

101499569

Revision 01

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Meeting:	13 th January 2025, 15:00-16:30
Location:	MS Teams
Chair:	Naomi Hayes (ESC)
Attendees:	SZC – Nick Stayt (NS), Matt Williams (MW) – (Obs) ESC – Naomi Hayes (NH), James Meyer (JM) – (Obs) SCC – Jason Skilton (JS) WLMA – Alastair Bloomfield (AB), Judith Stoutt (JSt) – (Obs) SZB – Mark Halpin (MH) Natural England – Sean Mahoney (SM) Environment Agency – Simon Barlow (SB), Chris Strachan (CS) – (Obs), Jackie James (JJ) – (Obs) EDF Energy – Tim McHardy (TM) – (Obs)
Apologies:	Steve Mannings (SZC)

Meeting Notes:

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Actions raised during the previous meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
7 th October 2024	1	NS to email ENGL and SCC to confirm their support of ToR, and aiming to send to the Environment Review Group ahead of their next meeting	SZC	To be covered in Agenda Item 3
7 th October 2024	2	NS and SMan to liaise with technical specialists to determine how they can present whether water level changes are due to natural causes and which are a consequence of construction activities	SZC	To be covered in Agenda Item 4
7 th October 2024	3	SZC to review water levels summary of findings and make sure workings are clear and explicit, particularly for any transition of assessment between amber and green	SZC	Closed
7 th October 2024	4	SZC to provide a summary, of statistical methods which will be used for the interpretive assessment	SZC	Ongoing
7 th October 2024	5	SMan proposed exploring whether the water quality data could be simplified and represented graphically on the dashboard, with the possibility of offering both the current and alternative formats (graphs) for review	SZC	Ongoing
7 th October 2024	6	SZC will circulate the scope of the annual interpretive water quality report and assess the value of a six-monthly version	SZC	To be covered in Agenda Item 4

101499569

Revision 01

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

7 th October 2024	7	SMan to share note on accessibility of water monitoring locations	SZC	Ongoing
7 th October 2024	8	Schedule recurring meetings every three months. Upcoming meetings are set for the week commencing January 13th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM, April 7th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM, and a date to be determined in July. Nick will add these dates to the diary, aiming for the second Monday of the month for future occurrences	SZC	Closed

- **Action 1:** the updated ToR have been shared with the group for discussion and agreement during this session, prior to submission to the Environmental Review Group for approval.
- **Action 2:** future reports will be clearer.
- **Action 3:** closed. Presentation slides have been prepared for this session to review presentation of dashboard, open for feedback from group.
- **Action 4:** ongoing. Aiming to share in the coming weeks
- **Action 5:** ongoing. Alternative reports have been prepared to show different possibilities and allow for trend comparisons
- **Action 6:** concluded that an annual report is appropriate. The template and structure, along with the technical analysis, will be shared ASAP.
- **Action 7:** ongoing. Still investigating the best method for sharing.
- **Action 8:** closed.

Terms of reference

- Group discussed changes to ToR
- TM noted that some ENGL colleagues are still reviewing the final draft of the Terms of Reference (ToR) and have provided minor feedback on the wording. After TM has had follow-up discussion with colleagues, NS will share the ToR with this group for review and confirm the amendments. The aim is to share the ToR ready for final approval by the end of January

Action – NS to share the updated ToR with the group via email for review and final confirmation

Monthly Reporting

Summary – Water Levels (November 2024)

- Major construction has not commenced so has had no effect on water levels, yet two lower triggers were passed
- Groundwater levels are stabilising after summer, attributed to natural hydrological variations
- Construction is expected to progress in Q1 2025, at which point trigger passes will be reassessed for construction impact. Currently, all triggers are deemed natural, requiring no further investigation.
- P1 and P7 installations are still to be installed, programmed for spring 2025.

101499569

Revision 01

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- P8 and P14 passed triggers; all other locations remained within trigger levels. In October, three upper triggers and one lower trigger were passed, with some upper triggers returning to normal variations.
- NH requested more details on trigger passes. NS presented a new dashboard showing trends over time with rainfall and level data, but without triggers. Efforts are ongoing to present this data clearly, possibly using six-month periods. This visual approach was preferred over previous tables.
- JJ presented EA's monthly ground water level monitoring dashboard. The visuals highlighted natural variations and deviations from triggers using coloured backgrounds. The group responded positively to this visual.
- P1 and P7 installations are scheduled for spring 2025. P4's accessibility is under review, with discussions on whether its inaccessibility necessitates relocation or provides valuable data by indicating upper trigger passes. NS clarified the issue with P4 is its immediate vicinity, not the access route.

Summary – Water Quality

- NS presented the original analysis method, noting that it was hard to follow and lacked consistency. NS then introduced a new version with a combined approach to displaying the data. The trend analysis included the last three months of data measured against the historic baseline, along with a diagram indicating the position within the interquartile range. This new graphic provides greater transparency from a trend perspective.
- JS stated that engineering activities can affect water quality through pollution (hydrocarbons and heavy metals). However, NS clarified that this group focuses on groundwater SSSI monitoring as per the WMP, while JS's point pertained more to ditch and surface water environments.
- MW mentioned that water should only leave the site through agreed CWDA locations that meet EA-provided thresholds for treatment criteria, which are monitored. Once these thresholds and monitoring requirements are agreed upon by the EA for the CWDA's, they can be reported to this group regularly.
- NS, MW, and SM planned to catch up on this matter, once the CW18 is approved.
- SB emphasised the need for clear expectations and processes for permits, and how they overlap with this group's work. This is crucial for managing timeframes, especially since some CWDA permits are still under determination.
- JM explained that the purpose of the WMP and the WMWG is to address gaps in water quality monitoring for SSSI and habitats. The group doesn't replace other jurisdictions. Issues outside this group's jurisdiction, like EA permitting, should be handled by the relevant regulatory body.
- JS suggested that once the CWDA permit is in place, they will review the reporting requirements in the relevant group meeting to determine if the group wants to receive those reports.
- NH emphasised the need for a reporting mechanism and clear communication, considering all permits. While collaboration is important, recognising distinct consenting regimes and the meeting's original purpose is crucial.

Action – Group to gain an understanding of the requirements for different CWDA permits. If a permit is discharged before the April WMWG meeting, it will be added as an agenda item for discussion

- NS requested feedback on the draft water quality diagram for feedback, explaining that its aim is to match quality trends to historic background trends, with different colours representing different months. NS will refine the diagram to make it easier to interpret.

Action – NS to refine the Water Quality graphic for better clarity and ease of interpretation

Annual Report

101499569

Revision 01

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- NS presented a high-level overview of the intended content for the annual report. Detailed content will be shared over the next couple of weeks.
 - The report will cover:
 - Timing of the monitoring activities
 - Summary of access issues and an action plan to address them
 - Full raw results
 - Detailed process results in accordance with the agreed-upon method
- The key focus will be the discussion section, which will include a comparison against the EA's catchment summary for the year. This will analyse whether the findings align with the catchment trends, and whether the quality is as expected, higher, or lower.

Actions raised during the meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
07/10/2024	1	SZC to provide a summary, of statistical methods which will be used for the interpretive assessment	SZC	07/04/2025
07/10/2024	2	SMan proposed exploring whether the water quality data could be simplified and represented graphically on the dashboard, with the possibility of offering both the current and alternative formats (graphs) for review	SZC	07/04/2025
07/10/2024	3	SMan to share note on accessibility of water monitoring locations	SZC	07/04/2025
13/01/2025	4	NS to share the updated ToR with the group via email for review and final confirmation	SZC	07/04/2025
13/01/2025	5	Group to gain an understanding of the requirements for different CWDA permits. If a permit is discharged before the April WMWG meeting, it will be added as an agenda item for discussion	SZC	07/04/2025
13/01/2025	6	NS to refine the Water Quality graphic for better clarity and ease of interpretation	SZC	07/04/2025

Author: Caitlin Murphy (SZC)