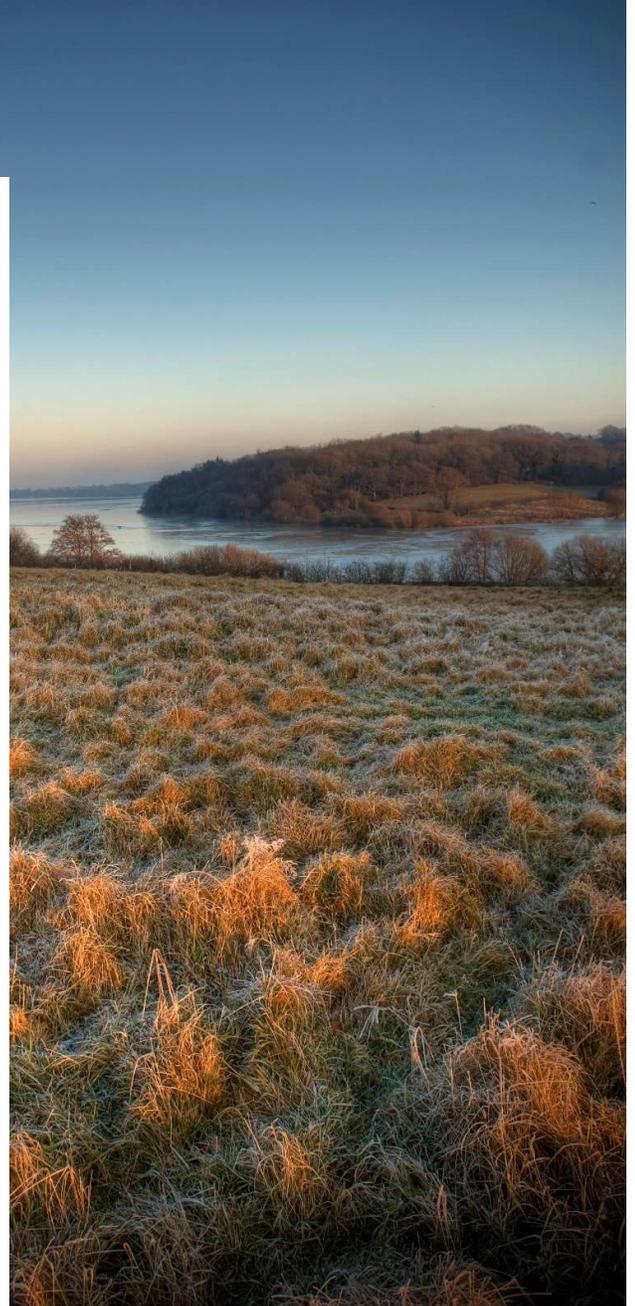


Future water resource requirements for South East England



March 2020

Water Resources South East



Future water resource requirements for South East England

Introduction

Water resources are under increasing pressure. We are developing a multi-sector, regional resilience plan for the South East of England to ensure that water supplies are sustainable and resilient in the future. The plan will take a long-term view, looking ahead to 2100 and consider the water we need to use at home and at work, and that required by industry, agriculture, electricity generation and the water needs of the environment. Our plan will seek to:

- Ensure there is enough water to serve the growing population and support growth in the economy
- Address the impacts of climate change on water availability
- Improve the environment by leaving more water in the region's rivers, streams and underground sources
- Increase the region's resilience to drought and other events.

The first step is to understand how much water we forecast the region will need through to 2100. In this document we set out our current projection. We will continue to collate data from local authorities, government and other sectors to refine this forecast over the coming year and will publish updated forecasts in spring 2021, which will show a fuller range of potential futures we could face.

An understanding of the future resource requirement, or planning challenge, is the foundation to building the regional plan. Once we know how much water is needed, we will identify the options – including demand reduction measures, new sources of water and transfers – that will ensure we have a resilient supply of water for the future.

We are providing an initial picture of the region's future water resource requirements now, so that interested parties can review the projections and put forward any new options for consideration as we develop the plan. This could include new sources of water, catchment solutions and innovative demand management options. Details of how you can submit an option for consideration can be found on page 25 of this document.

We want to hear from you. Your feedback will help us to develop the regional plan for the South East. Throughout this document you will see this symbol ?, this highlights the questions we would like your response on. The questions are also listed on page 27. Please tell us what you think.

Table of contents

- Introduction..... 2
- Background and purpose of this report..... 5
- The role of regional groups 5
- Part of a bigger picture 7
- Water Resources South East (WRSE)..... 8
- The South East region 9
- WRSE regional water resource position today..... 10
 - Public Water Supply 11
 - Non-public Water Supply 18
- Current understanding of the overall need of the region 20
- Options for the future..... 20
- Third party options 23
- Next steps in developing the regional plan 23
- How to get involved..... 25
 - New sources of water and demand management options..... 25
 - Tell us what you think 27

Background and purpose of this report

Water is essential for life. A safe and reliable supply of water is needed for all aspects of society, including public health and wellbeing, food production, energy generation and industrial processes. It supports a strong and prosperous economy and is critical for a healthy and thriving environment.

To ensure the delivery of resilient and sustainable water supplies across England, a National Framework for water resources has been developed by the Environment Agency. The National Framework builds on a report produced by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) [Preparing for a drier future](#), which sets out its recommendations on what is required to meet the water resource challenges the UK faces in the future. Importantly, this included a recommendation to improve the resilience of water supply systems to severe drought. It also takes forward the water industry regulators' vision for strengthened regional planning.

The [National Framework](#) presents a picture of England's future water needs by 2050, taking account of the water needs of the environment and all water using sectors including:

- Public water supplies provided by water companies
- Agriculture
- Power generation
- Industry.

It also sets out expectations for regional groups – five of which have been established across England.

The role of regional groups

The National Framework sets out the role of regional groups – what they must, should and could do – in the delivery of resilient and sustainable water resources for the future. The five regional groups are shown on the adjacent map. Together they include all the water companies operating in England and the other major water users. The National Framework does not formally cover Wales; however, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales are represented on the Water Resources West group.

Each regional group is required to produce a single, adaptive plan that builds resilience to a range of uncertainties and future scenarios.

The regional plans need to increase resilience to drought and other events, deliver long-term environmental improvement, set out how water supplies will be managed across the region and identify all the options that are needed to secure the region's water resources for the future.

These plans must consider public water supply needs, which is a statutory responsibility of the water companies, the needs of the environment and the needs of all other major water users in the region. For the South East, this is primarily industry (paper mills and golf courses), energy and agriculture.



They will set out the preferred plan for the region, including the set of options that present the best value to customers, society and the environment that need to be developed to secure long-term resilience. The five regional groups will work together to ensure that the plans they each produce are aligned and when combined meet the national need.

WRSE was established in the late 1990s and since then it has been developing regional strategies that companies have referenced in the development of their own statutory Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP). Our last strategy, [From source to tap](#), set out the scenarios and corresponding strategies to tackle the future challenges in South East England. We are continuing to work closely together to develop our regional plan, which will be used to derive the member water companies' WRMPs in 2024.

This document is the first step in developing the regional plan and outlines:

- The challenges facing the South East region and how they will impact on future water resource availability

-
- How much additional water we anticipate will be needed in the region up to 2100, both for public water supply and other water users
 - The options that have been identified to date to meet public water supply needs and how much water they will provide
 - What we will do to update and confirm our assessment of the region's future water needs by spring 2021.

It also provides the opportunity for others to put forward options for consideration as we develop the next regional plan. This could include potential new sources of water, catchment solutions and innovative demand reduction measures. At the end of the document, we have set out how you can get involved and contribute ideas.

Part of a bigger picture

Improving how we manage water resources in England is a critical part of achieving the government's ambition to leave the environment in a better state than when they found it and improve the nation's resilience to drought. This ambition is shared by water companies and all those involved in the regional groups that have been established across the country.

The South East faces some of the most significant challenges to water resources in the future. Most of the region is already classified as water stressed and its population is set to grow, with major growth corridors planned in some areas.

The impact of climate change will be felt most acutely in the region, bringing changes to the amount and pattern of rainfall which are likely to, in turn, change the types of droughts we face in the future. Consequently, this will reduce how much water is available for us all to use. Furthermore, the region is home to some of the nation's most sensitive habitats including internationally renowned chalk streams, many of which are currently relied upon by water companies and other abstractors to provide the water needed. The National Framework recognises that the challenges are greatest in the South East region and identified that around 50% of the additional water required nationally by 2050, for public water supply, is needed in this region.

To address these challenges, we need to work together and in doing so we can also maximise the opportunities to deliver even greater value for people and places. We will use the regional plan to contribute to the bigger picture of environmental improvement by reforming our approach to abstraction through only providing water from sustainable sources, identifying opportunities for environmental net-gain as we deliver new infrastructure, embedding a culture of efficient water use across all users in the region, creating green infrastructure and identifying natural solutions that improve the management of water within river catchments.

Water Resources South East (WRSE)

Water Resources South East (WRSE) is the regional group that covers South East England. Our funding members are:

- Affinity Water
- Portsmouth Water
- SES Water
- South East Water
- Southern Water
- Thames Water.

We also have non-core members who are:

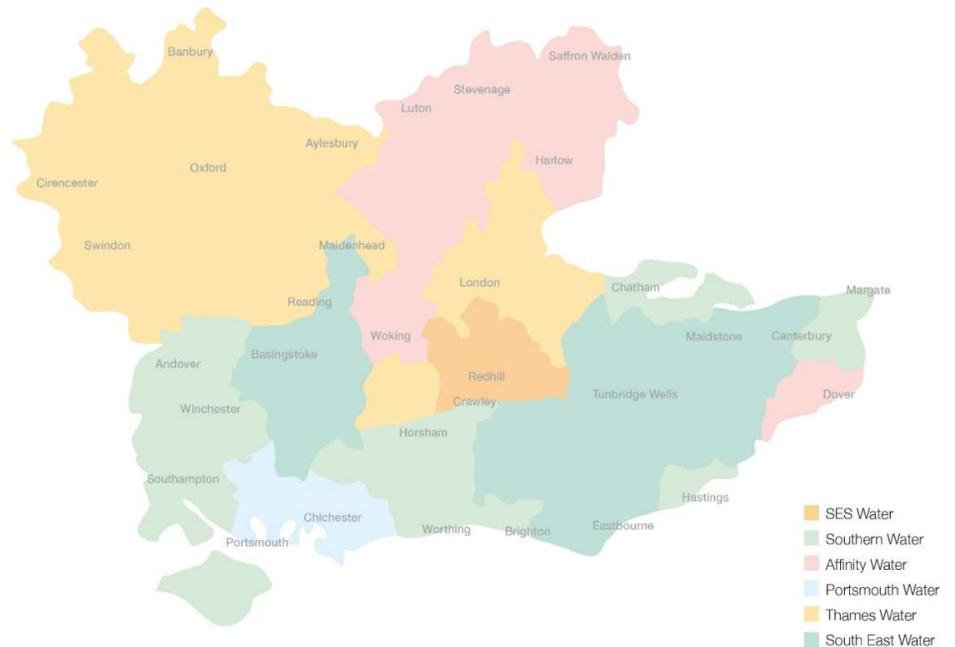
- Defra
- The Environment Agency
- Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID)
- Drinking Water Inspectorate
- Natural England.

In 2019, we established a stakeholder advisory group made up of representatives from water using sectors across the region, as well as organisations involved in determining future water policy and strategy. The purpose of the advisory group is to ensure a broad range of interests are represented and to help shape the direction and content of the multi-sector, regional resilience plan.

The South East region

The South East region is home to 30% of the UK population and is worth £627 billion per year to the UK economy (30% of the total). It covers the area from the New Forest in Hampshire, to the Isle of Thanet in Kent, up to Saffron Walden in Essex and across to Banbury in Oxfordshire – and everywhere in between.

The area covers 26,400 square kilometres, 32 river catchments, 121 planning authorities and nine Local Enterprise Partnerships. It is culturally rich and diverse, with a mix of major cities (including London), seaside towns and rural hamlets. It has a highly valued and protected natural environment.



When it comes to water, the region has some unique characteristics:

- Six water companies supply water to 20 million customers and 2 million businesses
- More than half the region's water – and up to 100% in some water resource zones – comes from underground sources. These rely on there being enough winter rainfall to fill them up ready to meet the higher demand for water in the spring and summer
- Normal demand for water is currently five billion litres per day – but this can rise to nearly six billion litres per day when it's hot
- Around 60% of homes have a water meter
- More than a quarter of the region is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while National Parks make up 8% of the region
- There are 700 miles of coastline and 89 designated bathing waters.

WRSE regional water resource position today

The regional plan will cover a planning period from 2025 to 2100. We have looked ahead to understand what the water resource position is likely to be for the region over the next 75-years – considering both public water supplies and the needs of other users – so that the region’s water resources can be planned and managed in a more holistic way.

Currently, the water companies in the South East region abstract, treat and distribute more than five billion litres of water each day. This is over a third of the 14 billion litres per day that is provided, on average, by the water companies across England.

Our public water supply forecasts show that the amount of surplus water available in the region will drop to 315 million litres per day by 2025. Based on our projections, it is estimated that by 2050 the deficit in public water could reach 1 billion litres per day and by 2100 this will have risen to 1.6 billion litres per day.

Other sectors such as agriculture, power and industry rely heavily on water and often abstract it from the same catchments. In the South East region, other sectors currently use 153 million litres per day; this is the lowest across all the regions in England. By 2025, this is projected to rise to 157 million litres per day.

The future needs of the other sectors are less clear as they don’t produce long-term water resource management plans and must respond to market pressures. However, total demand from other sectors in the South East region is estimated to reach 175 million litres per day by 2050 and 211 million litres per day by 2100. This means an extra 58 million litres of water will be needed by 2100 to meet this demand.

Together, the total additional water needed by all water users in the South East region is projected to be just over **1 billion litres per day at 2050** and almost **1.7 billion litres per day at 2100**.

We now explain in more detail how we forecast the region’s future needs.

Public Water Supply

The South East region faces several significant pressures on its water resources, more so than any other region in England. Most of the region is already classified as being in serious water stress due to the relatively low rainfall level, combined with higher than average water use per person.

It is the job of water companies to provide water supplies to homes and businesses, now and in the future. To enable us to accurately forecast how much water will be available over the next 75-years, we need to understand the impact that the different pressures will have on water supplies.

We have used the water companies' 2019 Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP19) as the starting point and have compared how much water is available with the anticipated demand for water. This is known as the supply-demand balance. When demand exceeds supplies a deficit is created – this tells us how much additional water we will need.

Below we summarise the key pressures facing the region and, in the table provided, we identify how much additional water we anticipate will be needed to address each and meet public water supply needs in the future.

Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs) are statutory plans that all water companies in England and Wales produce every five years. They look at least 25 years ahead – and often much further – to forecast how much water will be available and how much will be needed in the future to meet demand. If demand is greater than the water available, these plans identify the most cost-effective solutions to fill the gap. Water Resource Management Plans 2019 (or WRMP19) cover the planning period from 2020.

Serving a growing population

It is projected that the population of the South East will increase by approximately nine million people by 2100, to a total of 29 million. The rate and scale of growth is uncertain, but we have based our assessment on the current water company projections. We will continue to work with the local planning authorities to review and refine our growth forecasts for use in the regional plan. Now that the government has designated the corridor of land connecting Oxford, Milton Keynes,

Bedford and Cambridge (the OxCam Arc) as a key economic priority, we will incorporate these requirements into the next update.

Addressing the impacts of climate change

Climate change is likely to reduce how much water is available for abstraction due to changing rainfall patterns, so the sources that rely on steady winter rainfall – particularly the chalk aquifers – may not be refilled adequately each year. At the same time, summers are getting hotter, with hot summers and droughts likely to become more frequent in the future, which will mean less water is available from our sources. Our current estimates of climate change will be updated following the publication of the latest forecasts.

Protecting and improving the environment

We recognise there is a need to further reduce public water supply abstraction from vulnerable catchments across South East England. This is part of a wider effort to improve the environment and regional groups have an opportunity to support these improvements as part of their long-term plans.

Where scientific evidence has supported the requirement, water companies have already reduced public water supply abstraction as part of the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP), and more is planned between 2020 and 2025. This work is carried out in partnership with the Environment Agency and funded by water companies.

There is currently some uncertainty around the volumetric scale of the additional abstraction reductions that will be needed beyond the current WINEP investigations. The National Framework provides some insight into what they might be, and we will review the supporting technical information when it becomes available to us. The volumetric figure for reducing public water supply abstraction used in our baseline forecast has been taken from companies' WRMP19s, which is consistent with the previous WRSE Source to tap strategy.

The initial analysis carried out as part of the National Framework indicates that as well as water companies, other sectors may also need to reduce abstraction, which together will support the efforts to deliver long-term environmental improvement.

Current estimates for South East England suggest that total future abstraction reductions could be anything from 274 million litres per day to 998 million litres per day.

These are initial, high-level figures and further work is required to understand what this means for the catchments in the South East of England. We will work closely with the Environment Agency, Natural England and environmental groups in the region to identify where further reductions to abstraction are required and address them in the regional plan.

We will also look at opportunities to improve catchments through different catchment management measures, which will help to improve the quality of the water in a catchment and/or increase the overall resilience of the water environment. This will be important, as although reducing public water supply abstraction is an essential part of improving catchment flows, alone they may not provide the wider benefits that some integrated catchment schemes could deliver for the environment.

? We have set out our first thoughts on environmental ambition. Do you think this is focused on the key opportunities in our region? Are there any other areas of opportunity you think we could benefit from?

Increasing the resilience of public water supplies to drought

Water companies already plan ahead to provide resilience to drought; however, drought events in the future are likely to become more frequent and widespread. In an extreme drought, water companies might need to introduce measures to restrict water use for everyday activities. As well as disrupting our day-to-day lives, drought measures would also have a damaging effect on the natural environment and impact the economy.

In recognition of the consequences that such restrictions would bring, the National Framework indicates that we should increase our resilience to extreme drought to once every 500-years on average. That means there would be a 15% chance you will experience a drought over an 85-year period of time.

We've not included the use of drought orders and permits in our baseline water resource position; however, they are included as an option alongside new supplies, transfers and demand management to help us achieve the 1 in 500-year resilience level and meet the region's water needs in the future.

Developing our water supply system so it can cope with extreme events without using all the drought orders and permits currently available to companies, would mean that these measures would be in reserve to cope with even more extreme events and help prevent the use of restrictions such as rota cuts and standpipes – measures that water companies' research has found customers consider to be unacceptable.

We therefore need to consider the role that such measures should play in the future and are proposing to review all the drought permits and orders in the region to understand their impact.

? What are your views on how the region could or should use temporary approaches, such as drought permits, to managing continuous water availability in drought events?

To meet the challenges on the public water supply systems in the South East we have set out above, further investment will be required. To meet these challenges, we must deliver a range of new options in the future.

Currently there are a range of options that could be developed to meet these challenges, which we set out later in this document. However, in order to assess which measures we need to develop, we need to understand how much water we will need. The purpose of Table 1 (below) is to provide some insight into how much water might be required.

At this stage we have only set out a single scenario based on water company plans. However, we hope this provides sufficient information on our projected future requirements for third parties who may have alternative options that we could consider in our regional plan.

Table 1 shows the volumes of water associated with:

- Public water supply required for customers, referred to as distribution input
- Baseline amount of water available after population growth and climate change
- The amount of water associated with reducing abstractions within WRMP19s, which includes current commitments to deliver the WINEP plus additional reductions currently identified for environmental protection
- The reduction in water available from sources during a 1 in 500-year drought (this reflects the move from 1 in 200-year drought resilience to 1 in 500-year drought resilience)
- The net resource position is the combination of the baseline amount, environmental protection and drought resilience and is the amount of additional water we will require in the future.

These volumes can change during the course of a year (annual) and the summer (peak). They represent the two planning scenarios used by water companies.

Table 1: Future public water supply projections 2025 to 2100

Category	Time period	2025	2030	2040	2050	2070	2100
Public Water Supply - Distribution Input	Annual	4637.4	4686.6	4838.5	5015.2	5262.8	5537.1
Baseline amount of water available	Annual	315	-86.6	-321.0	-519.1	-806.7	-1143.2
Environmental protection	Annual			-273.7	-273.7	-273.7	-273.7
Drought resilience	Annual			-210.0	-210.0	-210.0	-210.0
Net resources available	Annual	315	-86.6	-804.7	-1002.8	-1290.4	-1626.9
Public Water Supply - Distribution Input	Summer	5246.5	5308.9	5498.2	5714.6	6038.4	6413.4
Baseline amount of water available	Summer	515	50.2	-221.5	-458.0	-818.0	-1247.5
Environmental protection	Summer			-273.7	-273.7	-273.7	-273.7
Drought resilience	Summer			-210.0	-210.0	-210.0	-210.0
Net resources available	Summer	515	50.2	-705.2	-941.7	-1301.7	-1731.2

Please note the figures in the table are in million litres per day (ML/d)

The National Framework has undertaken a similar analysis, using some specific assumptions, which are different to ours. Based on their assumptions they forecast

that an additional 1,765 million litres per day will be needed between 2025 and 2050 in the South East region.

The key differences between the two forecasts are as follows:

- We assume that all the existing surplus water in the region, some 315 million litres per day at 2025, can be used for water supply. We are undertaking some work to see how we improve the connectivity of the South East to help unlock this surplus resource
- Our assumption on environmental ambition is based on what is included in WRMP19s, which we will refine and update over the coming year. The National Framework has accounted for an additional 158 million litres per day on top of our projections
- Our drought resilience assessment is based on improving the overall resilience from a 1 in 200-year drought resilience position to a 1 in 500-year position. We have already included the improvement to a 1 in 200-year drought resilience in the baseline position
- We have forecast per capita and leakage using the water companies' projections, which take account of the long-term reductions from schemes delivered by 2025. The National Framework has fixed these at 2024/25 levels and considered three scenarios for per capita consumption and leakage up to 2050.

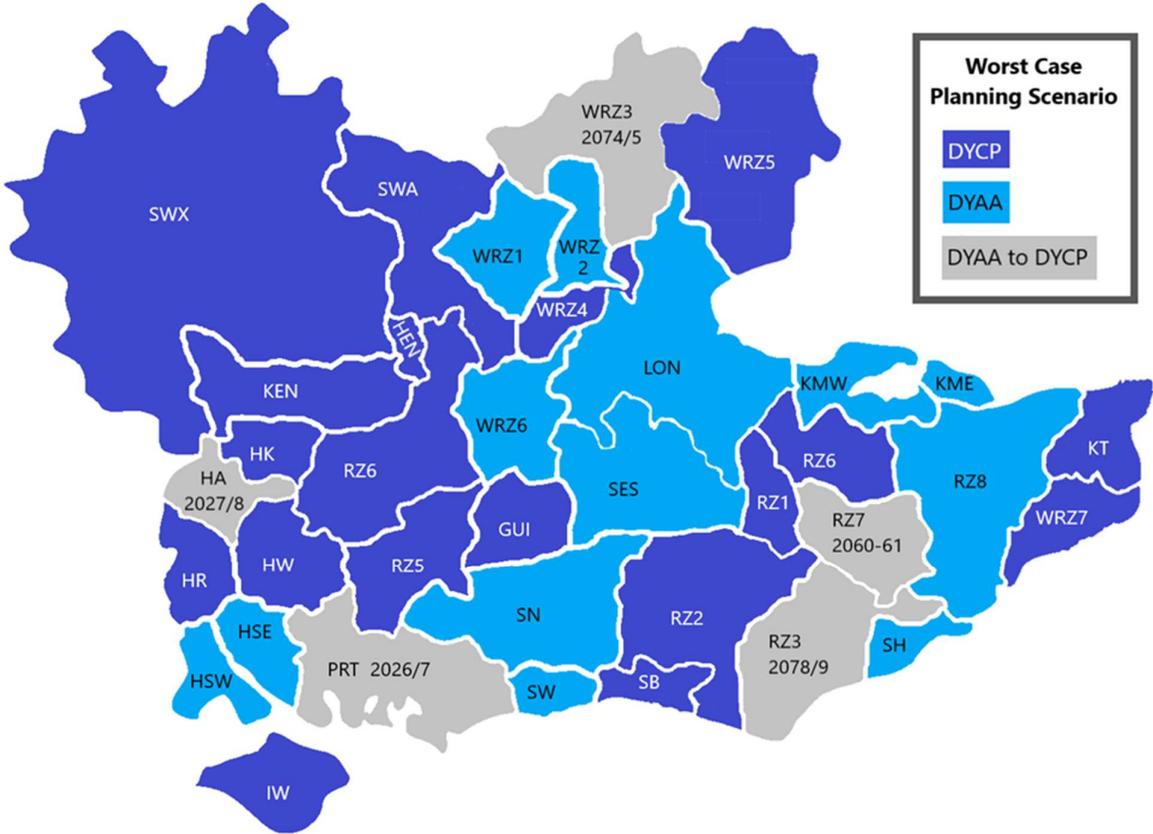
During the course of the year we will be updating all our forecasts and will publish a revised future water resource requirement document in spring 2021, ahead of the development of the regional plan.

? Are there any further key challenges and opportunities we face in the region with regard to water resource availability that you believe we should consider?

It is important to look at the water resource position across the region, as there is significant variation between some areas. Water companies divide their areas into smaller units, called Water Resource Zones (WRZs), for the purposes of planning. Across the South East there are 37 WRZs. For some WRZs, the net resource position is worse for the summer period than the winter period. For other zones, it is the opposite. The map below provides an indication of which of the WRZs will have

bigger deficits in the summer of a dry year (DYCP) or over the entire dry year (DYAA). There are a few zones which change over the course of the planning horizon due to the impact of climate change, reductions in abstractions and population growth. The types of solutions required to solve these challenges are different and the map below should help to provide third parties with additional information to decide where potential new options might work better than others. Options that could help reduce peak summer demand, referred to as the critical period (CP), may be most beneficial in those zones which are labelled as dry year critical period (DYCP). Those options which can provide benefits across the whole year may be more suitable for water resource zones which are labelled dry year annual average (DYAA). Either way, we still would like to hear your ideas.

Figure 1: Map of the water resource zone areas in South East England, indicating whether the investment needs are driven by the summer demands (DYCP) or the need for water over the entire year (DYAA)



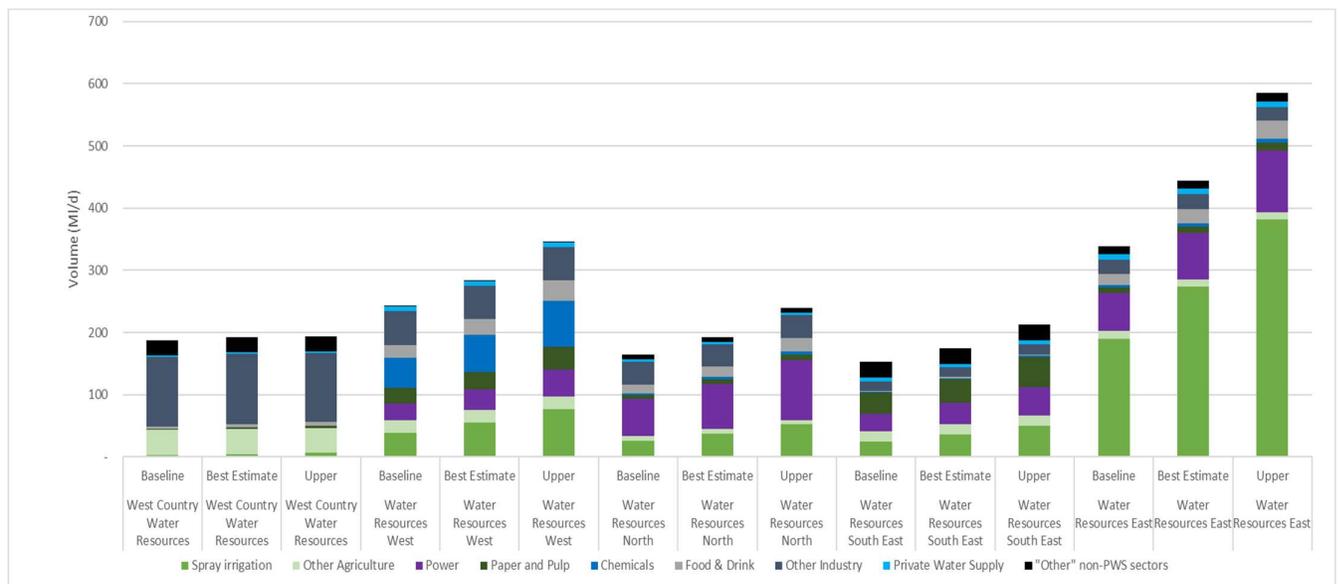
Non-public Water Supply

The other major water users in the region currently use 153 million litres of water per day. This varies across the region and at different times of year but is lower than the non-public sector water use in the other regions in England.

These users need to plan for future growth, address the impact of climate change and become more resilient to drought events, so they can continue to supply their products and services. For those who do not produce water resource plans and who are required to react to the needs of their respective markets, predicting long-term demand is not as easy. We have used the outputs of a study carried out in 2019 by Woods plc on behalf of the Environment Agency, that looked at non-public water supply abstractions to forecast future demands. The data provided covers the period to 2050, we have applied a simple trend forecast to project this data to 2100.

The study shows that in the South East, demand is likely to increase by just over 20 million litres per day from the current position by 2050. The graph below shows the best estimate and upper estimate of future demand from other sectors compared to baseline at 2050.

Figure 2: Non-public water supply current and future abstractions to 2050 (Source: National Framework)



The following table shows our future projections of how much water will be used by other sectors in the future and the net resource required to meet their needs. We have only projected annual average demand for other sectors at this stage, not peak summer demand.

Table 2: Future non-public water supply projections 2020 to 2100

Category	Time period	2025	2030	2040	2050	2070	2100
Spray irrigation		26.81	28.64	32.30	35.964	43.29	54.28
Other agriculture		16.61	16.73	16.98	17.22	17.72	18.45
Power		29.18	30.21	32.27	34.34	38.47	44.66
Paper and Pulp		33.84	34.51	35.83	37.16	39.82	43.80
Chemicals		1.81	1.87	2.00	2.13	2.39	2.77
Food and Drink		1.23	1.28	1.38	1.48	1.68	1.97
Other Industry		15.67	15.60	15.46	15.32	15.03	14.60
Private Water Supply		6.46	6.38	6.22	6.06	5.73	5.25
"Other" non-PWS sectors		25.27	25.27	25.27	25.28	25.29	25.30
Total Non-PWS input	Annual	156.88	160.49	167.72	174.95	189.40	211.08
Net resources required	Annual	-3.61	-7.23	-14.45	-21.68	-36.13	-57.82

Please note the figures in the table are in million litres per day (ML/d)

During the next year, data should be provided by the Environment Agency on how much water is abstracted from the environment that is currently exempt from abstraction licensing and therefore not included within this analysis, primarily trickle irrigation.

We will work with the other water users to explore their future needs in more detail and update our best estimate ahead of developing the WRSE regional plan. If you would like to be involved in this work, please contact us using the details provided at the back of this document.

? Do you think we have we missed any key water users within the region? If so, please provide details of these water users and the sectors they may be in?

Current understanding of the overall need of the region

Taking account of the projections for public water supply and non-public water supply, the overall anticipated resource requirement for the South East region is set out in the table below.

Table 3: Total future water supply projection for South East England from 2025 to 2100

Category	Time period	2025	2030	2040	2050	2070	2100
Total demand	Annual	4794.3	4847.1	5006.3	5190.2	5452.2	5748.2
Net resources available	Annual	311.4	-93.8	-819.2	-1024.5	-1326.5	-1684.7
Total demand	Summer	5403.8	5469.4	5666.0	5889.5	6227.8	6624.5
Net resources available	Summer	511.4	43.0	-719.7	-963.4	-1337.8	-1789.0

Please note the figures in the table are in million litres per day (Ml/d)

The data included in the table represents just one possible future scenario. Over the course of the next year, we will update these forecasts and consider how different forecasts could produce a wide range of outcomes that we will have to plan for. However, the need to develop a range of solutions for the future remains a necessity.

Options for the future

There are a range of potential solutions available to provide the additional water needed for the future – some options are focused on reducing demand by using the water we have more efficiently; other options increase the amount of water available by developing new sources and transfers from other regions, or within the region.

There are several options in the current company WRMPs that are considered to be ‘preferred’ options. These are options that companies are planning to progress over the coming years.

The preferred options included in the company plans include:

- Leakage reduction

-
- Water efficiency activity
 - Metering and smart metering
 - Water transfers to move water around the region
 - Water transfers from other regions
 - Additional storage - reservoirs
 - Desalination
 - Catchment solutions
 - Water reuse
 - Drought interventions.

Work is already underway to explore a number of the large strategic options with the support of the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) – a team of experts from the Environment Agency, Ofwat and the Drinking Water Inspectorate. This is being co-ordinated with the work of the regional groups.

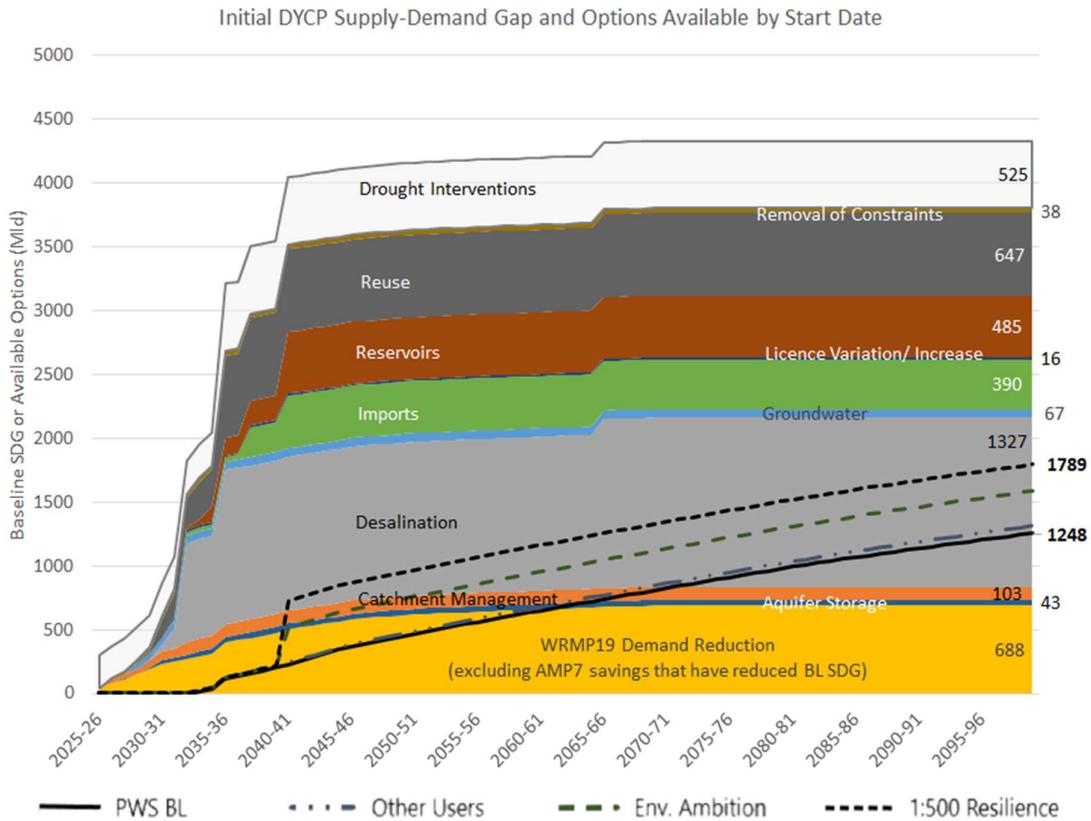
There are other options in the current company WRMPs that have been identified and considered to be 'feasible' options, which could provide additional water if needed.

Figure 3 shows the amount of water that could be saved, imported or generated within our region through different types of options – this includes both preferred and feasible options.

To help, we have also included on the graph how much water we will require in the future (dotted and dashed lines). Each type of option provides different benefits, will cost a different amount and take a different length of time to develop.

What this shows is that we have a number of options in the South East to meet the anticipated future challenges, including the needs of other water users, increased environmental ambition and the extra water needed to achieve 1 in 500-year resilience to drought.

Figure 3:



However, we would still like to hear about your ideas for future options, so please contact us or the water companies, see the contact details at the end of the document for more information.

The section of the graph labelled ‘Imports’ corresponds to the water available through the strategic transfers from other regions that are currently being investigated by the water companies and RAPID.

As we develop the regional plan and consider the needs outside public water supply, we will also look at whether there are opportunities for the options that we develop in the future to benefit other users in the region.

? We have set out the feasible options for managing water resources in the region. What are your suggestions on further options we could consider?

Third party options

We would like to hear from you if you think that you may have water available or demand reduction measures that should be considered as new options in the regional plan.

This could include existing abstraction licences that could be traded with one of the water companies or other abstractors, catchment schemes that could help preserve or increase the amount of water available within a particular catchment, or demand management options that could help us to achieve our ambitious leakage and per capita consumption reduction targets.

If you think you have an option that we can examine, please submit details by 17 July 2020. Information on how to do this can be found at the back of this document or you can contact one of the water companies involved – they all have a Bid Assessment Framework in place that allows you to submit potential options.

Next steps in developing the regional plan

In September 2019, we published our [vision for the regional plan](#), which we shared with our stakeholders and advisory panel. The document set out how we will update and enhance our approach to regional planning and the process we will go through to develop the regional plan.

This document – Future Resource Requirements for South East England – is an important milestone, as it sets the planning challenge that we face in the South East.

Below, we have detailed some of the key dates and documents that we will publish as we develop the regional plan.

March 2020: Future Water Resource Requirements for the South East England (this document), which sets out the planning challenge

May/June 2020: The Resilience Framework we intend to use to develop the regional plan

July 2020: Method Statement – this will set out all the methods we will use to develop the regional plan

September 2020: Policies and preferences that we plan to embed in the regional plan

Winter 2020/21: Resilience assessment of the South East region

Spring 2021: Update and re-publish our Future Water Resource Requirements for South East England

Spring 2021: Confirm the policies and preferences that we will embed in our regional plan

Summer 2021: Reconciliation of the five draft regional plans to ensure alignment across England

January 2022: Publish our draft Regional Plan for informal consultation

May 2022: Present the main issues raised in the consultation and how we'll address them

August 2022: Publish our final draft Regional Plan and water companies will submit their draft Water Resource Management Plans 2024 to Defra ahead of public consultation

March 2023: Water companies publish their revised draft Water Resources Management Plans

September 2023: WRSE will publish its final multi-sector, regional resilience plan.

We will publish documents and information at key stages of the development of the plan and ask for your feedback. These will be published on our website with opportunity for comment. We will also hold meetings to enable us to talk to you and hear your concerns and preferences.

? This plan requires engagement across a wide range of stakeholders. What are your views on how best to achieve this and are there any key stakeholders you suggest the plan engages with?

How to get involved

New sources of water and demand management options

We want to hear from you if you have any new sources of water, catchment management or demand management options that you think should be considered in the regional plan. If your option has potential to benefit more than one company, please contact WRSE directly at contact@WRSE.org.uk

We may invite you to talk with us further about your option. Or, we may recommend that you engage directly with an individual water company to explore taking your proposal further, through their individual Bid Assessment Frameworks (BAF). This is because all options must be progressed through a company WRMP screening process for inclusion in our regional plan.

Please get in touch by 17 July 2020 to ensure that your proposed scheme can be developed in time to be considered in the regional plan. Interest registered after this date will be considered on a best endeavours basis; during this time we will continue to follow our BAF compliant screening process as we have set out and consider if your proposed scheme could displace a scheme that was in our preferred plan.

Options which are clearly beneficial, typically smaller in size and can be proven robust against the evaluation criteria are more likely to be considered after 17 July 2020 and may be considered for inclusion in our programme earlier in the planning process. If your proposal would be of benefit to one company only, please review the Bid Assessment Framework of that company, which sets out how options put forward by third parties will be considered through its Water Resource Management Planning process.

Affinity Water

www.affinitywater.co.uk/corporate/plans/water-trading

Portsmouth Water

<https://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Portsmouth-Water-Bid-Assessment-Criteria-December-2019.docx>

SES Water

<https://seswater.co.uk/about-us/our-suppliers>

Southern Water

www.southernwater.co.uk/media/1921/ta-114-water-resources-bid-assessment-framework.pdf

South East Water

<https://corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/news-info/publications/water-resources-bidding-market/>

Thames Water

www.thameswater.co.uk/baf

Tell us what you think

We want to hear what you think. Your feedback will help shape the plan for water for the South East to 2100. Please respond to the following questions.

1. Are there any further key challenges and opportunities we face in the region with regard to water resource availability that you believe we should consider?
2. We have set out our first thoughts on environmental ambition. Do you think this is focused on the key opportunities in our region? Are there any other areas of opportunity you think we could benefit from?
3. What are your views on how the region could or should use temporary approaches, such as drought permits, to managing continuous water availability in drought events?
4. Do you think we have we missed any key water users within the region? If so, can you please provide details of these water users and the sectors they may be in?
5. We have set out the initial options for managing water resources in the region. What are your suggestions on further options we could consider?
6. This plan requires engagement across a wide range of stakeholders. What are your views on how best to achieve this and are there any key stakeholders you suggest the plan engages with?
7. Do you have any further comments?

Please email your responses and any other comments you may have to contact@wrse.org.uk by 17 April 2020.