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Natural Resources and Sustainability

18.1

Baseline Conditions

The proposed scheme will form part of an efficient and economical system of supplying water to the Isle of Wight without having long-term environmental implications. The scheme will also avoid abstracting water on the island, where many of the water resource units are classified by the Environment Agency as over licensed and over abstracted.

The detailed design of the scheme will, where possible incorporate environmental sustainable techniques and materials. Innovative approaches will be used and recommendations made to the successful contractor to use well maintained equipment and the implementation of construction procedures to minimise emissions and ensure a sustainable use and disposal of resources.

In addition, a recycling drilling lubricant plant will be erected at the drill rig sites through which all the drilling arisings will be processed.

Where possible, local stone will be used over the geotextile sheeting for the working surfaces at the drill rig sites at Lepe and Gurnard.

To comply with criteria for the 'Climate Change Levy 1997' pump units have to deliver an output at a high efficiency utilising variable speed pump motor drives and additional benefit can be obtained from high efficiency motor units. In the case of the Cross-Solent, the pump units are compliant with both requirements recorded above. It should be noted that the 'Climate Change Levy' does provide tax benefits to Southern Water besides making a contribution to the environment by lowering energy use.

The increase in pipe size has also resulted in the need to generate less pumping head therefore decreasing the power requirements by at least one third of the current maximum design pumped flow rate.