

# Draft Drought Plan 2027

## Annex 7: Environmental Monitoring Plan

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 7 EMP	Description
Annex % Complete	5%
Work Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drought Plan 2022 including its Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) were published in August 2025</li> <li>Scope of works for the environmental assessments for Drought Plan 2027 issued August 2025.</li> <li>Contracts signed February 2026.</li> <li>Mott MacDonald (Motts) instructed to update the EMP for DP27 and submitted a Methodology Statement for regulator review on 13/03/2026.</li> </ul> <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	Motts to deliver the full update to the EMP
External Deliverables	<p><b>Consultancy support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motts is also reviewing and updating the plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and 10 of the drought permit/order HRAs for Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex (excluding Pulborough).</li> <li>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).</li> <li>WSP is updating the Hampshire (ie; Test/Itchen/Candover) drought order HRA and EARs.</li> <li>Atkins is updating the Pulborough drought order HRA and EAR.</li> <li>WSP Binnies (Binnies) is updating the plan level Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Regulatory support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EA &amp; NE to review the methodology statement.</li> <li>EA &amp; NE to review draft EARs and HRAs for drought permits/orders.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Dependencies</b></p>	<p>The EMP will be informed by <b>updates to the drought permit/order HRAs and EARs</b>. The EMP provides the framework for monitoring and mitigation activities linked to relevant drought management measures included in the Drought Plan, in particular Drought Permits or Drought Orders to allow temporary increases in abstraction. The EMP will need to be updated once the HRA and EARs are completed as these will set out the monitoring and mitigation measures.</p>
<p><b>Critical Path</b></p>	<p>The Hampshire HRA updates 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 to secure the use of these options beyond 2030.</p> <p>There is a risk of either delay or reliance on older data within the EMP should any of the dependencies outlined above be delayed.</p> <p>Natural England has advised that assessments of the Hampshire drought orders beyond 2030 are required for the submitted drought plan to be compliant with Habitats Regulations.</p>
<p><b>Timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority drought permit/order HRA and EAR updates due by July/August 2026 with the exception of Hampshire and Pulborough which are due by Autumn.</li> <li>• Motts draft EMP ready for SW review August 2026</li> <li>• <b>Internally reviewed and assured draft EMP due October 2026</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Decision points, meetings and workshops</b></p>	<p>Fortnightly progress meetings with Motts are taking place, along with regular coordination/update meetings with other suppliers.</p> <p>Meetings with regulators will be arranged if required.</p>