

Date: 16 April 2025
Our ref: Portsmouth Water Biodiversity ODI
Your ref: Biodiversity ODI



BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Kevin Wightman

Natural England Biodiversity ODI end of year completion letter financial year 2024/2025.

The ODI is a legal operation that Portsmouth Water has to promote biodiversity on its operational sites under the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). Twenty-nine* operational sites were originally identified to have priority habitat, so are specifically covered by this ODI. Associated with this the company has a biodiversity action plan and site-specific biodiversity management plans. Management Plans at many sites require a regime of grass cutting etc., to maintain habitats in good condition. The IFS system outlines the work that has been undertaken at each site and the percentage of work in the management plans that has been met. The ODI has a target of 90% for the percentage of work completed in the management plans.

Natural England assess whether Portsmouth Water is meeting the objectives of this ODI. This ODI is for the Asset Management Plan period 7 (AMP7) which lasts from 2020 to 2025. As part of Natural England's assessment there are two site visits that take place in each financial year followed by an update at the end of every financial year. The two site visits per financial year involve an on-site visit during the summer and a virtual site visit being undertaken due to time constraints and the ability of a wider range of sites to be covered in this second audit, these were both completed for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The IFS system data for the 2024/2025 financial year has been presented to Natural England. The completion rate for work this financial year is 97.2% which exceeds the 90% target needed to meet the requirements of the ODI. Natural England is therefore satisfied that Portsmouth Water has achieved its biodiversity ODI target for the 2024/2025 financial year.

* Please note this is currently twenty-eight sites as Bedhampton WTW is temporarily removed as agreed in discussions between Portsmouth Water and Natural England on 13th March 2023 due to the current ongoing construction on the site as part of the Havant Thicket reservoir. Once construction is complete, the site will be reinstated on the ODI site list and it will need to be restored to Biodiversity Net Gain Standards.

If you have any queries on the content of this letter please get in touch with Rachael Clemson rachael.clemson@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Clemson
Higher Officer: Freshwater

Cc Jenna Dewhurst, Environment and Biodiversity Specialist, Portsmouth Water