

## Gate three query process

Strategic solution(s)	London Water Recycling
Query number	LWR002
Date sent to company	02/01/2025
Response due by	09/01/2025

### Query

Please provide further details of the main ways local councils, and all relevant statutory bodies are being engaged with in 2025/26 to assist with the planning of the application to the Planning Inspectorate for the development consent order.

- Can you please confirm if you are planning to engage directly with London MPs?
- Can you please explain what engagement you have had or plan to have with the Planning Inspectorate prior to the DCO submission?

### Solution owner response

*This response has been written in line with the requirements of the RAPID Gate 3 Guidance and to comply with the regulatory process pursuant to Thames Water's statutory duties. The information presented relates to material or data which is still in the course of completion. Should the solution presented be taken forward, Thames Water will be subject to the statutory duties pursuant to the necessary consenting process, including environmental assessment and consultation as required. This response should be read with those duties in mind.*

The LWR team has engaged with local councils (including council leaders), local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate, and other statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England throughout Gate 3. This engagement will continue throughout Gate 4 and during the preparation of the DCO application for Teddington DRA.

### **Gate 3 Summary**

Through 2023, Thames Water held the following meetings with statutory bodies:

- Nine meetings/sessions with Hounslow, Richmond, and Kingston local authorities.
- Met local MPs on numerous occasions, including holding four consultation events in October and November 2023.
- Two meetings with the GLA.
- Two meetings with the Planning Inspectorate.
- Attended one public meeting hosted by Richmond local authority.
- 22 meetings and workshops with the Environment Agency, including Natural England when relevant.

Through 2024, Thames Water held the following meetings with statutory bodies:

- Six meetings with Hounslow, Richmond, and Kingston local planning authorities, including additional meetings with technical specialists within the local authorities regarding EIA scoping.
- Multiple meetings with local MPs as requested.
- Regular meetings with the Planning Inspectorate. Thames Water submitted a Scoping Report to the Secretary of State on 10 October 2024, and the Planning Inspectorate subsequently adopted a Scoping Opinion on 20 November 2024.
- 26 meetings with the Environment Agency, including Natural England when relevant.
- Other meetings with relevant statutory bodies, including:
  - Defra

- Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) competent authority
- Historic England
- Thames Water (as water and sewerage undertakers)
- Transport for London
- Port of London Authority

### **Planned engagement in 2025/26 with statutory bodies**

Through 2025/26, Thames Water will continue and expand engagement activities, incorporating more statutory bodies, including relevant statutory environmental bodies, utilities, emergency services, health & safety authorities, and transport undertakers.

During Q1 2025, engagement with local planning authorities will be aimed at consulting on the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC). Thames Water will also be holding meetings with all relevant statutory bodies (based on the APFP Regulations list) that have not yet been engaged to introduce the project and share the latest design as preparations continue for Statutory Consultation.

During Q2/Q3 2025, engagement will focus on the proposed design, likely significant environmental effects, and potential mitigation ahead of Statutory Consultation and the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report.

Through Q4 2025 and into 2026, technical discussions will continue towards the development of the DCO application material and the preparation of draft Statements of Common Ground with each relevant statutory body for the DCO application in Q3 2026.

### **Local Planning Authorities**

- The three elected leaders of the relevant councils have been invited to establish a programme of briefings throughout 2025/26.
- As part of ongoing engagement with the host local planning authorities, the following programme of pre-DCO application engagement with case officers and subject matter technical officers has been and will continue to be implemented in agreement with them:

Month/Year	Key Milestones
January 2025	Pre-App / PPA Meeting 8: Project Updates and Statement of community consultation – proposal for in-person meeting
February 2025	DCO Process Focused Learning Session
Early April 2025	PPA Meeting 9: Project Update and introduction to the Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
May 2025	PPA Meeting 10: Technical Issues meeting 1 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
July 2025	PPA Meeting 11: Technical Issues meeting 2 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
September 2025	PPA Meeting 12: Technical Issues meeting 3 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
October 2025	PPA Meeting 13: Technical Issues meeting 4 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
November 2025	PPA Meeting 14: Technical Issues meeting 5 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
January 2026	PPA Meeting 15: Technical Issues meeting 6 – based upon matters contained in the PEIR and arising from ongoing assessment
February 2026	PPA Meeting 16: Final PPA feedback

### **London MPs and the GLA:**

Thames Water will continue to regularly brief key local MPs on the project's development and at key planning milestones. We are committed to ensuring timely responses to queries from MP offices and to keeping them informed of significant external communications prior to publication. Prior to statutory consultation in 2025, local MPs will be offered private pre-briefings and will be provided with briefing packs so they are prepared for any engagement with constituents following the publication of the consultation.

A programme for ongoing engagement with key MPs and the GLA is being developed, and Thames Water continues to brief Defra to address MP concerns alongside wider stakeholder queries.

### **Planning Inspectorate:**

A response to the Expression of Interest request by the Planning Inspectorate was submitted, and the Standard (Tier 2) pre-application service level was formally agreed in October 2024. The next step is for us to develop a Contact Plan and Programme Document for agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. This will be agreed upon in the Inception/Project Update meeting in Q1 2025.

In accordance with the 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, Thames Water will undertake the following with the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Tier 2 pre-application service:

- **Meetings** (up to six meetings per year), which may include:
  - Inception/Update Meeting (since adopting Tier 2)
  - Post-scoping, pre-section 42 consultation meeting
  - Post-section 42 consultation/post-Preliminary Environmental Information Report meeting
  - Draft documents feedback meeting
  - Pre-submission meeting
  - Multi-party meetings, as required
- **Document Review** – Documents to be confirmed but may include:
  - Draft DCO, including protective provisions
  - Draft DCO Explanatory Memorandum
  - Draft sample Works Plans and Land Plans
  - Draft Consultation Report, including section 42 consultee list
  - Draft Environmental Statement project description chapter(s)
  - Draft Planning Statement
  - Draft Book of Reference
  - Draft Statement of Reasons
  - Draft Funding Statement
  - Iterative review of risk at key milestones

***Environment Agency (incorporating the National Appraisal Unit, National Infrastructure Team, and National Permitting Service) and Natural England:***

Engagement with the Environment Agency and Natural England will continue through 2025/26 via technical meetings and workshops. Meetings will likely focus on potential environmental impacts, design aspects, and mitigation measures related to ecological and aquatic effects. Meeting dates are yet to be

confirmed but are likely to occur monthly throughout the pre-application period. Meetings will incorporate both planning and scheme licensing aspects.

***Other Statutory Bodies:***

A programme of engagement with all relevant statutory bodies will be developed through Q1, based on the general programme of engagement on design, impacts, and mitigation pre-, during, and post-statutory consultation in mid-2025. This approach includes plans to engage all relevant statutory bodies before the end of the consultation period to ensure they understand the proposals and can provide a well-informed response.

If you require any further information, please contact the strategic solution contact below.

<b>Date of response to RAPID</b>	09/01/2025
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