



South East Strategic Reservoir Option
Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 4.1 - Matters scoped out of the EIA

Date: October 2025

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1 Summary of Matters Scoped out of the EIA

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix summarises the matters that have been scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to the likely significant effects of the Project during both construction and operation. The tables are arranged by aspect and provide the justification as to why particular matters have been scoped out of the EIA.
- 1.1.2 The 'Justification' column of the tables notes whether each matter has been scoped out through the SESRO EIA Scoping Report (Thames Water, 2024) and agreed through the Planning Inspectorate's EIA Scoping Opinion (The Planning Inspectorate, 2024) or whether the matter has been scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion along with justification for this change.
- 1.1.3 Matters that have been scoped back into the EIA subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion are not covered in this appendix and are instead noted in the aspect chapters (Chapter 5: Water environment through to Chapter 20: Cumulative effects). It should be noted that some of the matters that are scoped in to the EIA have not been assessed at this Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report stage, but will be included in the Environmental Statement (ES). Where this is the case, it is explained further in the relevant aspect chapter.

Table 1.1 Matters scoped out of the EIA for the PEI Report -wide assessment

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
PEI Report - wide	Decommissioning	Effects from Decommissioning of the Project	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that no future decommissioning is anticipated. The reservoir is assumed to be operated indefinitely. Decommissioning of temporary assets required during construction (for example, the temporary rail sidings) and reservoir assets that require ongoing maintenance and replacement in line with the continued use of the reservoir during operation have been considered in the assessment where applicable.
PEI Report - wide	Construction and operation	Transboundary effects	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that the Project location (in the centre of England), scale and nature (with limited atmospheric emissions) are not considered likely to give rise to transboundary effects. It is considered that the Project is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			another European Economic Area State. The Project has considered changes to the design and updated draft Order limits since the scoping stage and still comes to the same conclusion. This position will remain under review.

Table 1.2 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Water environment

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 5: Water environment	Construction and operation	Coastal/ tidal Flooding	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion due to the location of the Project.

Table 1.3 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Aquatic ecology

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 6: Aquatic ecology	Construction	Phytoplankton (Thames only)	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Phytoplankton are unlikely to be particularly important sources of primary and secondary productivity in watercourses within the draft Order limits, given the shallow nature of these watercourses, associated flow velocities and limited water residence time as compared with (for example) the River Thames, meaning growth conditions for phytoplankton and zooplankton are unfavourable. Whilst these risks would also require management in the context of localised construction activities associated with the River Thames (intake/outfall location), significant effects on phytoplankton and zooplankton within the River Thames are considered unlikely. As such, potential impacts associated with construction activities are scoped out.
Chapter 6: Aquatic ecology	Construction	Zooplankton (Thames only)	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Zooplankton are unlikely to be particularly important sources of primary and secondary productivity in

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			watercourses within the draft Order limits, given the shallow nature of these watercourses, associated flow velocities and limited water residence time as compared with (for example) the River Thames, meaning growth conditions for phytoplankton and zooplankton are unfavourable. Whilst these risks will also require management in the context of localised construction activities associated with the River Thames (intake/outfall location), significant effects on phytoplankton and zooplankton within the River Thames are considered unlikely. As such, potential impacts associated with construction activities are scoped out.

Table 1.4 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Terrestrial ecology

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Ancient woodland	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion - no pathway to effect.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Construction and operation	Hazel dormouse	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Given the lack of suitable habitat currently available on site, Hazel dormice are unlikely to be present. If dormice are found during surveys, they will be scoped back in. However, as surveys remain ongoing at present, dormouse have remained in the scope of the PEI Report assessment on a precautionary basis.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Construction and operation	Sand lizards and smooth snakes	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Agreed that the Project site does not contain favourable habitat for these species, and that neither of these species have been recorded on site.

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) with the exception of Marcham Salt Spring and The Cuttings and Hutchins Copse	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion - no pathway to effect.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Habitats of Principal Importance	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion - no pathway to effect.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Habitat loss / gain, fragmentation, and modification	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion - no pathway to effect.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Spread of INNS	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Construction plant disturbing soil and vegetation will not occur during operation.
Chapter 7: Terrestrial ecology	Operation	Notable vascular plants	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion - no pathway to effect.

Table 1.5 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Historic environment

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 8: Historic environment	Operation	Non-designated archaeology	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that for non-designated archaeological assets outside of the draft Order limits, such remains are buried and therefore 'invisible' and would not be quantified by the Project investigation works. As such, it is not considered proportional or feasible to assess any operational impacts on this resource, including both long-term fluvial changes or effects through changes to setting. It is noted that Historic England have agreed that operational phase effects on Scheduled Monuments can be scoped out. Therefore, unquantified non-designated assets of lower significance would not require setting assessments. For the majority of non-designated archaeological remains within the draft Order limits there would be no further

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			disturbance following the completion of the construction phase and no additional direct/physical impact. However, operational impacts on non-designated archaeological remains within the draft Order limits will be considered in reference to long-term changes in hydrological regime (it is noted this was omitted from the summary of effects scoped in / out in the EIA Scoping Report Table 10-6), though such impacts would only be relevant for those assets not physically impacted (i.e. removed or truncated) by prior construction activities. It is also confirmed that the scope includes potential effects on non-designated paleoenvironmental resources through long-term changes in hydrological regime during operation.
Chapter 8: Historic environment	Operation	Non-designated above ground heritage assets beyond 1km of the draft Order limits	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that significant effects are unlikely to occur. The assessment reported in the PEI Report considers non-designated heritage assets within 1km of the draft Order limits (for the PEI Report). This study area is based upon professional judgement that non-designated assets are less likely to experience significant adverse effects as a result of changes to their settings beyond this distance. This is a change from the methodology used in the EIA Scoping Report where a 2km buffer was used. This change was made in light of data received from the Historic Environment Record (HER); this indicated that the majority of records concern either buried archaeological remains or records of find spots of artefacts that are no longer present.
Chapter 8: Historic environment	Operation	Historically important hedgerows	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion. As the regulations refer to removal only, such assets do not require standalone settings assessment (i.e. operation effects). The contribution of hedgerows to historic

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			landscape will be considered in the historic environment chapter of the ES. Any clarifications on scope will be agreed post PEI Report - stage during upcoming Historic Environment technical liaison group (TLG) meetings.

Table 1.6 Matters scoped out of EIA for Landscape and visual

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 9: Landscape and visual	Construction and operation	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)	RVAA has been scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion (ID 3.4.3) and associated comments on residential amenity from the consultation bodies appended to the EIA Scoping Opinion. Subsequent agreement has been reached to scope out the matter through discussion with the above mentioned consultation bodies via the Landscape and Visual Technical Liaison Group. While residential amenity includes factors beyond visual effects, the landscape and visual aspect appropriately considers visual effects on local communities as experienced from public locations. This is supported by representative photography from publicly accessible viewpoints, consistent with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (LI and IEMA, 2013) and Landscape Institute technical guidance, which confirm that LVIA is primarily concerned with public rather than private views on local communities as experienced from public locations. This is supported by representative photography from publicly accessible viewpoints, consistent with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			Assessment, 3rd Edition (LI and IEMA, 2013) and Landscape Institute technical guidance, which confirm that LVIA is primarily concerned with public rather than private views. The guidance also notes that even significant adverse visual effects at residential properties do not in themselves require an RVAA, which is only necessary where such effects would be so overwhelming as to constitute a matter of public interest. Given the Project's location, scale and design in relation to residential properties, this threshold is not met and an RVAA has therefore been scoped out.

Table 1.7 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Geology and soils

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 10: Geology and soils	Operation	Geological designations	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. There are no geological designations and sensitive/ valuable non-designated features recorded within the study area for geology.

Table 1.8 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Materials and waste

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 11: Materials and waste	Operation	Materials availability	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. An operational materials management plan will be prepared quantifying the consumption of materials during any one full / representative year within the first three years of operation, as requested by the Planning Inspectorate, to be submitted in support of the application.

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 11: Materials and waste	Operation	Landfill void capacity	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. An operational waste management plan will be prepared for the Project, as requested by the Planning Inspectorate, to be submitted in support of the application.

Table 1.9 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Traffic and transport

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 12: Traffic and transport	Operation	Hazardous/large loads	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. The potential effects associated with the movement of hazardous or abnormal indivisible loads (e.g. tunnel boring machine components) have been scoped out of the operational phase of the assessment. This is because such movements are expected to be very infrequent occasions during operation. While there may occasionally be a need to transport large equipment for renewal, these instances are not anticipated to result in any significant effects. Therefore, effects associated with them have been scoped out of the assessment.

Table 1.10 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Air quality

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 13: Air quality	Construction	Emissions from proposed freight trains transporting bulk material	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that there would be three trains arriving and three trains departing the Rail Siding and Materials Handling Facility during construction, five days per week for 47 operating weeks per year. Considering the number of train movements would be relatively low, effects on local air quality are considered unlikely and this

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			matter remains scoped out of the air quality assessment.
Chapter 13: Air quality	Construction	Odour from construction activities	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion as potential odour effects from construction activities associated with the Project have been reviewed in accordance with the IAQM guidance and are proposed to remain scoped out. Ground material which is likely to result in odorous emissions to air has not been identified and all material is expected to be inert with a low risk of unpleasant odour. Therefore, odour impacts would be negligible, and effects would not be significant. Given the absence of odour-generating sources and the low risk of unpleasant odour associated with the construction activities, further assessment is scoped out at this stage (see Chapter 10: Geology and soils). The reasons for scoping out will be documented in the ES and will take into account any design changes or updates following the PEI Report. If any potential for encountering odorous material is identified, appropriate mitigation (e.g. good practice controls and odour management measures) will be set out to ensure that any risk is effectively managed and does not give rise to significant effects.
Chapter 13: Air quality	Operation	Emission of dust and particulate matter	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion as dust emissions are not anticipated during the operation phase (with the exception of temporary maintenance vehicles and maintenance works), the potential effect would be negligible.
Chapter 13: Air quality	Operation	Emissions of pollutants from non road mobile machinery (NRMM), generator and combustion plant	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion as there is likely to be a negligible impact from the operation of the T2ST WTW and other elements of the Project. With the implementation of embedded design mitigation (such as an appropriate stack height for any back-up emergency generators) and

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			the absence of highly sensitive receptors in the vicinity of these SESRO components, it means there is likely to be a negligible impact on local air quality. Information on type, duration, location of NRMM, generator and combustion plant with adopted mitigations will be shown in the ES to demonstrate that this would not result in likely significant effects.

Table 1.11 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Noise and vibration

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 14: Noise and vibration	Operation	Operational vibration from pumping station and intake/outfall structures	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Pumps will be located on large concrete bases with suitable isolation, any vibration transmitted into the ground is likely to be negligible and at orders of magnitude lower than would be expected to give rise to nuisance or damage to properties. The ES will confirm measures that would be secured to demonstrate that significant effects are unlikely to occur. Details are not available at the PEI Report stage. Chapter 2: Project description provides detailed information regarding the pumping station and intake/outfall structures. Appropriate measures to avoid noise impacts through good design have been documented within the Commitments Register and factored into the assessment.
Chapter 14: Noise and vibration	Operation	Noise from the operation of valves	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Appropriate measures to avoid noise impacts through good design have been documented within the Commitments Register and factored into the assessment. All valves will be located within concrete chambers,

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
			which are likely to be belowground, or in above ground kiosks. These valves are not considered likely to generate sufficient noise or vibration to be perceptible at local receptors. The ES will confirm measures that would be secured to demonstrate that significant effects are unlikely to occur. Details are not available at the PEI Report stage.
Chapter 14: Noise and vibration	Operation	Noise and vibration from the flow of water within the underground pipeline	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. The pipeline will be located below ground and associated noise and vibration is considered unlikely to be perceptible at receptors.
Chapter 14: Noise and vibration	Operation	Noise during emergency conditions	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Atypical emergency conditions, including the testing of emergency generators or the emergency discharge of water at the outfall at the River Thames, would occur infrequently. Where testing of equipment can be scheduled, it would be undertaken during daytime hours and for short durations.
Chapter 14: Noise and vibration	Operation	Noise from transformer substations	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Transformers are assumed likely to result in negligible noise effects at all off-site receptors. This is based upon observations made at existing pumping stations, and that transformer substations can be located and acoustically insulated to mitigate any potential for significant effects. The ES will confirm measures that would be secured to demonstrate that significant effects are unlikely to occur. Details are not available at the PEI Report stage.

Table 1.12 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Socio-economics and communities

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 15: Socio-economics and communities	Construction and operation	Temporary or permanent amenity effects from flies breeding in the reservoir and wetlands	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Given the context of the Project, distance from existing sensitive receptors and that swarms are temporary and short-lived, it is considered that significant amenity effects associated with flies are unlikely and this aspect has, therefore, been scoped out of the EIA.
Chapter 15: Socio-economics and communities	Operation	Permanent effects on public services	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. It is expected that the number of workers directly relating to the operation of the reservoir and associated facilities delivered by the Project will be relatively small compared to the construction period.

Table 1.13 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Human health

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Substance misuse, problem gambling, communicable illness and diet	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Housing determinants with regard to dwelling mix, social housing, affordability and adaptations	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project .
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Safeguarding and modern slavery	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Such matters would be informed by Thames Water's honest and ethical behavioural policy.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Population out-migration	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Economic/employment determinants with regard to recruitment and retention of staff,	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
		working conditions, displacement, labour productivity and economic loss	expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Social determinants with regard to transitional arrangements for education and family structures	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Wider health determinants with regard to food production, malnutrition and exacerbation of chronic conditions	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Wider societal benefits from communication and IT infrastructure and climate change	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Construction and operation	Radiation with regard to the risk of new ground pollution, ionising actual risk and ionising risk perception	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Operation	Procurement and investment, working conditions and family structure	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Operation	Impact of the Project on health and social care services	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.
Chapter 16: Human health	Operation	Risk of new ground pollution, mobilisation of historic pollution and food resources and safety	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Significant effects are not expected due to the nature of the Project.

Table 1.14 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Climate resilience

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 18: Climate resilience	Construction and operation	Vulnerability to climate change - projected changes in wind speed	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Projected changes in wind speed are relatively small and potential impacts can be addressed through the proposed design measures.
Chapter 18: Climate resilience	Construction and operation	Micro-climate - potential changes to local temperatures, and winds	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Effects are likely to be minimal.
Chapter 18: Climate resilience	Construction	Micro-climate - potential changes to frost and fog	Scoped out through the EIA Scoping Opinion. Effects are likely to be minimal.

Table 1.15 Matters scoped out of the EIA for Major accidents and disasters

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Operation	Insect Infestation/disease	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Insect breeding will occur due to the nature of the Project involving the presence of open stagnant water. Whilst disease vectors (such as mosquitos carrying malaria) could potentially spread to the UK due to climate change, and potentially breed at the development site, this event would cover a regional or national level and not specifically related to the Project.
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Operation	Building fire/failure	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Risk of building fire/failure will be mitigated through a Design Fire Strategy or equivalent including fire and safety measures
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Construction and Operation	Severe weather (low temperature, heavy snow, hail, lightning, and tornado) (operation)	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Tornadoes are not common within the UK and, therefore, are not anticipated to occur, and the Project is not at any greater risk to low temperatures, heavy snow, hail and lightning, than anywhere else in the UK.

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Construction and operation	Critical infrastructure failure/utilities failure not associated with the Project.	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Once the diversion of services across the Project has been completed, the proposal would not have an impact on such infrastructures/utilities
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Construction and operation	Critical failure of the existing electrical substation (Steventon)	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Not considered to be a major accident or disaster specifically related to the Project.
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Construction	Defence / military accidents (UXO)	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) surveys will be undertaken prior to works commencing, and construction workers will be given toolbox talks on what to do should UXO be found.
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters	Construction and operation	Industrial sites (Control of Major Accident and Hazards (COMAH) / Major Accident Control Regulations (MACR))	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Given the existing controls and distance to COMAH facilities, this matter was scoped out of the assessment.
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters, and Appendix 19.1: Stage 1 Hazard identification assessment	Construction and operation	Animal strike (vehicle collision)	Scoped out subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion on the basis that construction sites will be securely fenced and any livestock would also be securely fenced during construction and operation as standard practice, and the risk is not considered increased by the Project.
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters, Appendix 19.1: Stage 1 Hazard identification assessment and 19.2: Stage 2 Preliminary	Operation	Water sports accidents/drowning	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Measures will be put in place to reduce any risks of drowning or water sports accidents, such as lifeguards and rescue boats, as well as the preparation of a Safety Management Plan, the ES should explain how these measures will be secured. Note that water sports accidents/drowning is retained within scope for the PEI Report, until measures are developed and secured in the ES.

Relevant Section of PEI Report	Phase	Matters scoped out	Justification
risk assessment			
Chapter 19: Major accidents and disasters. Appendix 19.1: Stage 1 Hazard identification assessment and 19.2: Stage 2 Preliminary risk assessment	Operation	Terrorist attack on people (bomb, chemical, vehicle, malicious drone incident)	Scoped out through the EIA scoping opinion. Security measures will be put in place (such as CCTV, infra-red security, and a manner gatehouse) to prevent such an event from occurring, the ES should explain how these measures will be secured. Note that water sports accidents/ drowning is retained within scope for the PEI Report, until measures are developed and secured in the ES.



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