

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Wessex Water and Wastewater AMP 5-II
Project Number:	20130008
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	The Promoter Wessex Water (WWS) is a regional water and sewage company serving an area of the south west of England, covering 10,000 square kilometres including Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, most of Wiltshire and parts of Gloucestershire and Hampshire. It provides water supply to 1.3 million people and wastewater services to 2.7 million people. The Programme financed forms part of the Promoter's capital expenditure programme for the regulatory period 2010-15, specifically that which is under implementation in the second half of the period, with individual schemes located throughout the whole service area. The Programme covers a broad set of measures that respond to EU public health and environmental directives as well as schemes for alleviating potential overloading of sewers. It also includes measures for greater resilience of the entire water supply system through greater interconnection and demand side measures in the form of a customer metering programme. Also included are schemes to improve energy reuse from wastewater sludge.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The Programme is strongly environmentally driven and therefore has predominantly positive effects on the environment. Overall about a quarter of the investment programme proposed by the Promoter will directly contribute towards greater resilience to climate change. Moreover, the Promoter is setting itself very high energy efficiency and environmental targets for the future.

The promoter has excellent environmental awareness and proven EIA practices, complying with the requirements of EU EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Promoter is used to carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate. An SEA was carried out as part of a statutory Water Resources Plan. The quality and environmental regulators independently monitor compliance with effluent discharge permits and drinking water quality standards. The Programme is considered sound for EIB financing.

The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, submitting the EIA and the non-technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the Bank's website. The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme without receiving consent from

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

the competent authority regarding the Habitats directive and submitting the relevant forms to the Bank prior to the commitment of EIB funds.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Assessment

The Promoter is an appointed water and sewerage company. Statutory duties with regard to the protection of the environment are embedded within key legislation for the UK water industry, including duties in relation to conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats. Many of the investments derive from undertakings with the Environmental Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate, who not only play a leading role in planning the investments, but also closely monitor implementation and operation. In particular, the promoter has built its investment planning on a Water Resources Plan, required under the Water Act, with a long-term view of the availability and demand for water throughout the service area, most recently prepared in 2010 and subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A key element of the Water Resources Plan is an assessment against designated Habitats. Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation (national and EU), including EIA legislation is inherent to the definition of the investments programme, with close cooperation between the environmental and economic regulators. Specifically, the Promoter complies with the requirements of EU EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Promoter carries out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate. The quality and environmental regulators independently monitor compliance with effluent discharge permits and drinking water quality standards. The following table provides the planned reduction in load and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the AMP5 period.

	Initial Baseline 2010	Update	Overall AMP % reduction	2015 End of AMP5	Units
BOD removed	177,637		2.6%	182,296	kgBOD/d
P removed	1,233		20%	1,475	kgP/d
N removal	1,475		2.5%	1,512	kgN/d
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	174		6%	163.6	kt CO <sub>2</sub> e
CO <sub>2</sub> reduction	-			-10.4	kt CO <sub>2</sub> e

The investment programme is strongly driven by environment, quality and resource efficiency as well as meeting increasing demand for drinking water in a sustainable way, combining a systematic approach to leakage reduction with optimising the use of existing sources. A large part of the investment programme is devoted to enhancing performance of the wastewater treatment plants in order to safeguard full compliance with the European Urban Wastewater Directive and discharge consents set by the Environment Agency under the Urban Wastewater and Water Framework Directives. Both Climate Change mitigation and adaptation figure significantly, with substantial investments being made in enhanced energy recovery from wastewater sludge and in reducing the flooding of properties by strengthening the sewer systems within a framework of increasingly holistic approaches to surface water management.

### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The environmental management of the investments falls under the Environmental Services department of the in-house project management and construction unit WECS. They carry out environmental screening of capital projects to identify planning and environmental constraints and consents required, provide environmental support to construction activities. They liaise closely with the Environment and Assets Department, who keep them updated on all changes in environmental legislation and set policy for Wessex Water. WECS achieves environmental

management through Environmental and Third Party Management Planning (E3MP) and Construction E3MP (CE3MP) processes. Wessex Water carries out consultation with a range of environmental authorities and interested parties and maintains important relationships with environmental regulators eg. local planning authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Consultation takes place as early as possible in the scheme planning process. On an annual basis, WECS typically produces 400 - 600 Environment and Third Party Management Plans (E3MPs), 200 - 300 ecology surveys – including following-on work e.g. protected species licences and landscape planting, 30 - 50 planning applications – including voluntary Environmental Supporting Statements for all schemes and 30 - 50 EIA Screening Opinion Requests. They also perform the occasional Habitats Regulations Assessment and full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), when required.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultation takes place at all levels of the definition of investments and their detailed roll-out, starting with consultation for the key planning documents such as the Water Resource Management Plan and proceeding with the definition of the major schemes during the scoping and implementation phase, which also includes definition of compensatory measures in local communities for disruption caused. Given the necessary tight controls of implementation in order to maintain delivery of the capital programme within the agreed regulatory timeframe, early identification and resolution of environmental consenting issues are crucial to delivery of the investment programme. In particular, it is sought to maintain close relationships with the competent authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England, with identification of potential Habitats/EIA Directive issues already at concept stage.