

Date: 24 January 2024
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Your ref: Biodiversity ODI Natural England review



Natural England
4th Floor, Eastleigh House,
Upper Market Street,
Eastleigh,
Hampshire
SO50 9YN

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Jamie Jones,

Natural England Biodiversity Outcome Delivery Incentive (ODI) update letter for 2023/2024

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 data 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 takes place started in 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 a 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. The IFS system data is presented to Natural England at the end of the financial year and Portsmouth Water update Natural England throughout the year with the percentage being currently met. Listed below is the confirmation of Natural England's assessment in each respective financial year of the AMP7 period:

Financial year of 2023/24

Natural England has completed the on-site visit in June 2023 and the further virtual site visit was completed in November 2023. A further updated will be sent once Natural England has been shown the IFS system data.

Financial year of 2022/23

Natural England confirms it has seen that Portsmouth Water's Biodiversity ODI has been met with 99.7% completion for the 2022/ 2023 financial year. An on-site visit was completed in July 2022 with a further virtual site visit completed in February 2023.

Financial year of 2021/22

Natural England confirms it has seen that Portsmouth Water's Biodiversity ODI has been

met with 95% completion for the 2021/ 2022 financial year. An on-site visit was completed in June 2021.

Financial year of 2020/21

Natural England confirms it has seen that Portsmouth Water's Biodiversity ODI has not been met with 30% completion for the 2020/ 2021 financial year. An on-site visit was completed in July 2020.

* 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 Aldous Rees aldous.rees@naturalengland.org.uk or 07584 385146

Yours Sincerely

James Roome,

Hampshire Freshwater Lead Adviser, Thames Solent Area Team

cc Jenna Dewhurst, Environment and Biodiversity Specialist, Portsmouth Water