



Water Resource Management Plan 2029 SEA Scoping Appendix F - Scoping Consultation

Thames Water
September 2026

Appendix F. RP29 SEA Scoping Consultation

WRSE have already prepared and consulted on the RP29 SEA Scoping Report for a 6 week period between 04th June and 15th July 2026. WRSE are currently preparing a consultation report setting out how comments received have been addressed as part of the RP29 process.

We have also considered the consultation comments received and sought to address those that specifically pertain to our SEA Stage A Scoping. Further detail of where such comments have been incorporated into this report has been set out in the following table.

Area	Addition to WRMP29 Scoping Report	Location
Plans, Policies and Programmes	Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025: Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025	Appendix A, Chapter 5
	Water (Special Measures) Act 2025: Water (Special Measures) Act 2025	
	A New Vision for Water White Paper 2026: A new vision for water: white paper - GOV.UK	
	New Towns Draft Programme 2026: New Towns Draft Programme - GOV.UK	
	Salmon Five Point Action Plan: Annex-1-Salmon-Five-Point-Approach-Restoring-Salmon-in-England-v2.pdf	
	Oxford Cambridge Growth Corridor Opportunities Investment Prospectus Policy Paper 2025: Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor Investment Prospectus - GOV.UK	
	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	
	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006: Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	
	The Levelling -Up and Regeneration Act 2023: Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023	
	Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water 2023: Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water - GOV.UK	
	Land Use Framework 2026: Land Use Framework - GOV.UK	
	Green Infrastructure Framework 2023: Natural England unveils new Green Infrastructure Framework - GOV.UK	
	National Planning Policy Framework update 2026: National Planning Policy Framework.pdf	
	National Standard for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems 2025: National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) - GOV.UK	
	Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England 2025: Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England - GOV.UK	
	Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 2025: Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 1.0 - NE793	
Current baseline	Local Nature Recovery Strategies Tourism volumes	Appendix B, Chapter 6.3

	Fragmentation of habitats	
	Groundwater dependent habitats	
	Chalk streams	
	Heritage	
	Source Protection Zones	
	Further detail on Climate projections	
	Population growth expectation	
	Demand and water reuse with regards to data centres	
Future baseline	Population change	Chapter 6.3
Implications & Opportunities	Water - Potential risk to flows and groundwater quantity - Impact on water temperature from data centres to be considered - Inclusion of chalk streams and ground-water dependent ecosystems - Systematic adoption of rainwater harvesting in SUDS Biodiversity - Opportunities for nature recovery should be more explicit - Further consideration of the marine environment - More detail on MCZs GHG - Confusion over embodied carbon Climatic factors - Opportunity that wetlands can capture carbon to help mitigate climate change while capturing overland flows that could otherwise increase downstream flood risk - Risk of INNS further spread Landscape - Use of SUDS to recharge aquifers and simultaneously reduce surface water flow risk - Avoid the loss of grade 3 agricultural land	Table 7-1
SEA Framework	Human Health Include objective to maintain a reliable supply of potable water across the region Soil Ensure mineral sterilisation and nutrient loading are considered separately Water SUDS national standard objective missing Climatic factors Make the link to the biodiversity topic regarding improving resilience of habitats and species to climate change Biodiversity Greater consideration needs to be given to priority habitats and protected species	Table 8-1

