

FAQ

Why is this work taking place now?

The existing WWTW has come to the end of its serviceable life and cannot meet the demands of a growing community. The population has grown significantly since its installation and in order to provide more layers of treatment, a new works is required.

How much will this cost?

Our current estimate is £55million which includes a new outfall. The new outfall may not be needed so the overall cost may change.

What is the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive?

This is EU regulation which has been adopted in the UK. As part of this, we are required to install further layers of treatment when the population surpasses 10,000 population equivalent.

What does population equivalent mean?

Population equivalent includes the estimated population plus the equivalent estimated demand on the network of non household properties – eg business, factories etc.

What makes the new works better than the existing one?

The new works will have a further layer of waste water treatment including bacteriological treatment. The existing works only has screening and primary treatment and is no longer able to treat to the requirements of the current population.

Why was this not done years ago?

The final effluent quality is still compliant with SEPA regulations. We have spent a long time looking at different ways to add further layers of treatment to the site or transfer flows elsewhere but none of these have been technically or financially feasible.

Why was this site chosen and not that site?

We have looked at multiple sites for the new works. In seeking a site, we have aimed to find a location away from town, which is screened from the main road, is still being close enough to pump waste water to and from, is accessible from the road network, is constructable, is large enough, has a willing land owner.

Why can the works not be on the other side of the treeline?

When selecting a site it is important that we work closely with landowners to find available land and avoid compulsory purchase wherever possible. This land meets our requirements.

Why have we allowed developer connections?

The final effluent from North Berwick WWTW remains compliant with our SEPA licence conditions. Before we allow any new connections, significant modelling work is carried out.

Will we allow any more connections before the new works is built?

No major developments will be connected before the new works is constructed however we will continue to consider smaller developments on a case by case basis

Where will the rising main route go?

We are actively considering the pipeline route. However, we need to better understand the various constraints before we have a clear idea of where the pipelines will go.

Why can the existing works not be expanded?

The existing works is severely limited in terms of space inside and expanding the works further into the hillside is not technically feasible. To ensure we deliver a works which can grow and treat waste sustainably a new site in a new location is required.

Why can we not construct a new works into the hillside?

We would not want to construct a works like the existing one. Having an indoor works creates health and safety risks, it is expensive to construct and it leaves us with challenges in terms of expansion.

Will the new works smell / be noisy?

We will never say there will not be an odour or noise however, during the planning process, we will be carrying out odour and noise studies and surveys to ensure that we have sufficient mitigation measures in place.

What landscaping will we do around the works?

During the planning process, we will be developing our land scaping plans to help the works blend into the landscape.

Will we be burying the pipe on the beach?

No. We have reviewed what would be required to remove the pipe from the beach and found that the only viable alternative would be to run the pipe along the high street which would be very expensive and very disruptive.

We are looking at carrying out work on the pipe and the connections into the pipe due to sea water

When will the works start and how long will it last?

We are aiming to start the delivery of the works in 2025/26 and aim to complete by 2028/29

Will I get compensation for the inconvenience?

As a publicly funded organisation we do not generally pay compensation. However, this is considered on a case by case basis and customers must be able to demonstrate material loss.

Will I get compensation if my house is devalued?

As above.

Will this reduce CSO discharges?

No. This project is focused on improving what is discharged into the environment during normal weather conditions.

How many CSOs do SW have along the coast at North Berwick?

There are six CSOs , EOs, SSSOs, along the coast of North Berwick. These are essential parts of the waste water network and help reduce the risk of flooding.

As part of this project, we will be replacing the Emergency Overflow and installing storm storage. Both of these will reduce the risk of rags ending up in the environment.

Are CSO discharges monitored?

At present, the CSOs in North Berwick are not monitored. As part of Scottish Water's Improving Urban Waters Routemap, we are focused on installing 1000 monitors on the highest priority assets by the end of 2024. Once the first 1000 have been installed, we will review the costs and benefits of extending monitor coverage and agree a programme of work.

Why is this not a proper consultation / what can be influenced?

The focus of this phase of engagement is to get feedback from residents to help shape our plans. The location for the works is fixed, as the site needs to meet a set criteria and be available to purchase.

We are keen to understand customers views around screening and construction. From this, we will try and incorporate as much of this feedback as possible.

Are we engaged in the Local Development Plan?

Yes. We are committed to providing capacity for any new developments included in the local development plan. We have advised the council of our proposed timeline and the capacity of our new works. Thanks to the modular design of the works, we are able to increase capacity as and when it is needed.

Will we resolve flooding issues elsewhere in the network?

This project is focused on the treatment side of the waste water network, where there are flooding issues, we encourage customers to contact us each time so we can build up an accurate history of issues in an area

What is Nereda treatment and how does it work?

Nereda is a new type of waste water treatment process. It uses less energy, takes up less space and has fewer mechanical parts than traditional works. It can be monitored remotely and produces a higher quality of final treated water.

Waste water enters in the bottom of the tank displacing purified water from the top of tank. It is then aerated to breakdown and remove organic, nitrogen and phosphorous components. Once this is complete, sludge settles to bottom and process restarts.

Information on Nereda can be found at the following website

<https://nereda.royalhaskoningdhv.com/>

Discharged via a pipeline? Does that mean you are still discharging wastewater into the sea?

All waste water treatment works require a point for treated effluent to be released.

We discharge treated effluent into the sea via a long sea outfall. This discharge is licensed by SEPA and is modelled to ensure there isn't a detrimental impact on the coastal environment.

The treatment at the new works will be significantly upgraded in comparison to the existing site.

Why have we selected this parcel of land and will we change where we place the works?

We believe that this is the best available location for the works.

When looking at potential locations, 15 sites were originally selected and screened as possible locations for the new works.

This screening was based on the below criteria (in no particular order):

- Conservation areas
- National and international statutory natural heritage designations
- Non statutory Scottish Wildlife Trust sites
- Distance from nearby properties
- Flood risk areas
- Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments

Once this screening was carried out, we assessed the following:

- Landscape and visual impact
- Geotechnical and land use constraints
- Pumping distance and associated cost and carbon impact.

Why can the works not be on the other side of the treeline?

When selecting a site, it is important that we work closely with landowners to find available land and avoid compulsory purchase wherever possible. This land meets our requirements and is available.

Can we compulsory purchase land?

While Scottish Water has powers to compulsory purchase land, we avoid this wherever possible as this can lead to combative relationships with landowners, doesn't represent good value for our customers and can take a very long time.

What other site locations that were considered?

The below grid references are for the fields we considered rather than exact locations within these fields.

I recommend using www.gridreferencefinder.com to easily look these up.

1. NT 56166 83900	2. NT 57151 84280	3. NT 57405 84037
4. NT 57528 83719	5. NT 57599 84169	6. NT 57913 82877
7. NT 58159 82926	8. NT 58337 83297	9. NT 58329 84071
10. NT 58118 84720	11. NT 58652 82689	12. NT 59070 83484
13. NT 59400 83593	14. NT 60271 83394	15. NT 60374 83855

Have we considered using grass walls to screen the new works?

Yes. We are actively considering this and other options. We are approaching suppliers to see what is feasible.

What is the exact footprint of the site and are we purchasing the land?

Yes, we will be purchasing the land.

The exact footprint of the site is still to be confirmed however we estimate that this will be around the size of a football pitch.

Have we consulted with the John Muir Trust about the John Muir Way?

We have contacted the John Muir Trust and will liaise directly with them.

Can planting take place before works start?

We need to agree a planting and landscaping plan first but at present, this is certainly something that would be considered.

How many lorry movements will there be during construction?

We are developing a traffic management plan for both the construction and permanent operation of the works.

We are planning to use offsite construction methods to reduce the amount of vehicle movements during the construction phase.

Why are you planning to build a works on this piece of land when planning permission has previously been refused for another development?

There are key differences between the types of proposals for this land. In our case, we are building essential infrastructure and therefore there is a justification for building it in countryside location. As we understand it, the fundamental principle of the retirement village was not acceptable in planning terms and did not comply with policy. Our proposal is different in that the principle is acceptable provided we fully consider and mitigate any technical issues where necessary.

What surveys do we need to carry out?

Before detailed designs are drawn up, we will need to carry out a number of surveys. These include;

Site investigations: This will look at ground conditions, flood risk, nearby utilities, archaeology and any other technical construction issues.

Environment and ecology surveys: This will look at trees, plants, animals and any endangered species.

Will the works be lit up 24/7?

There will be lighting on the site when it is required, however, our teams will primarily use task lighting rather than full site lighting. When there is no one on the site, lighting should be turned off to avoid light pollution.

How close is the closest property to the proposed new works?

Approximately 200 metres but once we have a more detailed site layout, we will be able to provide a more accurate figure.

How tall will the new works be?

The tallest structure will be approximately 10 metres. Once we have carried out site investigations, we will have a better understanding of exact heights and how best to orientate the works to reduce the visual impact.

Will the works smell or be noisy?

We will never say there will not be an odour or noise from a works as there could be if things are not operating properly. However, during the planning process, we will be carrying out odour and noise studies and surveys to ensure that we have sufficient mitigation measures in place.

There will be odour management and a monitoring system installed.

Further to this, this works will have live telemetry meaning that we should be able to identify any issues as soon as they occur, enabling us to respond quickly.

Will there be any odours from the pipelines?

We do not predict there being any odour risk, in the same way that we do not generally have any issues with odours from sewers.

If any odour issues are identified, they will be mitigated through the use of sealed covers or carbon filters.