow. The assessment of AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4010 through the SEA for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 are consistent with these conclusions.

The assessment identifies that AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir has the potential for impacts on the flows and quality of the River Roding during operation. There are two SSSIs located downstream of the abstraction, Curtismill Green and Roding Valle. Curtismill Green SSSI is broadly

designated for neutral grassland and broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland. Roding Valley Meadows SSSI is broadly designated for neutral grassland (lowland). Reduced water levels and quality in the River Roding could affect the interest features of the SSSIs but this is uncertain at this stage and further hydrological investigations required.

The assessment recommends that water levels in the Lower Roding/ River Roding are monitored to inform the use of hands-off flow conditions/ restrict abstraction of water at low flows. This will help to maintain suitable water levels to maintain the interest features of the two SSSIs downstream.

Given the delivery dates of the schemes identified above, it is considered that there is sufficient time for further investigation, assessment and consultation to inform the need for and identification of more detailed avoidance and mitigation measures.

#### 6.3.4.2 Adaptive Future schemes

The assessment identified that three of the additional schemes under the adaptive futures have the potential for a negative effect on a SSSI during construction and these are:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ4- 4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d) (Delivered under the High Growth Future in 2042)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ3- 4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d) (Delivered under the High Growth Future in 2060)
- AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir (Delivered under the High Growth Future in 2079)

AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012: Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d) is a 100MI/d version of AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d). Both schemes propose the same infrastructure, as a result the potential impacts identified above for AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d) during construction also apply to AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012: Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d).

AFF-RTR-WRZ3- 4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d) is a transfer of 100MI/d of raw water from Anglian Water from their Grafham Water reservoir in Cambridgeshire. A new reservoir will be constructed in South Lincolnshire and will be used instead of Grafham Water as the feed to the Ruthamford South WRZ (via Ruthamford North WRZ), resulting in additional water being available for abstraction from Grafham Water. This option is based on transferring this surplus to Sundon for final water conditioning, storage and use as a potable water supply. The 100 MI/d option is based on Anglian Water's supported option for the South Lincolnshire reservoir.

The initial route of the new pipeline passes through the Smithcombe, Sharpenhoe and Sundon Hills SSSI north of Streatley. This area is designated for unimproved calcareous grassland on chalk escarpment, species rich scrub and mature beech woodland. However, there is existing infrastructure (Sharpenhoe Road) that the pipeline could follow through the SSSI. It is therefore assumed that the construction of the pipeline will not pass directly through the SSSI nor lead to the direct loss of any designated habitat. The calcareous grassland and beech woodland could be affected by dust emissions during construction if the new pipeline follows Sharpenhoe Road. In terms of dust generation, there are standard dust suppression measures that could be introduced in line with the relevant British Standard. Given the interest features, noise and light pollution will not have any impacts. It is also considered that there is suitable mitigation available to avoid any significant impacts on hydrology.

The existing Grafham reservoir is a SSSI, which is designated for its nationally important waterfowl populations as well as areas of grassland, scrub, marsh and temporarily inundated shoreline. It is currently 100% in a favourable condition. The precise location of the new raw water pumping station is not known at this stage. During construction there is the potential for impacts on the SSSI interest features through the loss and fragmentation of habitat, pollution and disturbance.

The location of the pumping station and abstraction pipe will need to avoid important habitats and areas used by the breeding/ wintering birds. The location should be informed by detailed ecological surveys carried out at the detailed design stage. Construction of the new pump station and abstraction point in proximity to Grafham Water SSSI should be carried out mid-August to end of September to avoid disturbance to any breeding or wintering birds. It is anticipated that the

significance of residual effects during construction can be reduced through the identification of more detailed mitigation measures at the detailed design stage.

If this scheme is progressed as part of the High Growth Adaptive Future there will need to be further discussions between Affinity Water, Anglian Water and Natural England. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Grafham Water Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted at key times in the year. It is anticipated that this would be delivered later in the planning horizon under the High Growth Adaptive Future, i.e. in AMP15, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.

AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir is an augmentation scheme proposed to help offset the Runley Wood and Periwinkle Lane 10 MI/d sustainability reductions (AMP7). The scheme involves abstracting water from the River Ouzel, storing it at a new fully bunded raw water reservoir at Honeywick Rye, and discharging flow to the Upper Lee River.

Part of the pipeline to be delivered passes 200m from Totternhoe Chalk Quarry SSSI, which is currently in a favourable condition status and is broadly designated for its calcareous grassland (*Festuca ovina* - *Avenula pratensis* lowland calcareous grassland & *Bromus erectus* lowland calcareous grassland & *Brachypodium pinnatum* lowland calcareous grassland & Vascular plant assemblage). Given the distance from this site, interest features and condition status it is not considered likely that there will be any impacts.

The pipeline also passes approx. 150m from Houghton Regis Marl Lakes SSSI, which is currently 73.89% favourable condition and 26.11% unfavourable declining condition status and is broadly designated for its calcareous grassland and standing open water and canals (*Festuca ovina* - *Hieracium pilosella* - *Thymus praecox* grassland & Great crested newt & Outstanding dragonfly assemblage & Standing waters).

The SSSI comprises wetland habitats (standing open water and canals) that are rare in Britain, confined to chalk or limestone areas. Depending on the depth of the pipeline this site may be affected by changes in hydrology. It should also be noted that the unit identified as unfavourable declining the main habitat is the standing open waters and canals and this status is based on the lack of water persisting the area. In practice impacts of the pipeline can be avoided through careful design and construction, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations. These would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that water levels and quality would be protected. This would need to be developed further during detailed scheme design.

Given the delivery dates of the schemes identified above, it is considered that there is sufficient time for further investigation, assessment and consultation to inform the need for and identification of more detailed avoidance and mitigation measures.

### 6.3.5 Invasive and Non-Native Species (INNS)

Defra, Natural England, Environment Agency (EA) and water companies have identified transfer of raw water as a significant pathway for the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). The published position statement on '*Managing the risk of spread of INNS through raw water transfers*' (January 2018) states: "*New schemes that create a hydrological connection between locations not already connected will be required to have mitigation measures which provide effective and total removal of INNS*".

The SEA has concluded that all schemes that propose new or upgraded infrastructure have the potential to introduce or spread INNS during construction. However, it is considered that standard construction practices should ensure that the potential risk is low. INNS on site should be identified and removed in advance of any construction as per standard construction practice.

During operation, any schemes that would result in the transfer of raw water or lead to increased recreation have the potential to exacerbate the spread of INNS. The fWRMP19 Supply Constrained Options Report (2019) states that where schemes are abstracting from a neighbouring catchment and

transferring the water for storage in another reservoir before discharging to the environment or treatment will need additional works to evaluate the INNS risk.

There are three schemes proposed in the fWRMP19 and potential adaptive futures with a potential risk for exacerbating the spread of INNS and these are:

- AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead) (Delivery in 2065) - Abstraction from Grand Union Canal at Hemel Hempstead (Severn).
- AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d) - Abstraction from Grand Union Canal at Hemel Hempstead (Severn).
- AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014: South Lincs Res (100MI/d) - Transfer of raw water from Grafham Water Reservoir to Sundon.

AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal & River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes may need evaluation for the INNS risk if at detailed design stage there is a preference for the delivery of abstracted water to the Affinity Water network via the canals rather than a pipeline.

Given the delivery dates of these schemes there is sufficient time to undertake a more detailed INNS risk assessment and consider potential mitigation measures with the EA. However, it should be noted that the precise delivery date of AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 is not known at this stage as it would sit under one of the possible adaptive futures.

While it is recognised that there are several other raw water transfers considered through the SEA, these are abstracted from existing abstraction points, and on the basis Affinity Water consider their existing operations to pose no risk of transfer of INNS, the risk of importing INNS to the Affinity Water Catchment is considered negligible for these schemes. Further analysis of the risk of importing INNS via transfer options is also considered from an ecological perspective within the separate WFD assessment.

Existing transfers may pose a risk for INNS either now or before new schemes are implemented - baseline monitoring for INNS should be carried out in dialogue with EA and Natural England to assess risks from existing as well as new transfers.

### 6.3.6 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

The SEA did not identify any schemes proposed within the fWRMP19 or the potential adaptive futures as likely to have impacts on any MCZs. Given the nature (continuation of existing agreements or removal of constraints) and scale of the schemes proposed in WRZ7 they are not likely to have any impacts on the interest features of the Dover to Folkestone or Dover to Deal MCZs. None of the proposed schemes are likely to have any significant impacts on the interest features of the Thames Estuary (Recommended) MCZ based on the findings of the WFD assessment and the SEA for the Thames Water's fWRMP19.

### 6.3.7 Environmental Net Gain

Environmental net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. It is identified as a policy principle in the Government's 25 year plan to improve the environment (published January 2018). There are also references to achieving net gains across the three overarching objectives for sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) along with achieving net gain in biodiversity in the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in July 2018 (and previously included in the 2012 NPPF). The Draft national Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure published in November 2018 recognises that water resource infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements, resulting in environmental net gains.

The SEA incorporates these key policy principles within the SEA Framework and therefore has had regard to these national planning objectives in carrying out the assessment of the fWRMP19. The assessment identified a number of opportunities for potential benefits as a result of schemes proposed in the fWRMP19 and the adaptive futures. This includes potential benefits identified

through the WFD assessment for six schemes as well as the potential long-term positive effects for recreation and biodiversity as a result of schemes delivering a new raw water reservoir.

As they deliver their plan going forward, Affinity Water will seek opportunities to embed the principles of net gain across the three overarching objectives for sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in line with the government's 25 Year Plan and the NPPF. This includes working closely with regulators, planners and stakeholders as they progress to the detailed design stage and detailed consideration of any required environmental mitigation measures.

## 7. Cumulative Effects of the final WRMP19 with other Plans, Programmes and Projects

### 7.1 Introduction

This Chapter sets out potential inter-plan cumulative effects arising as a result of the fWRMP19 interacting with other plans, programmes and projects, including other WRMPs. It also considers five additional schemes that may come forward under one of Affinity Water's adaptive futures.

The approach and method used for the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) of Affinity Water's fWRMP19 is in line with the regional approach to CEA adopted by Water Resources South East (WRSE) group. A regional approach to CEA was explored by WRSE in response to some shortcomings in the SEAs of WRMPs produced in 2014 identified by consultees and also with the aim of supporting an improved approach for the next round of WRMPs (2019). The study published in early 2017 and updated in 2018, sets out a systematic procedure for identifying and evaluating the risk of cumulative effects.<sup>27</sup>

### 7.2 Other Affinity Water Plans

#### 7.2.1 Affinity Water's Drought Management Plan

The Affinity Water draft Drought Management Plan (DMP) was published for public consultation from August to October 2017. Taking account of the representations received a revised draft DMP was submitted to the Secretary of State, and in July 2018 Affinity Water were given the go-ahead by Defra to publish the Plan as final, incorporating minor changes to ensure alignment with the WRMP19, as well as lessons learnt from the dry weather situation in 2017/ 2018.

To ensure a consistent approach to drought management, the DMP covers all eight WRZs across Affinity Water's three regions. The purpose of the DMP is to demonstrate how Affinity Water plans to monitor and manage future drought related events, reduce the demand for water and mobilise extra resources, whilst minimising recourse to drought orders and permits and ensuring security of supply. It is a tactical plan setting out the policy and steps we would take during a drought.

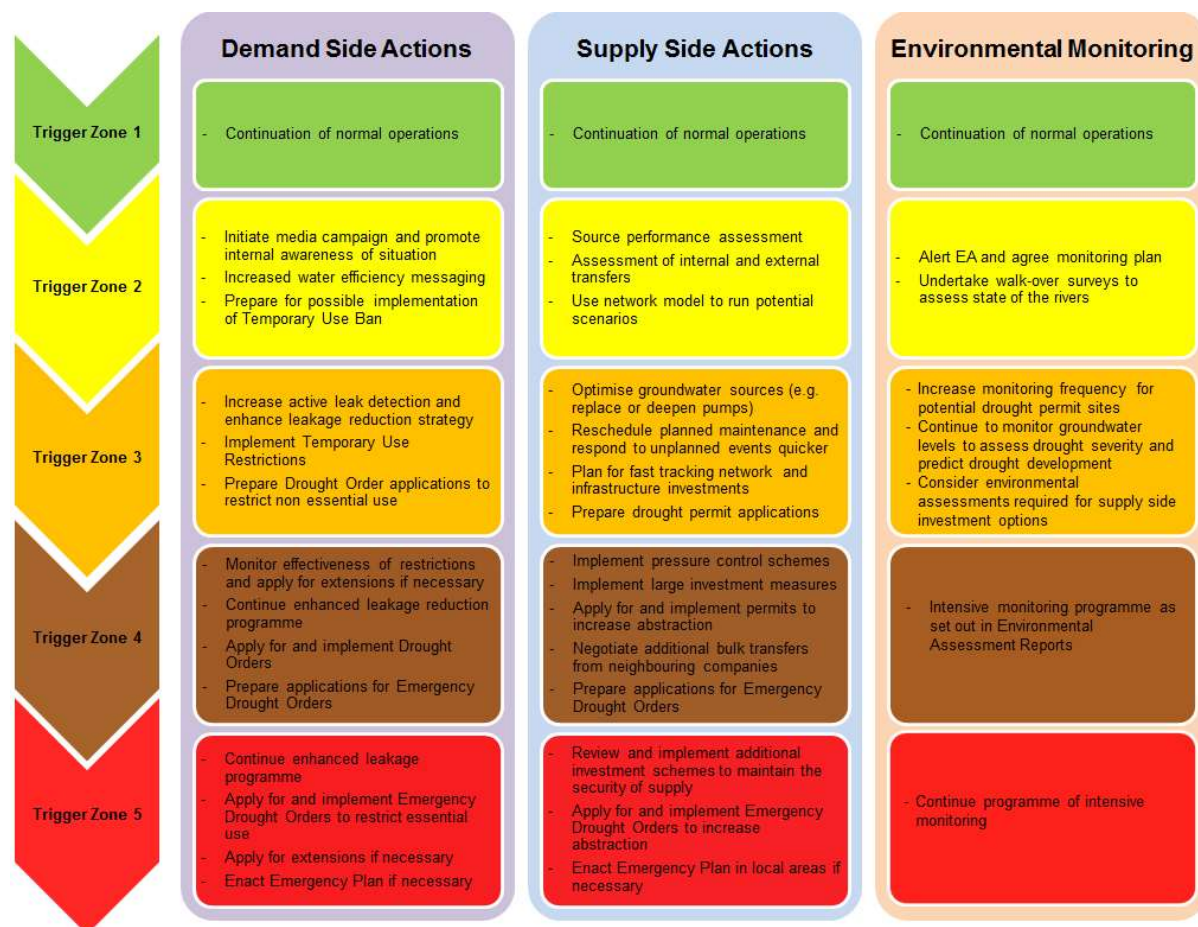
During a drought, the DMP proposes to manage the supply and demand balance using a two tiered approach, in which actions would be taken to reduce demands on water resources, as well as increasing the water available for use. The actions proposed through the DMP are set out in **Figure 6.1** below.

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<sup>27</sup> WRSE (2017 updated in 2018) Environmental Information to inform Water Company SEAs - Cumulative Effects Assessment in WRMP SEAs.



Figure 6.1: Summary of the drought management actions



The DMP proposes a range of demand side actions that are non-site specific. It's possible that the enhanced leakage reduction strategy could have some interactions with schemes proposed through the fWRMP19 but this is uncertain at this stage.

A number of the proposed supply side actions are also non-site specific, such as the optimisation of groundwater sources, so it is difficult to highlight any potential for cumulative effects. All of the drought permit options have been assessed through the SEA process (see **Chapter 4**). It was concluded that none are likely to result in any significant effects against the SEA Framework. The options are essentially groundwater options across a number of Affinity Water WRZs that involve increasing peak (and in the case of prolonged drought, average) abstraction above existing licensed volumes or drought related environmental (river flow or groundwater level) constraints. With that in mind they are most likely to interact with fWRMP19 schemes through changes to the water levels and quality of surface and groundwater bodies. In this regard, the WFD assessment screened out all the drought permit options as they would be temporary in nature, and have already been assessed through modelling as having only small impacts compared to natural drought impacts.

It is recognised that there may be a risk of cumulative adverse effects during drought conditions if drought permits are implemented in the same catchment and at the same time as operating new water sources developed under the WRMP19. This will place a greater stress on the water environment than currently assumed when considering the baseline conditions without the new WRMP schemes in operation. However, it is considered that the potential risk for cumulative effects is low. Once the location of particular drought actions is known there may need to be some consideration as to how these could interact with ongoing or emerging fWRMP19 schemes.

## 7.2.2 Affinity Water's Business Plan

The Business Plan sets out the investment Affinity Water intend to make to maintain and improve essential water and wastewater services, and achieve the targets agreed with Ofwat. The current Business Plan for the period 202 to 2025 was submitted in September 2018 and revised in early 2019 following feedback from Ofwat. The fWRMP19 will make sure that there is enough water to meet demands and therefore help the Business Plan to meet customer expectations. At this stage, it is considered that the risk of cumulative effects as a result of these plans interacting is low as they will be implemented by Affinity Water.

## 7.3 Other WRMPs

WRSE carried out a study to identify potential cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions between schemes being proposed through emerging WRMPs within their area.<sup>28</sup> The study identified ten schemes proposed within Affinity Water's fWRMP19 that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes six schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2Ml/d) to 4Ml/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 (Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3Ml/d)

Two of the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water WRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. A further two schemes AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 propose minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir and AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 proposes a small upgrade of the Saltwood Reservoir along with new mains and pump station at the interconnection point. Given the scale of the schemes and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans. If impacts are identified to the AONB as a result of any landscape scale assessment carried out by WRSE, then Affinity Water will work with other water companies, Natural England and the AONB Board to assess any required mitigation measures.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2061. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2051. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

<sup>28</sup> WRSE (2017 and updated in 2018) Environmental information to inform Water Company SEAs – Identification of potential for cumulative effects between water companies for WRMP19 SEAs. Prepared by Ricardo.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on four water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water, SES Water and South East Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2077; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within Affinity Water's fWRMP19 and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Effingham Tertiaries Groundwater Body as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for SES Water; however, hydrogeological conditions indicate that the options between the two water companies are unlikely to interact and the study identifies that no further assessment is required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

It is recognised that the Thames Water WRMP19 is continuing to evolve and as it does, it will be necessary to further re-visit the cumulative effects as part of the implementation of the WRMP and in subsequent future WRMPs prepared every five years. Despite this, it is considered likely that any changes will not lead to any adverse cumulative effects.

## 7.4 Other Drought Plans

Consideration was also given to the potential for cumulative effects to arise as a result of interactions with schemes proposed through the Drought Plans of neighbouring water companies. Drought options are temporary in nature, and generally have small impacts compared to the impacts of natural drought conditions.

The assessment of drought options proposed within Affinity Water's Drought Plan (2018) found that that none are likely to result in any significant effects against the SEA Framework (see Chapter 4). As noted earlier in this Chapter a number of the proposed supply side actions are non-site specific, such as the optimisation of groundwater sources, so it is difficult to highlight any potential for cumulative effects. The assessment concluded that the risk for the fWRMP19 (including additional schemes under the adaptive futures) and the draft DMP to have cumulative effects is low.

It is also considered that the potential for the fWRMP19 (including additional schemes under the adaptive futures) and other Drought Plan to interact and have negative cumulative effects is low. The demand management measures set out in the Drought Plan are likely to have a positive cumulative effect along with the demand management measures proposed through the fWRMP19 - reducing the pressure on water resources during periods of prolonged dry weather when river flows and groundwater levels are well below normal.

The fWRMP19 and Drought Plans will help to increase the resilience of the Affinity Water Supply system to withstand a severe drought with positive cumulative effects with those neighbouring water companies that are reliant on bulk water supply exports from Affinity Water during drought.

The cumulative effects assessments will need to be updated over time to reflect any changes to the Drought Plans.

## 7.5 Other plans and programmes

Other plans and programmes have already been considered to a certain extent during the scoping stage as part of the review of other plans and programmes (see **Chapter 3** and **Appendix II**). The UKWIR SEA guidance states that once preferred options have been identified through the WRMP process, specific potential impacts with other plans and programmes should be identified, particularly in the context of spatial and temporal proximity.

### 7.5.1 River Basin Management Plans

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) calls for management plans to be delivered for each river basin district (RBD). A RBD covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. In England the Environment Agency is the competent authority for the WFD and it published the first river basin management plans (RBMPs) in December 2009. The 2009 plans outlined the measures needed to bring more waters to good status by 2015 and what needed to be investigated to test whether all waters could justifiably achieve this aim by 2021 or 2027.

The RBMPs, including the objectives and measures they contain, must be reviewed and updated every 6 years. The Environment Agency published updated RBMPs in 2015.

Affinity Water's central supply area falls within the Thames RBD, while the southeast supply area falls within the South East RBD and the east supply area falls within the Anglian RBD. The Thames, South East and Anglian RBMPs set out the current state of the environment as well as a range of measures to achieve environmental objectives in line with the WFD.

The key link between the fWRMP19 and the RBMPs in terms of interactions and potential for cumulative effects relate to the achievement of environmental objectives in line with the WFD. A WFD assessment has been carried out for the fWRMP19. All of the schemes proposed within the fWRMP19 were assessed to identify the potential for schemes to (i) result in deterioration of water body status and (ii) prevent future target status.

The WFD assessment for the fWRM19 identified eight schemes that have the potential for a risk of deterioration in status or potential, under Article 4.7 of the WFD. Six schemes were identified that

may provide a potential improvement to status/ potential or may allow good status/ potential to be achieved. The options are identified in the table below.

**Table 7.1: WFD assessment findings for fWRMP19**

<b>fWRMP19 scheme</b>	<b>Potential adverse impact</b>	<b>Potential benefit</b>
AFF-EFF-WRZ3-0180: Stevenage STW	Yes	Yes
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832: Brent Reservoir	Yes	Yes
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809: Birds Green Reservoir	Yes	
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	Yes	Yes
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	Yes	Yes
AFF- NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal and River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes	Yes	
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010: Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)		Yes
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011: Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		Yes

The potential risks of deterioration in status or potential are expected to be mitigated by appropriate design and management of the options. For example, measures can be taken to minimise the risk of invasive species for surface water schemes at the point of abstraction and transfer; groundwater abstraction options will be based on hydrogeological investigations to identify a sustainable yield; and specific abstraction licensing conditions to protect WFD water bodies will be developed in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Affinity Water's proposed strategy is to manage risks through a robust adaptive approach that includes, if necessary, reducing abstraction from schemes, or not developing them at all. Should this prove necessary following completion of the further WFD investigations, any remaining supply deficit will be addressed by bringing forward implementation of strategic solutions that have been demonstrated to have no WFD compliance risks. Application of this adaptive strategy would be discussed in detail with the Environment Agency, but the fWRMP19 demonstrates that there are viable alternatives available that can be implemented in time to address the supply deficit and with no WFD compliance risks.

### 7.5.2 Environment Agency Regional Action Plans for the South East and Anglian Regions

In March 2009, the Environment Agency launched the national water resources strategy for England and Wales, Water for people and the environment.<sup>29</sup> It set out how water resources should be managed up to the year 2050 so that there will be enough water for people and the environment. Each region within the Environment Agency developed a regional action plan (RAP). The plans explain what they will do to achieve the aims of the national strategy and deliver benefits for people and the environment.

Affinity Water's supply area falls within the RAP for the South East region which was published in 2012,<sup>30</sup> and the RAP for the Anglian region which was published in 2009.<sup>31</sup> There are overlaps / links between the RAP and other plans considered through this cumulative effects assessment. The national water resources strategy's aims include securing a better environment, which complement RBMPs. While the water resources strategies and the WFD have some common elements relating to achieving sustainable catchments, the regional action plans ensure a coherence to the suite of actions relating to water quantity.

<sup>29</sup> Environment Agency (2009) Water for people and the environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales.

<sup>30</sup> Environment Agency (2012) Water Resources Strategy Regional Strategy Actions for South East Region.

<sup>31</sup> Environment Agency (2009) Water Resources Strategy Regional Action Plan for Anglian Region.

In addition, some of the actions in the RAPs will be delivered by implementing the WRMPs: for example, actions on metering and tariff developments, leakage reduction and achieving the best public water supply solutions. It is also important to note that water company business plans will be key to delivering a number of actions in the RAPs including protecting critical infrastructure from flood events, delivering the schemes in the National Environment Programme (NEP) and achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The RAP for the South East region identifies five priorities:

- Protecting our water environment
- Driving water efficiency and ensuring people understand the value of water
- Achieving Water Framework Directive objectives
- Sustainable planning of future water resources
- Assessing the impact of climate change on water resources in the South East

The RAP for the Anglian region identifies four priorities:

- Protecting the environment
- Driving water efficiency
- Ensuring resilience of water resources
- Sharing and development of water resources

The actions proposed to achieve the priorities are predominantly high level and non-site specific. Overall, they are likely to have a cumulative positive effect alongside the fWRMP19 by helping to ensure the needs of the population in terms of water supply are met without adversely affecting the water and wider environment. It is unlikely that there will be any cumulative negative effects arising as a result of interactions between the RAPs and the fWRMP19.

### 7.5.3 Abstraction Licensing Strategies

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing water resources in England and controls how much water is taken through an environmental permitting approach involving abstraction licences. It uses the abstraction licensing strategies to regulate existing licences and grant new ones.

The Environment Agency has been closely involved in the development and refinement of schemes proposed through the fWRMP19. The licensing/permitting system will allow for the implementation of schemes proposed within the fWRMP19 that seek to amend or require new licences for abstraction. Requests from other parties to amend or secure a new licence will need to pass through the permitting system where the potential for cumulative effects will be considered by the Environment Agency, whose approach is to ensure that RBMP objectives for water resources activities are met and that deterioration within catchments is avoided.

### 7.5.4 Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans

Catchment flood management plans (CFMPs) consider all types of inland flooding, from rivers, groundwater, surface water and tidal flooding. Shoreline management plans consider flooding from the sea. The fWRMP19 proposes schemes in areas that fall within the North Essex, Thames, Stour and Rother CFMPs. No schemes are proposed through the fWRMP19 within any current Shoreline Management Plan areas.

The CFMPs set out a number of policy options, identifying sub-areas where further actions could be taken to reduce flood risk. The most likely area for interactions to arise is during construction of new infrastructure for schemes proposed through the fWRMP19. The maintenance of and/ or construction of flood defences coming forward during a similar timeframe interact with proposed schemes with the potential for short term temporary cumulative effects in the local area that relate to traffic disruption, disruption to public rights of way, noise, disturbance and nuisance effects. However, this is dependent on the precise location of proposed works and delivery times. Ongoing and effective communication

between Affinity Water and the Environment Agency should ensure that any potential negative cumulative effects are avoided or appropriate mitigation is provided.

### 7.5.5 Land use and development plans

There are a range of different land use and development plans (either adopted or emerging) within and surrounding Affinity Water's supply area. These include but are not limited to:

- **The London Plan:** the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy, providing the 33 London boroughs with an overarching framework for their Local Plans, assisting them to tackle strategic as well as local issues effectively. It ensures, for example, that boroughs identify enough land to meet local as well as strategic housing needs, and provides guidance to common challenges like climate change and air quality.<sup>32</sup>
- **Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans:** set out a vision and a framework for the future development of an area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure - as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.
- **Local Transport Plans:** set out the transport challenges for an area and the strategy to address them over the next 15-20 years.
- **Waste and Minerals Plans:** seek to ensure that the waste and minerals needs for an area are met as well as sets out the framework and policies for future minerals / waste planning applications.

In general these plans seek to provide sufficient housing, employment and infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population. They also set the framework/ policies for determining various planning applications that come forward in the future. The forecasted population growth considered through these plans has also informed and been factored into the development of the fWRMP19. The fWRMP19 is seeking to ensure that there is sufficient water supply available to meet the growing demands of an increasing population in the future. As a result, it is considered that there will not be any cumulative effects during operation of the schemes proposed through the fWRMP19.

There is the potential for interactions in the short term during the construction stage, in particular for schemes that propose long stretches of new mains. Infrastructure growth coming forward during a similar timeframe has the potential for short term temporary cumulative effects in the local area that relate to traffic disruption, disruption to public rights of way, noise, disturbance and nuisance effects.

The key to avoiding and minimising the potential for cumulative negative effects during construction is to have ongoing and effective communication between the relevant authorities' (local planning, transport, minerals and waste authorities) and key stakeholders (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England). Local collaboration should be encouraged along with more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to deliver infrastructure.

It is noted that the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 1 (2016) includes some allocations that are adjacent or close to the safeguarded area for the South East Strategic Reservoir. Furthermore there are also three Neighbourhood Plan Areas that fall within or are adjacent to the safeguarded area. The Drayton Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2015 and the East Hanney and Steventon Neighbourhood Plans are currently being prepared. Development proposed through these plans could interact with the South East Strategic Reservoir, in particular during construction, to increase traffic on the surrounding road network and disturbance to local communities.

On-going communication between the Vale of White District Council, Thames Water and other key stakeholders should ensure that there are no significant negative cumulative impacts arising during the construction of the South East Strategic Reservoir. This includes agreeing the phasing of development coming forward through the various plans.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan>

## 7.5.6 Major projects

There are a number of major infrastructure projects going on or that are proposed within the region. These include:

- **High Speed Rail 2 (HS2)** - Phase one (London to West Midlands) passes through WRZs 4 and 1 and crosses over new mains proposed under AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 (Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)), AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and adaptive future scheme AFF-CTR-WRZ3-0028. The fWRMP19 schemes will not be delivered until 2054 and 2037 respectively by which point HS2 Phase one should be completed; therefore, there will not be any cumulative effects. Whilst a delivery date for the adaptive futures scheme is unknown at this stage, HS2 Phase one is expected to be complete by late 2026 and as such, it is unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects.
- **Cross Rail** - permanent track installation of the Elizabeth Line, which passes through Affinity Water's supply area, was completed in September 2017. The Cross Rail 2 route ends just within WRZ 6 at Shepperton, there are unlikely to be any cumulative effects given the distance of proposed schemes within the fWRMP19;
- **Heathrow Rail Link** - new rail tunnel to link the Great Western Mainline to London Heathrow Terminal 5. The proposed route crosses new mains to be delivered under AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 (Egham to Iver) and AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 (Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)). The rail link is due to be completed by 2024; however, works may overlap with scheme AFF-CTR-WRZ4-4001 which is due to be delivered in 2022. It is considered that standard construction practices and effective communication with key parties will ensure that the risk of significant cumulative effects is low.
- **Heathrow Airport expansion** - plans for a third runway have been proposed but this is unlikely to interact with any of the schemes proposed through the fWRMP19 to the airport.
- **Highways England improvements** - there are various proposed and ongoing improvements to the strategic road network, which includes junction improvements along M25. None of these are likely to have any cumulative effects with the fWRMP19.

There are unlikely to be any cumulative effects arising between any of the above projects and the fWRMP19 schemes or the additional schemes under the adaptive futures during the operational phase. There is the potential for cumulative effects due to overlapping construction activities in terms of noise, traffic and disruption. However, this is unlikely due to the delivery dates of schemes proposed through the fWRMP19 as well as mitigation available at the project level.

It is recognised that a small proportion of the safeguarded area for the South East Strategic Reservoir also falls within an area safeguarded for flood alleviation within the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan. The Environment Agency is working together with the Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to find ways to reduce flooding in Abingdon. The EA are in the early stages of investigating an option to put a flood storage area at Abingdon Common and this is referred to as the **Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme**. There is close and on-going co-operation between the EA, Vale of White Horse District Council, Thames Water and other key stakeholders to ensure that the impacts of the South East Strategic Reservoir are minimised and that any existing issues relating to flood risk are not exacerbated.

## 7.6 Summary of cumulative effects assessment

WRSE carried out a study to identify potential cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions between schemes being proposed through emerging WRMPs within their area.<sup>33</sup> The study identified ten schemes proposed within Affinity Water's fWRMP19 that could interact with schemes proposed in other WRMPs to have a cumulative effect.

This includes six schemes located within the Southeast Region (WRZ 7 - Dour) which are identified as having the potential to have cumulative effects on the Kent Downs AONB as a result of interactions

<sup>33</sup> WRSE (2017 and updated in 2018) Environmental information to inform Water Company SEAs – Identification of potential for cumulative effects between water companies for WRMP19 SEAs. Prepared by Ricardo.



with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Southern Water (BS\_Win, IZT\_Sel, and BR\_Lug):

- AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 (Broome Network Improvement)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 (Barham Continuation (After 2019/20))
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 (Barham Import Increase (of 2MI/d) to 4MI/d)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South Licence Variation)
- AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak Licence Variation)
- AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 (Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d)

Two of the schemes AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0909 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 involve no new infrastructure so will not interact with the other Affinity Water fWRMP19 schemes or the Southern Water schemes to have cumulative effects on the AONB. A further two schemes AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 propose minimal new infrastructure and the risk of cumulative effects on the AONB is therefore low.

AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 proposes a small upgrade of the Chalksole Service Reservoir and AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 proposes a small upgrade of the Saltwood Reservoir along with new mains and pump station at the interconnection point. Given the scale of the schemes and potential mitigation available, including screening/ planting, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant cumulative effects with options being proposed through Southern Water's WRMP19 on the AONB. Any schemes that propose new infrastructure should ensure that it is sensitively designed and is in conformity with the Kent Downs AONB Management and Local Plans.

It is noted that the WRSE work identifies that a Southern Water option BS\_Win is within 5km of option AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 and AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 so there is the potential for wider construction related impacts. As previously mentioned, AFF-RNC-WRZ7-0626 involves minimal new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2061. AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0301 does not propose any significant new infrastructure and has a delivery date of 2051. Taking the scale of infrastructure proposed and the delivery dates it is considered unlikely that there will be any cumulative effects during construction.

The WRSE work identifies that there is the potential for cumulative effects on four water bodies as a result of interactions with schemes being considered in the WRMPs19 for Thames Water, Southern Water, SES Water and South East Water.

AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (Brent Reservoir) and AFF-RES-WR5-0809 (Birds Green Reservoir) are identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment) as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for Thames Water. The WFD assessment for Affinity Water's fWRMP19 found that AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 would interact with the Lower Brent surface water body and would have no measurable or significant impact on the surface water body in terms of changes in flow velocity and volume from abstraction or any changes to hydromorphology during operation.

The WFD assessment found that AFF-RES-WR5-0809 has the potential to result in the deterioration in the status of the Lower and Upper Roding surface water bodies during operation. As a result, there is the potential for cumulative effects on the Thames (wider catchment). The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. It is important to note that the delivery date for this scheme under this programme is 2077; it is therefore considered that there is ample time to undertake further investigations (including a more detailed WFD assessment) and identify specific mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and significance of any residual cumulative effects.

The other schemes proposed within Affinity Water's fWRMP19 and identified through the WRSE study as having the potential for a cumulative effect are AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (Lye Oak (LYEO) Licence Variation) and AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 (Tappington South (TAPS) Licence Variation) in WRZ 7. The study identified that these two schemes could interact with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) to have a cumulative effect on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

The WFD assessment concluded that AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629 (LYEO Licence Variation) would not pose a significant risk to deterioration and that any impacts would be localised or temporary and not affect the overall status of the groundwater body. The AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0908 scheme involves TAPS, an existing (but disused) groundwater source within an existing licence group. There is a sequence of boreholes connected by an existing raw water main to the treatment works; DENT; TAPN; and RAKN. TAPS is not within this sequence currently and the option is to re-commission the borehole to provide resilience for the licence group (the group output is limited by licence/ treatment works). This scheme was scoped out of the WFD assessment as there would be no overall increase in abstracted volumes. As a result of the findings of the WFD assessment, it is considered that there is a low risk of cumulative effects arising as a result of interactions with Southern Water option GWA\_Fle (Flemings and Woodnesborough WSW licence variation) on the East Kent Chalk - Stour groundwater body.

AFF-NGW-WRZ6-0005 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Effingham Tertiaries Groundwater Body as a result of interactions with options being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for SES Water, however hydrogeological conditions indicate that the options between the two water companies are unlikely to interact and the study identifies that no further assessment is required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

Finally, AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 is also identified in the WRSE study as having the potential for cumulative effects on the Lower Thames Gravels and Twyford Tertiaries Groundwater Bodies as a result of interactions with the option ASR-4 being considered through the emerging WRMP19 for South East Water. The study concludes that as both schemes are within the confined chalk aquifer they are unlikely to impact on surface water features and habitats, with no further assessment required unless site specific hydrogeological information indicates otherwise.

It is recognised that the Thames Water WRMP19 is continuing to evolve and as it does, it will be necessary to further re-visit the cumulative effects as part of the implementation of the WRMP and in subsequent future WRMPs prepared every five years. Despite this, it is considered likely that any changes will not lead to any adverse cumulative effects.

None of the additional schemes that could come forward under the adaptive future were found through the WRSE study to have the potential for cumulative effects.

## 8. Mitigation and areas for further investigation

### 8.1 Introduction

This Chapter presents the mitigation identified through the SEA for the fWRMP19 and adaptive futures as well as areas for further investigation/ assessment. It is important to remember that further studies and environmental assessments will be carried out to inform the detailed design stage for schemes. Further assessments will also be required at the project level once detailed planning and design has been carried out. These will be able to set out detailed mitigation measures to avoid and/ or reduce the significance of any residual negative effects as well as enhance the potential for positive effects.

### 8.2 Mitigation measures and areas for further investigation

The assessment identifies a range of mitigation measures that are relevant to the majority of schemes proposed within the fWRMP19. These include the following:

- The phased delivery of new infrastructure as well as the creation of temporary road diversions and haul roads at the start of the construction, agreement of HGV routes and working hours.
- Minimise waste during construction and reuse materials and source them locally where possible.
- Use of best practice methods including the development and implementation of Construction Environmental Management Plans should be considered.
- The temporary diversion of public rights of way where necessary.
- In terms of the landscape and historic environment schemes should retain hedgerows, trees, fields, walls and soil/land should be re-instated following construction wherever possible. Use construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and deliver screening/ planting. Any new visible should be sensitively designed.
- Methods should be adopted to minimise the impact of localised flooding during construction, including dewatering and treatment of the groundwater prior to discharge (in line with discharge permit conditions) where necessary.
- Appropriate pipe-laying techniques to minimise impacts on the environment and water bodies.
- Seek to avoid the loss of important habitats, including priority habitats, at the detailed design stage by re-routing pipelines. Appropriate buffers should also be provided between new infrastructure and important habitats to minimise impacts during construction and operation.

Specific mitigation measures for schemes are identified where necessary in **Appendix V** and in **Chapter 6**. **Table 8.1** below sets out some of the key areas for further investigation/ assessment that need to be addressed. Affinity Water are committed to working closely with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England as well as other stakeholders to develop detailed mitigation measures for each scheme as part of the next stage of detailed design.

**Table 8.1: Proposed mitigation and areas for further investigation**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Potential impact</b>	<b>Mitigation / further investigation</b>
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (BREN Reservoir)	The scheme proposes the release of water from the Brent Reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. There is uncertainty at this stage with regard to the extent and frequency of drawdown in the reservoir as a result of this proposed scheme.	There ongoing discussions between Affinity Water and the Rivers and Canals Trust who operate the reservoir. It is recommended that Natural England is also involved in these discussions. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Brent Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown. It is anticipated that this would be delivered later in the planning horizon under the Expected Future, i.e. in AMP10, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 (BREN Reservoir)	Potential impacts on landscape and the historic environment during construction.	<p>Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible. Use construction methods and barriers/hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The new Harrow Service Reservoir cell will be buried and the delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced.</p> <p>A landscape and visual impact assessment as well as heritage impact assessment should be carried out to inform the development of detailed mitigation measures to minimise impacts during construction and operation.</p> <p>Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations will be required prior to any construction work. Further meetings should be held with Historic England to confirm mitigation measures as part of the detailed design process.</p>
AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 (Canal & River Trust and SGSK Boreholes)	The WFD assessment found that the cessation of discharge could cause deterioration in status of the Salthill Stream surface water body.	The discharge volume needs to be quantified and further WFD assessment undertaken to determine if could impact the status of the Salthill Stream surface water body. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2026 under the Expected Future there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown.
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	The WFD assessment found that there the scheme could reduce water flow and levels as well as quality in the Lower Roding (Cripsey Brook to Loughton) Surface Water Body	The WFD assessment recommends that further assessments and discussions with the EA are required to explore the need for and potential of compensatory flows. Given that the delivery date of this scheme is 2077 under the Expected Future there is sufficient time to investigate this issue further. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. The Supply-side Challenging Adaptive Future explored the potential for reducing the yield of this scheme by 50% to mitigate the extent and frequency of any drawdown.
AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir	The new reservoir is not in close proximity to any designated heritage assets but there is the	Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work. Further meetings should be held with

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
	potential for archaeological activity /remains at the site, which would likely be impacted by the construction of the reservoir cell and associated infrastructure.	Historic England to confirm mitigation measures as part of the detailed design process.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	Potential for impacts on biodiversity during construction and operation.	It is recommended that these schemes are accompanied by an explicit commitment to ensure that the programming and construction processes for this scheme take into account the proximity of the South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA, which is also designated as Wraysbury No.1 Gravel Pit SSSI. Construction works on the short section of pipeline adjacent to the SPA/ SSSI are programmed to avoid the winter (October to March) period entirely or are accompanied by an impact assessment including noise modelling and mitigation in line with British Standard BS5228 as required in order to ensure that noise levels can be maintained at an acceptable level.
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		As a precaution, it is recommended that these schemes are accompanied by an explicit commitment to carefully design the pipeline, informed by geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations as necessary, to ensure that there is no requirement for dewatering of the excavation, or that any dewatering that is required is returned immediately to ground. These would enable the pipeline to be installed at a suitable depth and in a suitable manner that groundwater continuity to the gravel pits would not be disrupted and groundwater quality would be protected.
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)		The delivery of the SESR will result in the loss of non-designated habitats. Best practice construction practices to mitigate effects due to construction including identification of suitable traffic routes. Further construction mitigation includes: site specific ecological assessments prior to commencement of works; the minimisation of loss of existing trees; the provision of habitat provision in landscaped areas; creation of aquatic habitats; and provision of compensatory habitats to be developed in close dialogue with regulatory bodies, planning authorities, interested stakeholders and local communities.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	The delivery of the SESR will result in the loss of flood plain.	Construction methods should be adopted to minimise the impact of localised flooding during construction of the pipeline, including dewatering and treatment of the groundwater prior to discharge (in line with discharge permit conditions). Flood Defence Consents will also be obtained in all areas where works are in or within 8m of a main river. Flood compensation ponds will be constructed as part of the enabling works. Earthworks sequencing will include coffer dam formation to avoid flooding of borrow areas during construction. The scheme would not affect flood storage once operational and the necessary flood plain compensation complete.
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		Flood compensation for loss of flood storage will be provided close to proposed reservoir site. The design has had regard to the area safeguarded for flood risk management, as identified in the local plan. Scheme mitigation includes the provision of 80.9ha flood compensation areas for loss of flood plain, construction good practice and construction area to be sited away from flood areas. In addition it is proposed that earthworks sequencing is undertaken to include

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
		cofferdam formation to avoid flooding of the borrow area during construction. During future design development, further work will be needed to confirm floodplain compensation requirements and this should acknowledge any actual new housing developments and any potential remaining housing allocations contained in the Local Plan.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)	Potential impacts on the landscape and historic environment during construction and operation.	Landscape; limiting embankment heights and the steepness of the side slopes. While landscape elements would be lost during construction, sensitive design and landscape treatment around the new reservoir would integrate the new feature into the wider landscape through ground reprofiling, extensive planting, forming new hedgerow and woodland links and grassland. New opportunities would be created for improved access, recreation and amenity provision across the area of the reservoir, which would be designed as part of the planning process.
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)		
AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)		For landscape, over the long term, 15 years after initial operation, planting would mature and aid integration of the reservoir into the landscape and the setting of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Sympathetic design and landscaping would mitigate against some adverse effects of a new feature in the landscape.
		Heritage; mitigation includes siting of temporary and permanent works to minimise impacts on settings. Archaeological remains will be impacted by the construction of the reservoir. Further meetings should be held with Historic England and Oxfordshire County Council to confirm mitigation measures as part of the detailed design process. Mitigation measures will include review of previous desk based and field studies, further targeted field evaluations and targeted excavations alongside watching briefs during overburden stripping where archaeology has been identified.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead)	The WFD assessment identifies that the abstraction has the potential for impacts during operation on water levels/ flows and quality in the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body.	Further investigations should be carried out, including a more detailed WFD assessment. There should also be discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with the WFD. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. It is anticipated that these schemes would be delivered later in the planning horizon, i.e. after AMP8, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/ Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)		
AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)	Potential impacts on biodiversity during construction and operation.	The scheme proposes the abstraction of water from the Grafham reservoir, which is designated as a SSSI. Interest features include nationally important waterfowl populations as well as areas of grassland, scrub, marsh and temporarily inundated shoreline. The precise location of the new raw water pumping station is not known at this stage. During construction there is the potential for impacts on the SSSI interest features through the loss and fragmentation of habitat, pollution and disturbance.
		The location of the pumping station and abstraction point are uncertain at this stage. If this scheme is progressed as part of the High Growth Adaptive Future the pumping station and abstraction point should be located so that they avoid important habitats used by the breeding/ wintering birds. The location of infrastructure should be informed by detailed ecological surveys and consultation with Natural England.
		Construction of the new pump station and main in proximity to Grafham Water SSSI should be carried out mid-August to

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
		<p>end of September to avoid disturbance to any breeding or wintering birds.</p> <p>If this scheme is progressed as part of the High Growth Adaptive Future there will need to be further discussions between Affinity Water, Anglian Water and Natural England. More detailed hydrological investigations need to be carried out in order to determine the extent and frequency of drawdown as a result of this scheme and how the hydrological conditions affect the wetland habitats and birds they support. The assessment proposes that the water levels in the Grafham Water Reservoir are monitored to inform the need and use of hands-off flow conditions to restrict the release of water when levels are low. Furthermore, the release of water could also be restricted at key times in the year, such as during the breeding/ nesting seasons (broadly March to July). It is anticipated that this would be delivered later in the planning horizon under the High Growth Adaptive Future, i.e. in AMP15, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.</p>
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	Potential impacts on the historic environment during construction and operation.	<p>The location of the new reservoir is within 1km of a number of Listed Buildings and the Tatternhoe Castle Scheduled Monument. The reservoir is likely to be visible in part to these designated heritage assets given their elevation and the Scheduled Monument looks down the Ouzel Valley. There is therefore the potential for negative effects during construction and operation of the new reservoir. There is also the potential for archaeological activity /remains at the site, which would likely be impacted by the construction of the reservoir cell and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods and barriers/ hoardings that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape and historic environment. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. More detailed mitigation measures should be explored at the detailed design stage and Historic England should be consulted. A landscape and visual impact assessment as well as heritage impact assessment should be carried out to inform the development of detailed mitigation measures to minimise impacts during construction and operation.</p> <p>Given the potential for archaeological activity/remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work. It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon, i.e. in AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.</p>
AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir	The WFD assessment identifies that during operation the scheme has the potential to impact flow velocity and volume, hydromorphology and therefore water quality of the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body.	Further investigations should be carried out, including a more detailed WFD assessment. There should also be discussions with the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with the WFD. Mitigation could include the use of hands-off flow conditions when water levels/ flows are low. It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon under the High Growth Adaptive Future, i.e. in AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.
AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to	The delivery of the new pump house, pipeline	The pipeline should be routed to avoid designated heritage assets and provide a suitable buffer where necessary.

Scheme	Potential impact	Mitigation / further investigation
Saltwood Import Increase by 3Mld	and expansion of the reservoir has the potential for a negative effect on landscape and historic environment. Approximately 2.5km of the pipeline and the expanded reservoir fall within the Kent Downs AONB.	<p>Mitigation measures should include the retention of hedgerows, trees, fields, walls wherever possible and the reinstatement of soil/ land following construction of the pipeline. Use construction methods that are sympathetic to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape. The delivery of screening/ planting should ensure that the residual effects during operation are reduced. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be required to determine the sensitivity of the receiving landscape and potential effects of the option as well as appropriate mitigation measures. Any visible new infrastructure should be sensitively designed and adhere to the aims and policies of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan where necessary. Given the potential for archaeological activity/ remains, archaeological investigations should be required prior to any construction work.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this would be delivered at the end of the planning horizon, i.e. in AMP18, so there is sufficient time to undertake further investigations.</p>



## 9. Next steps and monitoring

### 9.1 Introduction

The Chapter sets out the next steps for the WRMP19 and SEA as well as the measures envisaged for monitoring.

### 9.2 Consulting on and finalising the WRMP19

The fWRMP19, revised SoR and revised Environmental Report will be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Once the final WRMP19 is approved by the Secretary of State, published and adopted, Affinity Water will publish a SEA Post Adoption Statement, describing how the SEA and the responses to consultation have been taken into account during the preparation of the WRMP19. This statement must include:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the WRMP;
- How the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
- Any changes to or deletions from the WRMP in response to the information in the Environmental Report;
- How consultations responses have been taken into account;
- Reasons for choosing the WRMP as adopted, and why other reasonable alternatives were rejected; and
- Monitoring measures.

### 9.3 Monitoring

At the current time, there is a need only to present 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring'. The SEA Regulations expect monitoring and mitigation to be linked, and that the focus should be on any significant negative effects identified through the assessment. The UKWIR SEA guidance recommends that existing arrangements for monitoring should be used where possible to avoid duplication of effort.

Based on the findings of the SEA at this stage, the following monitoring measures are proposed:

**Table 9.1: Proposed monitoring measures**

SEA topic	Potential indicator	fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes
<b>Water</b>	Number of objections from the Environment Agency in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General for all new schemes.</li> </ul>
	Groundwater levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Lower Greensand (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Salthill stream (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624 : Canal and Rivers Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Lower Roding (Crispey Brook to Loughton) (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Groundwater levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the East Kent Chalk Stour (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation</li> </ul>

SEA topic	Potential indicator	fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes
	Brent Reservoir water levels (already monitored by the Canal & River Trust).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Tame (R Rea to R Blythe and from R Blythe to River Anker) surface water body (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Surface water levels/ flows/ quality and WFD status for the Ouzel (US Clipstone Brook) surface water body (already monitored by the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RES-WRZ3-0814 : Honeywick Rye Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Grafham Reservoir water levels (already monitored by Anglian Water).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Baseline monitoring for INNS is carried out as part of scheme development and operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020: Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d))</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014: South Lincs Res (100MI/d)</li> <li>AFF-NGW-WRZ4-0624: Canal &amp; River Trust and GSK Slough Boreholes</li> <li>All schemes involving raw water transfers</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Brent Reservoir SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RES-WRZ4-0832 : Brent Reservoir</li> </ul>
	South West London Waterbodies Ramsar and SPA as well as the Wraysbury No.1 Gravel Pit SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
	Roding Valley Meadows SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RES-WRZ5-0809 : Birds Green Reservoir</li> </ul>
	Lydden and Swingfield Woods SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-EGW-WRZ7-0629: Lye Oak Licence Variation</li> </ul>
	Grafham Water SSSI condition status (already monitored by Natural England).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ3-4014 : South Lincs Res (100MI/d)</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	Number of objections from AONB management boards in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ4- 4012 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (100MI/d)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-1066 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead)</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4020 : Grand Union Canal (GUC - Berkhamstead/Hemel Hempstead 100 MI/d)</li> <li>TR-WRZ3-1099 : Boxted to Chaul End</li> <li>AFF-RTR-WRZ7-0842 : Aldington to Saltwood Import Increase by 3MI/d</li> <li>All schemes proposing new visible infrastructure within WRZ 7.</li> </ul>

SEA topic	Potential indicator	fWRMP19 and adaptive future schemes
<b>Historic Environment</b>	Number of objections from Historic England in relation to new schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General for all schemes that propose new infrastructure.</li> </ul>
	Condition of buried archaeology would be monitored during construction works as part of a Watching Brief and associated response measures as set out in the Environmental Management Plan agreed as part of the planning permission process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ1-4010 : Abingdon Reservoir to Harefield Transfer (50MI)</li> <li>• AFF-RTR-WRZ4-4011 : Abingdon to Iver 2 (50MI/d)</li> <li>• General for all schemes that propose new visible infrastructure.</li> </ul>
	Reference to Historic England's monitoring of heritage assets such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, in particular the 'Heritage at risk' register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General for all schemes that propose new infrastructure.</li> </ul>

Monitoring measures will be given further consideration and set out within the SEA Post Adoption Statement.

## Appendices (available separately)

**Appendix I: Regulatory requirements**

**Appendix II: Scoping information**

**Appendix III: Statutory consultee responses**

**Appendix IV: SEA screening criteria**

**Appendix V: SEA of constrained options (supply, demand and drought)**

**Appendix VI: Cumulative Effects Assessment**





