

## 4 Consultation

### 4.1 *Introduction*

This section describes the consultation process undertaken as part of the EIA, summarises the key issues raised by consultees and explains how these have been taken into account in the design of the proposals. It also describes the scoping exercise that was undertaken to establish which topics needed to be assessed as part of the EIA.

Adams Hendry Consulting Limited were commissioned by Southern Water and then 4Delivery Limited to advise on planning matters and coordinate consultation for the EIA and planning applications of the proposed scheme.

### 4.2 *Scoping and Consultation Process*

#### 4.2.1 *General Consultation*

Consultation with key consultees regarding the proposals has been ongoing from October 2004 through a series of round table meetings. Southern Water, 4 Delivery Ltd, Halcrow and Adams Hendry have met with representatives from the local planning authorities (Isle of Wight Council, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council), consenting agencies, statutory consultees and parish councils. In addition local interest groups have been kept informed about the progress of the proposals through press releases and a consultation exercise undertaken as part of the scoping process.

#### 4.2.2 *Technical Consultations*

A Technical Note, which provides general background information to the scheme, defines the study area and outlines the alternative engineering options considered was prepared and circulated to statutory and non-statutory consultees in December 2004.

Early meetings with the key consultees focussed on the discussion of alternative engineering options for the scheme and enabled consultees objectives and concerns to be clarified. Separate meetings to discuss the scoping report were also held. In addition, a number of organisations have been able to provide baseline information as part of the EIA process.

During the period October 2004 to May 2005, Southern Water, 4 Delivery Ltd, Halcrow and Adams Hendry met with a number of key consultees including the Isle of Wight Council, New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council; the Environment Agency, the Marine Environment Consents Unit (Defra), English Nature, the shadow New Forest National Park Authority, Associated British Ports and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Other consultees including the Crown Estates, English Heritage, CEFAS, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, RSPB, Isle of Wight AONB Partnership, Royal Yachting Association, Southern Sea Fisheries, Trinity House Lighthouse Service, local harbour authorities, parish councils, fishing organisations and sailing clubs in the Solent have been kept informed of the proposed works.

Separate site meetings were held with landowners at Lepe and Gurnard including the Manor of Cadland, Scottish & Southern Electric and local landowners. A site meeting to discuss the proposed temporary access off Lepe Road was held with Hampshire Highways. A presentation of the proposed options for the scheme was made to Gurnard Parish Council in April 2005.

Several press releases have been issued in local newspapers and this will continue as work on the scheme progresses.

**4.3**

**4.3.1**

***Scheme refinements***

***4.3.1 Refining the Preferred Scheme***

The process of choosing the most preferential environmental option is considered in section 3 'Need and Alternatives'. As a result of consultations and discussions with the consultees, a number of refinements have been made to the preferred scheme aimed at reducing environmental impacts as far as possible. The main refinements are discussed in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1:** *Benefits of proposed Scheme*

<b>Issues raised by consultees</b>	<b>Amendments during outline design stage</b>	<b>Resulting environmental benefits</b>
Temporary rig site at Lepe	Temporary rig site moved from Lepe Country Park to agricultural field to the north.	Construction impacts (visual impacts, noise disturbance and impacts on recreational activity) at Lepe Country Park are removed.
Construction Impact on Lepe Country Park	Temporary rig site moved further north	Overhead and underground electricity power lines successfully avoided

especially during busy summer months	Connection chambers in verge off Lepe Road	Benefit in moving connection chambers out of Lepe Country Park & removes need for permanent access through the country park.
Impact on New Forest National Park	Relocation of the temporary access to the rig site from adjacent to Lepe Country Park and south and south-east station to a site off Lepe Road	Construction impacts on access to Lepe Country Park are removed. Permanent loss of mature hedgerow avoided.
	Connection chambers and monitoring kiosk in verge off Lepe Road	Allows replanting of hedgerow temporarily removed to create site access. No disturbance to surrounding land uses once scheme is operational. Kiosk will be sited to blend into hedgerow to reduce impact on NFNP
	Existing connection chamber in lower car park at Lepe Country Park to be reinstated	Reinstatement of area of lower car park
	Temporary rig site at Gurnard	Location of temporary rig site relocated from Gurnard Marsh to site west of Rew Street
Impact on areas of nature conservation value, protected species and UK and Hampshire BAP/ priority species	Longer directional drill proposed	Directional drilling will emerge beyond the boundary of the SAC avoiding disturbance to the international nature conservation area
Potential impact on breeding birds on the foreshore	It was agreed (following consultation with English Nature) that no breeding bird surveys on the foreshore were required because the pipeline will run at an approximate depth of 10m below the foreshore	Possible impacts on breeding birds on the foreshore avoided
Impact of the release of drilling lubricants	Construction methodology assessed to consider drilling lubricant release. Sediment transport modelling undertaken together with survey of turbidity levels.	Impact of drilling lubricant release will be carefully monitored, together with turbidity levels during pipeline installation.
Impact on areas of archaeological interest on land and disturbance to the seabed	Independent archaeological report undertaken which highlighted main features of interest. Method of working agreed with council archaeologists and English Heritage. Cores from marine site investigations analysed by qualified archaeologist and geophysical survey interpreted.	Known areas of archaeological importance including known wrecks avoided during design.

Disturbance of foreshore and blue slip clay on IOW	Longer directional drill proposed	Drill will be approximately 10 metres below ground level at this point and impacts on foreshore and cliffs will be avoided.
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*Scoping Report*

In May 2005, a scoping report prepared by Halcrow Group on behalf of 4 Delivery Limited was formally submitted to the Isle of Wight Council and New Forest District Council (under Regulation 10 (1) of the EIA Regulations) to request an opinion from each local authority as to the information to be provided in the ES. At the same time Adams Hendry sent the scoping report to key consultees and informed local interest groups, including local fishing organisations of the proposed works and of the availability of the scoping report. Additional information was provided to those local organisations, as requested.

General principles have been discussed in relation to the proposed scheme prior to drafting the proposals and specific aspects of the scheme have been refined to reflect specific concerns and other views expressed by the various bodies consulted. Responses from the consultees have ensured that the issues addressed in the ES are comprehensive and are given the correct degree of emphasis.

Formal scoping opinions were received from New Forest District Council on 8 July 2005 and from the Isle of Wight Council on 29 July 2005. A summary of the key issues arising from the scoping exercise and other consultations are included in Table 4.1 and those issues to be considered in the ES are included in Table 4.2. The Scoping Opinions and Scoping Report are available separately.

Table 4.2 sets out the principal environmental issues that concerned consultees and are reflected in the scope of the ES. Although shown under separate headings, the EIA has paid close attention to the inter-relationship between the issues in order to consider overall likely impact of the proposals and the corresponding mitigation measures.

**Table 4.2** *Scoping Table*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Issues scoped into the ES</b>
Air Quality and Climate	Increase in dust levels and emissions as a result of presence of machinery and increased vehicle movements
Alternatives	Consideration of other alternatives to provide the IoW with potable waster supply to the provision of the pipeline

Cultural and Archaeological Heritage	<p>Disturbance to areas of archaeological interest on land</p> <p>Impact on archaeology from drilling operations at entry and exit points of HDD</p> <p>Impact on the physical maritime remains of the area</p> <p>Impacts on stratified deposits and Palaeolithic peat beds in the maritime area</p>
Ecology	<p>Impacts on international and national nature conservation sites (Solent Maritime SAC, Solent &amp; Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, North Solent SSSI and NNR)</p> <p>Impacts on protected species / habitats and terrestrial ecological features</p> <p>Possible impacts to SPA, schedule 1 and other breeding birds outside of the designated sites</p> <p>Release of drilling lubricants</p> <p>Temporary increase in turbidity leading to temporary displacement of marine organisms</p> <p>Increase in pollution levels</p>
Fisheries	<p>Potential impact on fishing activities (smothering or ground disturbance) and prevention of access to sea</p> <p>Impact on sea trout</p> <p>Direct impact on a fishing ground covered by the Solent Oyster Fishery Order, and impact on Class B Bivalve Mollusc production</p> <p>Impact on an area covered by EC Shellfish Waters Directive</p> <p>Removal of pelagic species and benthos on which fish feed through embedding (jetting) operations</p> <p>Impact on the Stanswood Bay Several Order area</p> <p>Programme of works in so far as fisheries and oyster fisheries will be affected</p> <p>Increase in pollution levels</p> <p>Possible noise and vibration impacts in relation to the seabed.</p> <p>Potential impact upon whelks and cuttlefish, and their respective fisheries in the Solent.</p>
Human Beings	<p>Temporary closure of footpaths and severance of recreational sites</p> <p>Potential for road closures or diversions</p> <p>Localised temporary increases in noise and vibration and lowered visual amenity</p> <p>Offshore components of the construction works may have minor adverse impacts on recreation and tourism</p>
Land use	<p>Temporary local impacts as a result of land requirements for site compounds and working areas</p> <p>Impact on Lepe Country Park including proposed works to the existing chamber</p> <p>Waste arisings from the works and where they will be stored and taken off site</p>