



We're upgrading Slough Sewage Treatment Works

What work are you doing?

We're upgrading Slough Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to increase its capacity to support growth in the area and to improve the quality of final effluent that is returned to the environment.

This will involve upgrading the existing plant, building new treatment tanks, and putting in new treatment technology to increase the site's capacity and enhance its performance.

We're also building a new below ground outfall pipeline to take some of the treated effluent and storm flows from the STW to the River Thames.

Why are you doing these works?

Inflows to the STW are forecast to increase by approximately 10% over the next 10-years, this means that we need to increase the treatment capacity of the site now to meet the needs of the community in the future.

Additionally, we need to improve the quality of the water that is returned to the environment and reduce flows in the network of ditches that take flows from Slough STW to the River Thames.

What are the benefits of this work?

As well as treating the additional wastewater as the area grows, these works will:

- Improve the quality of final effluent that's returned to the environment.
- Reduce water industry related flood risk along local watercourses.
- Ensure that environmental flows are retained in the local watercourses.
- Reduce odour around Slough STW.
- Improve the resilience of Slough STW to reduce pollution risks.

When will you be starting these works?

We're developing designs at the moment and expect to start construction early in 2023, with the work completed and operational by early 2025.

How will you keep the local community updated on your plans?

In **early 2022**, when our designs are more developed, we'll be holding **drop-in sessions for the local community**. We'll be sure to write to local residents and business closer to this time with details for these sessions.

Where, and how, is your new pipeline going to be installed?

The proposed outfall pipeline will run south from Slough STW to the River Thames. The details of the route are still being finalised, but it's planned to run underneath the Jubilee River, and then south across Dorney Common and agricultural fields to the River Thames, east of Boveney Lock. You can see a map of the indicative pipeline route on the next page.

Why has the proposed route been selected?

We've carefully considered a lot of options for the new outfall, including:

- a pipeline to the Jubilee River.
- a pipeline to the River Thames downstream of Boveney Lock.
- a pipeline to the River Thames downstream of Romney Lock.
- increasing the capacity of local watercourses.

The proposed route was selected as it offered the best outcomes and the lowest impact within the timescales required for these works.

We are continuing to develop the design for the outfall pipeline to minimise impacts on the local community and the environment.

Why aren't you taking the new outfall directly to the Jubilee River?

The Jubilee River is a flood alleviation scheme and there are significant protections in place to protect the local community from flooding. Constructing a new outfall to it would require changes to the planning permission for the Jubilee River. The licences, legal obligations, and the procedures under which the Jubilee River operates would all need to be extensively reviewed and potentially amended to accommodate a new outfall.

We have analysed the indicative water quality requirements for a new discharge to the Jubilee River and have determined that these are unlikely to be technically achievable with respect to current wastewater treatment technology. These challenges have led us to conclude that there is no real prospect of having a implemented solution within the timescales required for these works.

What impact will these works have on the local watercourses?

The Roundmoor Ditch, Colenorton Brook, Common Ditch, and Boveney Ditch all rely on Slough STW for a significant portion of their flows. Following the upgrade works, these watercourses will continue to receive a base environmental flow from Slough STW to retain their ecological and amenity values.

The volume of water in these watercourses will be reduced by the new outfall. This will reduce water industry related flood risk for the local community and improve the quality of water in these watercourses.

We're reviewing these changes to further assess their benefits and we'll share more details as they're developed.



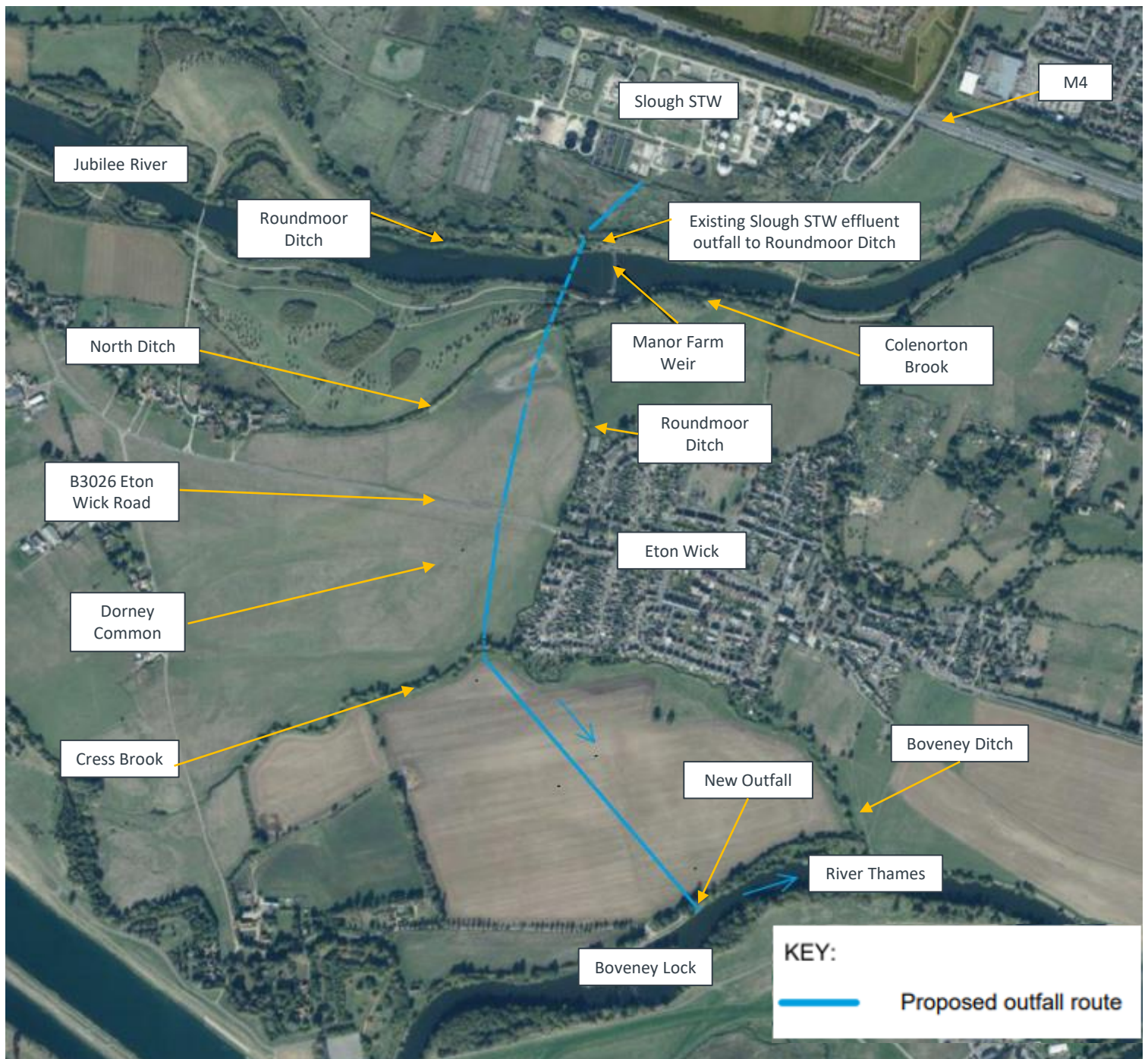


Figure 1 - Indicative Route of the Proposed Below Ground Outfall Pipe



What works are planned to reduce water levels in the local watercourses between now and 2025?

Currently, Slough STW has a single point of discharge to the Roundmoor Ditch and we're constrained to it until these upgrade works are complete. However, we're aware of a separate independent study into channel improvement options for reducing water levels in the local watercourses. We're currently awaiting the results of this study to better understand what can be done in the interim to reduce water levels in the local watercourses.

Are you doing any surveys before the main building work?

Yes. To help us with the design, we'll be doing ground investigations along the potential pipeline route. These works are expected to start in late October 2021 and will be completed by early December 2021.

Will any of this work affect my service from you?

No. Slough STW will continue to work as usual and our wastewater and clean water services won't be affected.

How can I find out more?

Please check back on our website as we'll be updating it with further information as the scheme progresses.

Also, if you live in the local area we'll be writing to you about upcoming drop-in sessions in the near future.

Finally, if you have any further questions, or require any additional information in the meantime please contact us using the details below.

Get in touch

Find out more on our website:
thameswater.co.uk/sloughproject

Call us and quote reference number
BB975460:
0800 316 9800