

Draft Drought Plan 2027

Annex 10: Water Framework Directive Assessment

May 2026



from
**Southern
Water** 

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This Annex is incomplete and the table below describes progress, along with work still to be completed.

Annex 10 WFD	Description
Annex % Complete	5%
Work Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought Plan 2022 including its Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment were published in August 2025. Scope of works for the environmental assessments for Drought Plan 2027 issued to potential consultants in August 2025. Contracts signed February 2026. WSP Binnies (Binnies) WFD Methodology Statement submitted for regulator review on 13/03/2026. <p><i>This Annex is in draft form only. As indicated below, the content remains subject to further analysis, regulatory input and evidence and may be amended prior to finalisation of the Drought Plan. Southern Water does not invite reliance on this section in its current form.</i></p>
Work Remaining	Full update to the WFD Assessment
External Deliverables	<p>Consultancy support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mott MacDonald is reviewing and updating the plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), and 10 of the drought permit/order HRAs. Atkins is reviewing and updating surface water triggers. Haskoning is updating 10 of the Environmental Assessment Reports (EARs) for the drought permits and orders for Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex (excluding Pulborough). WSP is updating the Hampshire (ie; Test/Itchen/Candover) drought order HRA and EARs. Atkins is updating Pulborough drought order HRA and EAR.
	<p>Regulatory support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency (EA) to review the WFD methodology statement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA to review outcomes of trigger reviews for surface water, ground water and reservoirs EA & NE to review draft EARs
Dependencies	<p>The WFD Assessment can only be fully completed once all the updates to the drought permit/order EARs and HRAs have been carried out. Due to their complexity, the Hampshire and Pulborough HRAs and EARs have a longer timeline for delivery and are due to complete in Autumn 2026. As a result, there is a risk that the finalised draft WFD Assessment may need to be based on some older EAR and HRA assessments. If this is the case, it will be resolved by the time of final draft submission in 2027.</p> <p>The WFD update will also rely on updated triggers information.</p>
Critical Path	<p>The Hampshire EAR updates are linked with their corresponding HRA updates which will assess impacts covering an extended timeframe for reliance on drought permits and orders from 2030 up to 2034. These updated HRAs will determine any new mitigation and compensation needed for the use of these options beyond 2030.</p> <p>There is a risk of either delay or reliance on older data within the WFD assessment should any of the dependencies outlined above be delayed.</p>
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority EAR initial updates due by end of May 2026 Majority HRA initial updates due by July/August 2026 Hampshire and Pulborough EAR and HRA updates due by Autumn 2026. The extended timeline for the delivery of these is due to the complexity and volume of work required. Trigger updates for groundwater – completed March 2026, to be reviewed by EA Trigger updates for reservoirs due in July 2026 Trigger updates for surface water due in October 2026 Binnies draft WFD Assessment ready for SW review July 2026 Internally reviewed and assured draft WFD Assessment due September 2026
Decision points, meetings and workshops	<p>Monthly progress meetings with Binnies are taking place, along with regular coordination/update meetings with other suppliers.</p> <p>Meetings with regulators will be arranged as required.</p>