

THE SECOND NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT: BASELINE REPORT

ANNEX D WATER & WASTEWATER.

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION FROM EAST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL.

Challenge 6: Surface water management – the Commission will consider actions to maximise short term opportunities and improve long term planning, funding and governance arrangements for surface water management, while protecting water from pollution from drainage.

RESPONSE: 1. UNSUSTAINABLE ABSTRACTION.

The data from the Environment Agency in their 2021 Water Levels & Flows Report that unsustainable abstraction affects 15% of surface water bodies is welcomed. Could the NIC publish this data in a form that enables it be used by Consultees, such as East Hendred Parish Council, to input into the consultation on the draft Water Resources South East & other Regional Plans?

2. LEAKAGES.

The data that Thames Water leaks 152 litres per property per day, compared to an average of 98 litres, is welcomed. This leads unplanned severe disruption of water, electricity & access to properties too often experienced by residents in East Hendred Parish Council. Can this be given a priority in the draft Water Resources South East Regional Plan? Can the NIC target to halve Leakages by 2050 be brought forward to 2030, to provide greater urgency to increasing supply from this source?

3. MAXIMISING SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES.

The NIC Report on Preparing for a Drier Future: England's Infrastructure Needs, recommended a twin track approach to manage water supply & demand, to be achieved by the delivery of a national water transfer network & additional water supply by 2030. Can the NIC require this 2030 target to be included in the draft Water Resources South East Regional Plan? This would defer the need for a reservoir at Abingdon, which adjoins East Hendred Parish Council boundary.