

River Itchen Inquiry 17/11/2022 – follow up questions

Q: What were the 3 overflow sites that spill more frequently than the new DEFRA requirements of 10 per year?

A: Sirdar Road – average of 18 discharges per year
Woolston Storm Tanks – average of 29 discharges per year
Portswood Storm Tanks - average of 56 discharges per year

There are already plans in progress to increase storm tank capacity at Woolston and Portswood Wastewater Treatment Works (refer to presentation).

The CSO at Sirdar Road has discharged on average 18 times per year in the last 3 years. The spill frequency at Sirdar Road will be addressed during 2025 – 2030 in line with the DEFRA requirements. We will be required to reduce spill frequency to a maximum of 10 discharges per year and possibly less depending on the designation of the receiving watercourse and water body. How we achieve this will be determined through a detailed investigation to understand the source of rainwater flows connected to the sewerage system. The required spill frequency will likely be achieved through a combination of surface water separation, system optimisation and possibly addition storage constructed within the system.

Q: What impact will increasing the storage capacity of storm tanks in Portswood and Woolston have on storm overflow events? Eg - Would any of the recent spills have been avoided if the storm tanks were at the planned capacity?

The storage being provided at Portswood WTW is to ensure that the site meets the requirement of having 68 litres per head of population storage available to detain flows at times of emergency. This will have the advantage of reducing spills in storms but this is not the driver so the analysis to determine storm spill frequency reduction has not been undertaken. We will however, be progressing this further in future years as we deliver the improvements associated with the new DEFRA requirements for storm overflows. For Woolston the increased storage is associated with the need to reduce spills from the site to a maximum of 10 per year.

Q: Over Jubilee weekend at Portswood, SW spent two weeks reseeded tanks – did that cause a pollution event?

The wastewater treatment process includes a step where micro-organisms feed on organic matter in sewage. This is a natural process and has the effect of improving the quality of treated effluent discharged to the environment as it lowers the Biological Oxygen Demand of the final effluent. Periodically there is a need to introduce new micro-organisms to replace those that have died, this is known as re-seeding. Over the Jubilee weekend there was an element of re-seeding. The micro-organisms in the Treatment process had started to deteriorate at the end of May, which prompted the re-seed.

We brought in healthier micro-organisms via tanker on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May. Then we removed some of the unhealthy micro-organisms on Sat 4th via tanker. No debris was discharged to the river during this process, the only flow to the river was the continuous flow of compliant fully treated effluent via the outfall.

Q: When can we expect real time information on spills in the River Itchen to be accessible to members of the public, either via the Beachbuoy app or other communication channels?

Water companies are all working to provide near-real time information about storm releases from all outfalls (coastal, bathing waters, inland) by the end of the Asset Management Plan (AMP) period. The current AMP concludes in March 2025. We were the first company to launch real-time information about coastal storm activity onto our Beachbuoy platform and intend to include all outfalls on there in the next couple of years. We don't have set timescales at present as we are focusing on the coastal storm data and

getting that right for public consumption, but we intend to learn from others in the industry regarding their inland data and hope to have all data on Beachbuoy as soon as the time is right.

Once we have firmed up timescales for including inland watercourses on Beachbuoy, we will inform stakeholders of our plans.

Q: Clarification on the stated 90 beach closures this year caused by storm overflows

We've reviewed the Environment Agency data for Hampshire Coastal Bathing Waters for August 2022 and for the whole of 2022. The Environment Agency issue warnings advising against bathing if there might be poor water quality. The reasons for the poor water quality are not specified and, while may be related to releases from storm overflows, could also be due to any other factors impacting the water quality.

According to the EA there were no such warnings for Hampshire coastal bathing waters in August 2022 and a total of 7 over the course of 2022 (through to 22nd December).

August 2022

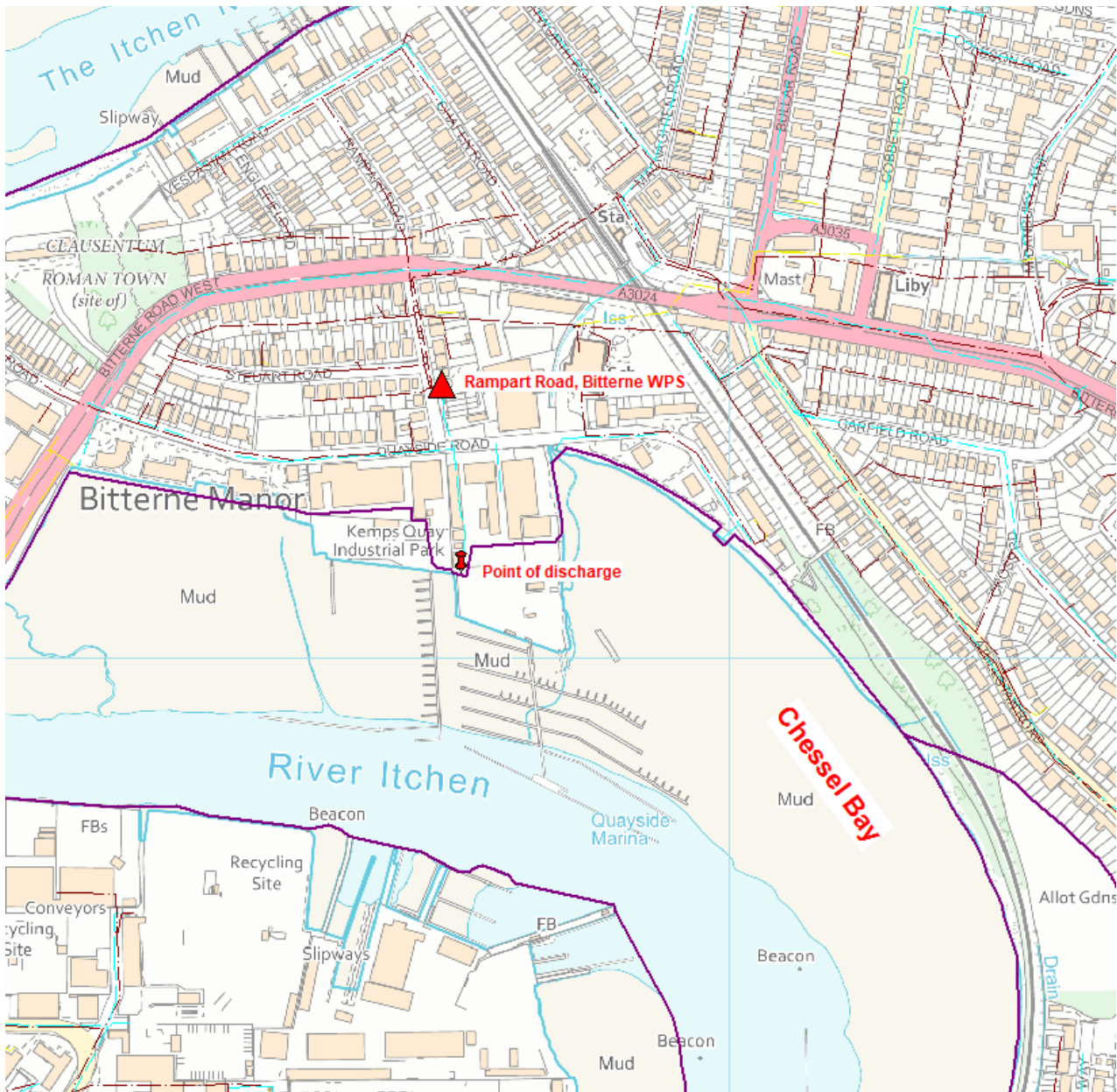
Bathing Water	District	County / Unitary	Advice against bathing / abnormal situation
Hillhead	Fareham	Hampshire	0
Southsea East	N/A	Portsmouth	0
Beachlands Central	Havant	Hampshire	0
Beachlands West	Havant	Hampshire	0
Calshot	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Christchurch Bay	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Eastney	N/A	Portsmouth	0
Eastoke	Havant	Hampshire	0
Highcliffe	Christchurch	Dorset	0
Lee-on-Solent	Gosport	Hampshire	0
Lepe	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Milford-on-Sea	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Stokes Bay	Gosport	Hampshire	0

2022 to 22nd December

Bathing Water	District	County / Unitary	Advice against bathing / abnormal situation
Hillhead	Fareham	Hampshire	2
Southsea East	N/A	Portsmouth	1
Beachlands Central	Havant	Hampshire	1
Beachlands West	Havant	Hampshire	1
Calshot	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Christchurch Bay	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Eastney	N/A	Portsmouth	1
Eastoke	Havant	Hampshire	1
Highcliffe	Christchurch	Dorset	0
Lee-on-Solent	Gosport	Hampshire	0
Lepe	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Milford-on-Sea	New Forest	Hampshire	0
Stokes Bay	Gosport	Hampshire	0

Q: (from Respect the River) Would like detail on the condition of the pumping station (102525) at Chessel Bay. Where does its storm overflow outflow?

The pumping station is called Rampart Road, Bitterne WPS. The site has an overflow which is permitted for use at times of mechanical or power failure at the site and in times of storm. The overflow discharges to the Itchen in the location shown in the attached. Data shows the site to have spilled on average 3 times per year over the last 3 years.



Additional Notes:

Fats, Oils, Grease and Unflushables

We have sent some creative assets to the Southampton CC Comms team that can be used for email newsletters and social media.

Planning

Water Companies are Statutory Consultees in the planning process with respect to the high level stage of forming a Local or Neighbourhood Development plan and Southern Water is consulted on these plans. When it comes to individual planning applications Water Companies are not statutory consultees. That being said, the majority of planning applications are sent to Southern Water for our advice on the flow rate to be discharged, the proposed point of connection and any capacity issues that may need to be addressed prior to connection. Water Companies cannot refuse connections on grounds of capacity as there is a funding mechanism in place through the infrastructure charging process to allow reinforcement to be



delivered. Water Companies can refuse connection if the mode of connection is not appropriate, examples being where a sewer from a development site is a larger diameter than the sewer to which a connection is proposed or where a gravity connection is proposed to be made to a pressurised system. Granting of planning approval is the trigger which Southern Water use to initiate the design and construction of a reinforcement scheme. Where reinforcement is required Southern Water aim to deliver this within 24 months of planning approval.