

Eastbourne and Wealden Water Cycle Study

Stage 1 Scoping Report

Eastbourne Borough Council and Wealden District Council

Project number: 60676353

September 2026

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Sophie Brewer Senior Consultant	Laura McKechnie Principal Consultant	Helen Judd Regional Director	Una McGaughrin Technical Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
P01	April 2026	Draft	HJ	Helen Judd	Regional Director
P02	July 2026	Final	HJ	Helen Judd	Regional Director
P03	September 2026	Updates to sections 1.2, 2.3, 5.3.4, 5.7.2 and 6.1 to address South East Water comments and additional Wealden District Council Comments. Updated document name to Stage 1 Scoping WCS. Report was prepared under NPPF December 2024.	HJ	Helen Judd	Regional Director

Prepared for:

Eastbourne Borough Council
Town Hall
Grove Road
Eastbourne BN21 4UG

Wealden District Council
Vicarage Lane
Hailsham BN27 2AX

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
3 Rivergate
Redcliffe
Bristol BS1 6EW

T: +44 (0)117 901 7000
aecom.com

© 2026 AECOM Limited.

AECOM Limited ("AECOM") has prepared this **Report** for the sole use of **Eastbourne Borough Council & Wealden District Council** ("Client") in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment (ref: **014204-JOINT-CEC**) dated **[16 December 2025]** ("the Appointment").

AECOM shall have no duty, responsibility and/or liability to any party in connection with this **Report** howsoever arising other than that arising to the Client under the Appointment. Save as provided in the Appointment, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this **Report** or any other services provided by AECOM.

This **Report** should not be reproduced in whole or in part or disclosed to any third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of AECOM. To the extent this **Report** is reproduced in whole or in part or disclosed to any third parties (whether by AECOM or another party) for any use whatsoever, and whether such disclosure occurs with or without the express written authority of AECOM, AECOM does not accept that the third party is entitled to rely upon this **Report** and does not accept any responsibility or liability to the third party. To the extent any liability does arise to a third party, such liability shall be subject to any limitations included within the Appointment, a copy of which is available on request to AECOM.

Where any conclusions and recommendations contained in this **Report** are based upon information provided by the Client and/or third parties, it has been assumed that all relevant information has been provided by the Client and/or third parties and that such information is accurate. Any such information obtained by AECOM has not been independently verified by AECOM, unless otherwise stated in this **Report**. AECOM accepts no liability for any inaccurate conclusions, assumptions or actions taken resulting from any inaccurate information supplied to AECOM from the Client and/or third parties.

Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ALS	Abstraction Licensing Strategies
AMP	Asset Management Plan
BGS	British Geological Survey
CAMS	Catchment Management Abstraction Strategy
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DWF	Dry Weather Flow
DWMP	Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan
EA	Environment Agency
EBC	Eastbourne Borough Council
EFI	Environmental Flow Indicator
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NbS	Nature Based Solutions
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
Ofwat	Office for Water Services
PCC	Per Capita Consumption
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RNAG	Reasons for Not Achieving Good
RQP	River Quality Planning
SEW	South East Water
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SDNPA	South Downs National Park Authority
SPZ	Source Protection Zones
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SW	Southern Water
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TraC	Transitional and Coastal
WCS	Water Cycle Study
WDC	Wealden District Council
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRE	Water Resources East
WRMP	Water Resources Management Plan
WRZ	Water Resource Zone
WSI	Water Services Infrastructure
WWNP	Working with Natural Processes
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	4
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Water Cycle Study Purpose	1
1.1.1 WCS Stages	1
1.2 Study partners	2
1.3 Report Structure	2
2. Study drivers	3
2.1 National planning policy	3
2.2 Legislation	3
2.2.1 Water Framework Directive Regulations	3
2.2.2 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	4
2.2.3 Environment Act 2021	4
2.3 Relevant strategies and plans	4
3. Growth proposals and study area	6
3.1 Study area	6
3.2 Growth proposal summary	6
4. Water environment baseline	8
4.1 Introduction	8
4.2 Surface water	8
4.2.1 Catchment context	8
4.2.2 Surface water body condition	9
4.3 Groundwater	9
4.3.1 Geology and hydrogeology	9
4.3.2 Hydrogeological condition	10
4.4 Flood risk	10
4.5 Water dependent habitats	11
4.6 Other designations	15
4.6.1 Bathing Waters	15
4.6.2 Shellfish Waters	15
4.6.3 Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	15
4.7 Nature based Solutions (NbS) opportunities	15
5. Water Services Infrastructure baseline	17
5.1 Infrastructure provision	17
5.2 Water infrastructure planning	17
5.3 Water supply baseline	18
5.3.1 Water stress classification	18
5.3.2 Local Surface Water Availability	18
5.3.3 Local Groundwater Availability	19
5.3.4 Water supply baseline	20
5.4 Wastewater services baseline	21
5.4.1 Wastewater planning	23
5.4.2 Event Duration Monitoring Data	23
Capacity – constraints and opportunities	25
5.5 Wastewater treatment	25
5.5.1 Headroom flow capacity	25
5.5.2 Water quality	26
5.6 WwTW AMP 8 Upgrades	29
5.7 Water Supply	30
5.7.1 Future supply strategy	30
5.7.2 Comparing growth – WRMP and Local Plan	31

5.8	Flood Risk.....	31
5.9	NbS Opportunities	32
6.	Summary and recommendations	38
6.1	Evidence review summary.....	43
	Appendix A Policy and legislative drivers shaping the WCS	45
A.1	WFD surface water body status.....	45
A.2	Relevant Legislation	45
A.3	Strategies and plans.....	47
	Appendix B WwTW capacity assessment methodology.....	48
B.1	Assessment methodology.....	48
B.2	Assumptions and input data	48

Figures

Figure 1-1	The water environment and water services infrastructure components	1
------------	--	---

Tables

Table 3.1	Growth proposals assessed in WCS	6
Table 4.1	Summary of Flood Sources and Risk	10
Table 4.2	Water dependant habitats & hydrological connectivity.....	12
Table 5.1	Water Resource Availability Status Categories.....	18
Table 5.2:	Local Groundwater Availability.....	19
Table 5.3:	Baseline (pre-growth) capacity at WwTWs likely to receive growth.....	22
Table 5.4:	Future (post Local Plan growth) capacity at WwTWs	25
Table 5.5:	Water Quality Assessment.....	27
Table 5.6:	SW Key Planned Investment During AMP8	29
Table 5.7:	Summary of Flood Risk to Settlement Areas	33

1. Introduction

1.1 Water Cycle Study Purpose

A Stage 1 Scoping Water Cycle Study (WCS) has been produced for Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) and Wealden District Council (WDC) as part of the evidence base to inform the spatial strategy of the Councils' respective Local Plans.

The objective of the WCS is to identify any constraints on planned housing and employment growth that may be imposed by the water cycle. The WCS then identifies how these can be resolved i.e. by demonstrating that appropriate Water Services Infrastructure (WSI) can be provided to support the proposed development, including the planning policy required to deliver it. It should provide a strategic approach to the management and use of water to help ensure that the sustainability of the water environment in the area is not compromised. A broad overview of the interaction between the water environment and WSI that the WCS is concerned with is provided within Figure 1-1¹.

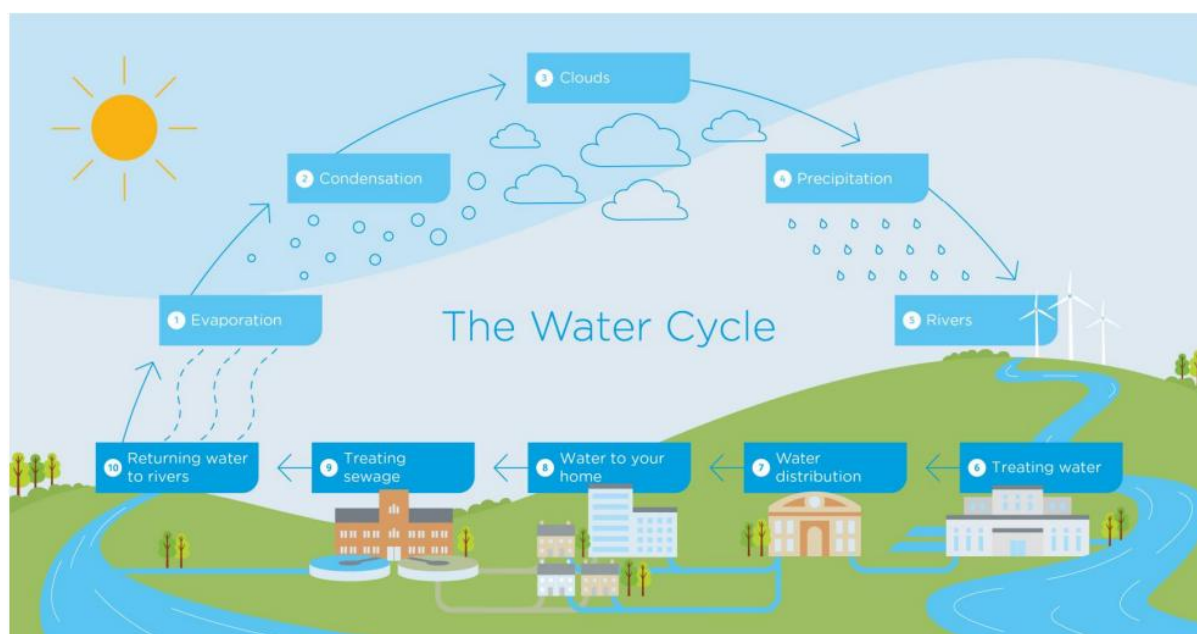


Figure 1-1 The water environment and water services infrastructure components

1.1.1 WCS Stages

There are two stages to preparing a WCS as described in the Environment Agency guidance² and listed below:

1. Stage 1 Scoping – this stage identifies if the water infrastructure capacity and environmental capacity could constrain growth and if there are any gaps in the evidence to make this assessment, and
2. Stage 2 Detailed – this stage provides the evidence to inform an integrated water management strategy. It will identify the water and flood management infrastructure that will mitigate the risks from too little or too much water and identify what is needed to protect and enhance the water environment.

This document presents the findings of the Stage 1 Scoping stage. The Stage 1 Scoping WCS assesses the proposed growth in Eastbourne and Wealden as part of their developing Local Plans and tests the growth at a high level against WSI and environmental water capacity.

¹ Source: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/responsibility/education/the-water-cycle>

² Environment Agency (2021) Water cycle studies. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-cycle-studies> (Accessed October 2025)

1.2 Study partners

The Stage 1 Scoping WCS has been carried out with the following contributors and partners:

- EBC and WDC as the Local Planning Authorities (LPA).
- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
- Southern Water (SW) as the wastewater provider in EBC and WDC's administrative areas.
- South East Water (SEW) as the provider of public water supply in EBC and WDC's administrative areas.

The Stage 1 Scoping WCS has also used relevant information from the following organisations:

- Environment Agency for information and guidance on flooding, water quality standards and water abstractions.
- Water Resources East (WRE).
- British Geological Survey (BGS).
- Natural England.

1.3 Report Structure

The Stage 1 Scoping WCS report is structured as follows:

- Section 2: **Study drivers** - includes the policy context.
- Section 3: **Growth proposals and study area** - defines the study area and proposed growth.
- Section 4: **Hydrological baseline summary** - provides information on the existing hydrological and hydrogeological context in the EBC and WDC administrative areas.
- Section 5: **Water infrastructure baseline summary** - provides information on the current WSI.
- Section 6: **Capacity - opportunities and constraints** - identifies the potential WSI capacity constraint issues and opportunities. Considers environmental constraints and opportunities.
- Section 7: **Summary** - provides a summary of the Stage 1 Scoping WCS assessments and identifies any gaps in the evidence. Provides recommendations for a Detailed WCS.

2. Study drivers

There are several legislative, regulatory and policy level drivers that define the need for and shape the approach to the WCS. A full list of key legislative drivers is detailed in Appendix A with key aspects summarised in this report section.

2.1 National planning policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)³ includes several water-related requirements that support the need for a WCS to support Local Plans and influence the scope of the WCS, including:

- Strategic policies in development plan documents should make sufficient provision for infrastructure for water supply, wastewater and flood risk and coastal change management as noted in paragraph 20 of the NPPF.
- The planning system should take full account of climate change impacts including water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. Local Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to these climate change risks.

The Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)⁴ that accompanies the NPPF³ states that a WCS can help plan for sustainable growth as part of Local Plan development. WCSs prepared at an early stage of plan-making can provide the evidence base to ensure local development plans are sound. This is the key driver for completing a WCS as part of the Local Plan evidence base.

2.2 Legislation

The primary legislative drivers for this study are the Water Environment Water Framework Directive (WFD) Regulations 2017 (referred to herein as the 'WFD regulations'), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Environment Act (2021). This is because these instruments set out how the water environment needs to be protected and hence influence the regulation of WSI which interacts with the environment. In making Local Plans, LPAs need to have due regard to the protection of the water environment and associated habitats. These instruments are summarised below, alongside other relevant legislative instruments that influence the WCS.

2.2.1 Water Framework Directive Regulations

The environmental objectives of the WFD Regulations, as published in the Environment Agency's River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)^{5 6} relevant to this WCS are:

- To prevent deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater.
- To achieve objectives and standards for specially protected areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites.
- To aim to achieve Good Status for all water bodies or, for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status.

These environmental objectives are legally binding, and all public bodies should have regard to these objectives when making decisions (such as allocating sites for development in their Local Plan) that could affect the quality of the water environment. The Environment Agency publishes the WFD status and objectives of each surface water and groundwater body. Surface water bodies can be classed as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (Dec 2024) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf> (Accessed February 2026)

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) Planning Practice Guidance. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> (Accessed October 2025)

⁵ South East River Basin District Management Plan (2022). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/south-east-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022> (Accessed October 2025)

⁶ Thames River Basin District Management Plan (2022). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/thames-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022> (Accessed October 2025)

and groundwater bodies are classed based on quantitative and chemical status that can be classified as good or poor.

The WFD Regulations are important to the WCS because provision of new WSI needs to ensure that the objectives of the Regulations are not compromised by ensuring that additional demand for water and generation of additional wastewater does not cause deterioration to the current and future status of waterbodies.

2.2.2 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017⁷ have designated some sites as areas that require protection to maintain or enhance the rare ecological species or habitats associated with them including SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites. Although the Regulations do not directly set overarching environmental standards related to water quality and quantity (flow or level), the Regulations can, by the requirement to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of designated sites, require site specific water quality, water level and water flow targets to be set for specific locations.

This may in turn require restrictions on discharges to (or abstractions from) water bodies that are hydrologically connected to water dependant habitats. These Regulations are important to the WCS as the provision of new WSI needs to ensure no detrimental impact on designated sites.

2.2.3 Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021⁸ provides a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK bringing in measures for improvement of the environment including for water. The Act is relevant to the WCS process as it:

- Places a duty on water companies to secure a reduction in adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows on the environment; growth proposed in Local Plans significantly influences how these reductions can be achieved.
- Makes drainage and sewerage planning a statutory duty through the requirement for water companies to produce Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans that should take account of planned growth.

Enables the revocation or variation of permanent abstraction licences where the change is necessary to protect the environment or where the licence is consistently underused; this may affect water available to service proposed growth.

2.3 Relevant strategies and plans

Full details of relevant regulatory strategies or plans that relate to the water environment or provision of WSI for development in Eastbourne and Wealden are provided in Appendix A. The key strategies or plans most relevant to the WCS include, but are not limited to:

- Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (DEFRA, 2023).
- Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water (DEFRA, 2023).
- Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 (DEFRA, 2025).
- SW Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) (SW, 2023).
- Eastbourne and Southern Wealden – Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (JBA, 2025).
- Wealden Level 1 SFRA (JBA, 2022).
- SEW Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) (SEW, 2024).
- SEW Five Year Business Plan 2025 to 2030 (SEW, 2023).
- East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) (ESCC, 2016).
- East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy (ESCC and Brighton and Hove City Council, 2025).

⁷ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents> (Accessed April 2026)

⁸ Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> (Accessed April 2026)

- South East River Basin District RBMP (Environment Agency, 2022).
- Thames River Basin District RBMP (Environment Agency, 2022).
- Forest Row Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) (JBA, 2015).
- Crowborough SWMP (JBA, 2015).
- Heathfield SWMP (JBA, 2015).
- Hailsham and Hellingly SWMP (JBA, 2015).
- Eastbourne SWMP (Halcrow, 2012).
- Uckfield SWMP (JBA, 2016).

3. Growth proposals and study area

3.1 Study area

The Study Area is primarily made up of the administrative areas of Eastbourne and Wealden except for those parts within the South Downs National Park, where the planning responsibility lies with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). However, the Stage 1 Scoping WCS has also included locations where growth from neighbouring authorities could cumulatively impact with growth from Eastbourne and Wealden on water systems, as indicated in Appendix C, Figure 1.

A wider Water Environment Study Area has been defined based on the 4 River Basin Management Catchments that overlap the EBC and WDC administrative areas. This reflects the fact that growth in Eastbourne and Wealden could impact water systems beyond their administrative areas, as indicated in Appendix C, Figure 1.

3.2 Growth proposal summary

EBC's new Local Plan⁹ will cover the period up to 2042 and will make new allocations to deliver approximately 4,329 new dwellings (including windfall but excluding existing commitments) over the plan period as shown in Table 3.1. All new dwellings in Eastbourne would drain to the Eastbourne WwTW. WDC's new Local Plan¹⁰ will cover the period up to 2042 and will make allocations that plans to deliver approximately 8,764 new dwellings (including windfall) over the plan period as shown in Table 3.1. It should be noted that the windfall allowance of 2000 dwellings has been split equally across each WwTW as part of this Stage 1 Scoping WCS. Appendix C, Figure 2 shows the location of the proposed allocation sites in the new Local Plans.

Within the WCS, it has also been essential to include committed development as well as allocated sites in the new Local Plans. This is to make the impact of cumulative growth on WSI capacity clear. Table 3.1 includes details of existing commitments not yet built. Taking account of commitments and new allocations in the new Local Plans gives a total of 22,738 dwellings across both Plan areas (17,212 from Wealden and 5,526 from Eastbourne). The total housing assessed in the WCS is 22,081 as it is considered likely that 657 new dwellings will drain to WwTWs outside of the Study Area which will be considered by the neighbouring authorities.

Table 3.1 Growth proposals assessed in WCS

WwTW Catchment	Existing Dwelling Commitments	New Dwelling Allocations	Total
Alfriston WwTW	0	54	54
Berwick WwTW	65	126	191
Blackboys WwTW	167	73	240
Blackham WwTW	10	54	64
Bodle Street Green WwTW	0	54	54
Buxted WwTW	136	179	315
Crouch Farm Mayfield WwTW	6	54	60
Danehill WwTW	12	54	66
East Dean WwTW	1	54	55
East Hoathly WwTW	284	434	718
Eastbourne WwTW	1197 from EBC 515 from WDC	4329 from EBC 216 from WDC	6257
Fletching WwTW	7	54	61
Forest Row WwTW	53	54	107
Frant WwTW	21	79	100

⁹ Eastbourne Local Plan - Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18). Available at: https://planningpolicyconsult.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/ELP_R18_2026 (Accessed April 2026)

¹⁰ Wealden New Local Plan. Available at: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/new-local-plan/> (Accessed April 2026)

WwTW Catchment	Existing Dwelling Commitments	New Dwelling Allocations	Total
Hailsham North WwTW	1426	698	2124
Hailsham South WwTW	1847	979	2826
Halland WwTW	7	54	61
Hartfield WwTW	7	65	72
High Hurstwood WwTW	14	54	68
Hooe WwTW	68	74	142
Lime Park Herstmonceux WwTW	25	54	79
Lunsfords Cross WwTW	28	54	82
Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW	5	54	59
Maresfield WwTW	163	299	462
Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW	54	54	108
Nutley WwTW	0	54	54
Redgate Mill Crowborough WwTW	370	224	594
Ripe WwTW	47	54	101
Rushlake Green WwTW	5	54	59
St Johns Crowborough WwTW	93	90	183
Uckfield WwTW	1723	2315	4038
Vines Cross WwTW	211	1037	1248
Wartling WwTW	1	54	55
Washwell Lane Wadhurst WwTW	25	54	79
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst WwTW	3	74	77
Wilmington WwTW	859	54	913
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux WwTW	190	63	253
Total	9645	12436	22081*

* Total includes 2 additional dwellings due to rounding associated with windfall allowance

4. Water environment baseline

4.1 Introduction

This section defines the existing water environment baseline in Eastbourne and Wealden to understand the current condition and where there may be constraints or opportunities for future growth linked to the provision of WSI.

It sets out the current condition of the surface water and groundwater bodies relevant to proposed allocation sites in Eastbourne and Wealden (e.g. through wastewater discharges and surface water runoff), as well as dependencies on those water bodies such as water dependent habitats and bathing water designations.

4.2 Surface water

4.2.1 Catchment context

Appendix C, Figure 3 displays the WFD surface water catchments covering Eastbourne and Wealden as defined for the WFD within the South East and Thames RBMPs.

With respect to the RBMP process, the following 4 Management Catchments cover the EBC and WDC areas:

- Medway
- Adur and Ouse
- Rother
- Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels

7 Operational Catchments cover the EBC and WDC areas:

- Upper Medway (located within Medway Management Catchment) that is made up of 12 surface water body catchments.
- Teise (located within Medway Management Catchment) that is made up of 9 surface water body catchments.
- Upper Ouse (located within Adur and Ouse Management Catchment) that is made up of 26 surface water body catchments.
- Upper Rother (located within Rother Management Catchment) that is made up of 6 surface water body catchments.
- Upper Cuckmere (located within Cuckmere and Pevensey Management Catchment) that is made up of 7 surface water body catchments.
- Pevensey (located within Cuckmere and Pevensey Management Catchment) that is made up of 8 surface water body catchments.
- Combe Haven (located within Cuckmere and Pevensey Management Catchment) that is made up of 3 surface water body catchments.

The South East Transitional and Coastal (TraC) waterbody forms the southern border of Eastbourne and includes the Sussex Transitional Water Body and Sussex East Transitional Water Body which border Eastbourne and Wealden. The area in the south of the Study Area that is not covered by any WFD surface water body catchments drain to the South East TraC.

The main WFD waterbody in Eastbourne is the Langney Sewer. The main WFD waterbodies rivers across Wealden comprise:

- River Medway.
- Shortbridge Stream.
- River Uck.
- Cuckmere River.

- Pevensey Level Drains.

4.2.2 Surface water body condition

Defining the overall WFD 'status' of a surface water body is a complex assessment that combines standards for water quality, hydromorphology, and biology. Where a surface water body is classified under the WFD, the overall status of the water body is derived from the classification hierarchy made up of 'elements', and the type of water body will dictate what types of elements are assessed within it. Broadly, a WFD surface water body is given an ecological status and a chemical status, and these two aspects make up the overall WFD status of each surface waterbody.

Appendix C, Figure 4 depicts the ecological status component of the WFD surface water bodies in the Study Area. 3 of the water bodies within the Study Area have a 'Good' Ecological Status; this means the biological, hydromorphology and water quality elements making up Ecological Status are all classified as Good. 4 of the water bodies have a 'Bad' Ecological Status; 12 of the water bodies have a 'Poor' Ecological Status and the remaining water bodies (31) have a 'Moderate' Ecological Status. The transitional water bodies both have 'Moderate' Ecological Status.

Appendix C, Figure 5 shows the Physico-Chemical status (which is a contributing element to Ecological Status) of the WFD surface water bodies in the Study Area. 34 of the water bodies within the Study Area have 'Moderate' Physico-Chemical status; this means the status of one of the Physico-chemical elements is less than Moderate (e.g. Poor or Bad), but in keeping with WFD classification methodology, the water bodies are limited at Moderate status. 4 of the water bodies have 'High' Physico-Chemical status and 12 of the water bodies have 'Good' Physico-Chemical status. In the majority of cases, where an element is less than Moderate, it relates to the phosphate element. This demonstrates that water quality, particularly nutrient quality, is a key aspect for why Ecological Status is limited to moderate for the majority of WFD surface waterbodies in the Study Area. No Physico-Chemical status is available for the transitional water bodies.

Appendix C, Figure 6 identifies reasons the WFD catchments have not achieved a status of 'Good' that are relevant to the WCS; these are termed Reasons for Not Achieving Good status (RNAG) under the WFD regulations. The RNAG are associated with water industry sewer discharges, poor nutrient management, poor soil management, physical modifications and drought/low flows.

4.3 Groundwater

4.3.1 Geology and hydrogeology

Appendix C, Figures 7a and 7b display the superficial and bedrock geology respectively across Eastbourne and Wealden.

The superficial lithology is predominantly Clay and Head, with Alluvium and Storm Beach Deposits in the low-lying areas in the north-east of Eastbourne and south Wealden. Some River Terrace Deposits are also present alongside watercourses in Wealden.

The bedrock in Eastbourne is predominantly Chalk that has relatively high permeability and high levels of water storage and is designated as a Principal Aquifer.

The bedrock in the north of Wealden is predominantly Sandstone and Siltstone that is designated as a Secondary A aquifer: rock layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local level and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers.

A large part of south Wealden and north-east Wealden is Mudstone. The low porosity of the Mudstone means it is classified as unproductive: rock layers with low permeability and therefore a negligible significance for water supply or river base flow (although their presence introduces the potential of more substantial surface runoff volumes). Bands of Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone can be found in the north of Eastbourne and in areas of south Wealden that are classified as Secondary A aquifers.

Of these aquifers, WFD groundwater body classifications have been defined for some within the RBMPs as shown in Appendix C, Figure 8. The Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block is located in south Wealden and west Eastbourne. The Lower Greensand Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels runs in a band across northern Eastbourne and southern Wealden. The Lower Greensand Adur and Ouse runs in a band across southern Wealden. The Hastings Beds Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels covers a large area of the south-east of Wealden. The Adur and

Ouse Hastings Beds covers a large area of the west of Wealden. The Kent Weald Eastern – Rother covers an area in eastern Wealden. The Kent Weald Eastern – Rother covers a large area in northern Wealden.

Appendix C, Figure 8 also displays the extent of Source Protection Zones (SPZs) across Eastbourne and Wealden. SPZs are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites with the aim of reducing potentially polluting activities around these areas and to protect the quality of the groundwater for abstraction and potable use. SPZs are defined based on the time it takes for pollutants to reach an abstraction point from any point at the water table. The transmission time enables the Environment Agency to define three zones around a groundwater abstraction point.

- Zone 1 (Inner Protection Zone) – This is defined by a 50-day travel time for pollution from any point below the water table to reach the abstraction source.
- Zone 2 (Outer Protection Zone) – This is defined by a 400-day travel time from a point below the water table.
- Zone 3 (Total Catchment) – This is defined as the area around an abstraction source within which all groundwater can potentially feed into the abstraction source.

There are multiple SPZ1, SPZ2 and SPZ3 areas in northern Wealden associated with points of groundwater abstraction for public water supply. Larger areas of SPZ1, SPZ2 and SPZ3 are present in southern Wealden and western Eastbourne. SPZ1 and SPZ2 present limits on above ground activities/development.

4.3.2 Hydrogeological condition

Appendix C, Figure 9 displays the WFD chemical status of the WFD groundwater bodies in Eastbourne and Wealden. The Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block, Kent Weald Eastern – Rother, and Kent Weald Western – Medway have 'Poor' Chemical status. The remaining groundwater bodies have 'Good' Chemical status. According to the Catchment Data Explorer¹¹, the Chemical Drinking Water Protected Area is rated as 'Poor' in the Kent Weald Western – Medway and Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block groundwater bodies leading to the overall groundwater body chemical status. The Chemical Dependent Surface Water Body Status is rated as 'Poor' in the Kent Weald Eastern – Rother groundwater body.

Appendix C, Figure 10 displays the WFD quantitative status of the WFD groundwater bodies in Eastbourne and Wealden. The Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block, and Lower Greensand Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels have 'Poor' quantitative status. The remaining groundwater bodies have 'Good' quantitative status. According to the Catchment Data Explorer¹¹, the Quantitative Dependent Surface Water Body Status was rated as 'Poor' in the Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block and Lower Greensand Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels leading to the overall groundwater body quantitative status.

Poor nutrient management is a confirmed RNAG for the Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk Block. Contaminated land is a confirmed RNAG for the Kent Weald Eastern – Rother. Poor nutrient management, poor pesticide management and contaminated land are confirmed RNAG for the Kent Weald Western – Medway. No confirmed RNAG are identified for the Lower Greensand Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels.

4.4 Flood risk

Table 4.1 summarises flood risk across Eastbourne and Wealden using flood risk maps produced within the Level 1 SFRAs. Further detail on flood risk is set out within the Level 1 SFRAs.

Table 4.1 Summary of Flood Sources and Risk

Flood Source	Description
Rivers and the Sea	Most of Wealden is defined as Flood Zone 1, low probability of flooding from fluvial/tidal sources. A large proportion of the Eastbourne Borough is in Flood Zones 2 and 3 associated with tidal flooding. Flood Zones 2 and 3 are present through the centre of Eastbourne along the Middle Sewer and Langney Sewer. Eastbourne Park is designated as Flood Zone 3b. Large expanses of open land around Westham, the Pevensey Levels and Willingdon Levels in Wealden are also at risk of fluvial flooding. Pevensey Levels are potentially vulnerable to coastal flooding given the low-lying topography and reliance on flood defences.
South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA Figure 4-7	
Wealden Level 1 SFRA Appendix A Figure A.1	

¹¹ Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer. Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/v/c3-plan> (Accessed March 2026)

Flood Source	Description
Surface Water South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA Figure 4-8 Wealden Level 1 SFRA Appendix E	There are numerous flow paths of surface water flooding throughout the Study Area ranging from high to low probability, predominantly concentrated along watercourses. Surface water modelling undertaken for Eastbourne shows greater surface water flood extents by the coast in areas of flatter land. These areas include Pevensy Bay, central Eastbourne and South Wealden.
Groundwater South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA Figure 4-9 and Figure 4-10 Wealden Level 1 SFRA Appendix F	Large areas of Eastbourne are shown to be at high risk of groundwater flooding. The east region of Eastbourne is underlain by Mudstone, Sandstone and Limestone bedrock geology and overlain by Alluvium superficial geology. Alluvium is comprised of unconsolidated detrital material. Water infiltrates through the Alluvium geology but is unable to infiltrate further beyond the clay bedrock geology. This results in a high water table that is vulnerable to groundwater emergence in periods of intense rainfall. Large areas of Wealden are shown to be at high risk of groundwater flooding. In the High Weald, the steep topography and impermeable geology limit the areas of groundwater concern to the fluvial river basins, where high water tables in alluvial deposits can lead to groundwater flood risk. However, the groundwater concern is more prevalent in the north and south of the district. In the north of Wealden, a sandstone geology acts as a secondary aquifer with the potential to hold water within the rock. During high water table periods these areas are at risk of groundwater flooding to basements and at the surface. To the south of the district, large areas of the Low Weald are shown to be in an area of groundwater concern. Here a permeable geology coupled with low lying topography presents conditions that could cause groundwater to emerge.
Sewers South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA Figure 4-11 Wealden Level 1 SFRA Figure 5-2	Sewer flooding occurs when intense rainfall overloads the sewer system capacity (surface water, foul or combined) and /or when sewers cannot discharge freely into watercourses due to high water levels for example during high tide when tide-locking may occur and is a known issue in Eastbourne and Wealden. Historic sewer flooding incidents within Eastbourne and south Wealden shows Lower Willingdon, Polegate, Roselands and Eastbourne Town Centre have the greatest number of recorded sewer flooding incidents. Historic sewer flooding incidents within other parts of Wealden shows Heathfield, Uckfield, Forest Row and particularly Herstmonceux and Hailsham have the greatest number of recorded sewer flooding incidents.
Reservoirs South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA Figure 4-12 Wealden Level 1 SFRA Figure 5-3	Most of Eastbourne is not at risk of reservoir flooding. There are several waterbodies designated as reservoirs in Wealden including Arlington, Weirwood, Possingworth Park Lake, Framfield Upper. In the unlikely scenario that these reservoirs failed, small areas of Wealden are located within the reservoir inundation flood extents.

4.5 Water dependent habitats

There are several sites of ecological importance within Eastbourne and Wealden (or hydrologically connected to it) including SSSIs, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites. These sites have been reviewed to identify which ones have a structure, function or conservation objectives that rely on specific water quantity, quality, timing or flow conditions and hence are considered as 'water dependent habitats' for this study.

Appendix C, Figure 11 displays the water dependent habitats within Eastbourne and Wealden. Table 4.2 provides further information for each water dependent habitat, including connected water bodies, Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs) which may influence water quality at the site, hydrological dependency and water based pressures. Water dependent habitats outside of Eastbourne and Wealden have also been considered that could be impacted upon by growth in Eastbourne and Wealden. However, none have been identified.

Table 4.2 Water dependant habitats & hydrological connectivity

Site	Connected water body	Connected WwTWs	Key water dependencies/aspects	Identified hydrological and water quality issues & pressures
Ashdown Forest SSSI / SAC / SPA	- River Medway - Mill Brook - King's Standing Gill	Forest Row WwTW, Hartfield WwTW, Nutley WwTW, St John Crowborough WwTW	This site comprises grassland, woodland and heath that the connected water bodies support. Provides habitats for various birds, butterflies and dragonflies.	- Friars Gate Stream WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - Pippingford Brook WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - Dissolved Oxygen (Moderate). - Medway at Weir Wood WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Poor). - SSSI Pressures: No water related pressures.
Arlington Reservoir SSSI	- Arlington Reservoir - Cuckmere River	Berwick WwTW	Water supply source for SEW. Provides habitat for various birds.	- No WFD quality issues. - SSSI Pressures: Water Company Discharges causing Water Pollution (Active High Risk).
Folkington Reservoir SSSI (located in the SDNPA area)	Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk	N/A	Water supply source for SEW. Supports calcareous grassland.	- Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Quantitative Dependent Surface Water Body Status (Poor). - Chemical Drinking Water Protected Area (Poor). - No SSSI Pressures.
Heathfield Park SSSI	Unnamed ordinary watercourse	N/A	The site is a broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland that the connected water body supports.	- Cuckmere from Warbleton WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - No SSSI Pressures.
Herstmonceux Park SSSI	Kentland Fleet	N/A	This site comprises woodland, fen, marsh and swamp land that the connected water body supports. It also has areas of standing water that provides habitat.	- Pevensey Haven WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - No SSSI Pressures.
Milton Gate Marsh SSSI	Cuckmere River	Wilmington WwTW, Berwick WwTW	This site is a fen, marsh and swamp land that the connected water body supports.	- Cuckmere from Alfriston to Arlington WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - SSSI Pressures: Water Abstraction (Potential High Risk), Drainage (Active High Risk), Water Level Changes (Active High Risk).

Site	Connected water body	Connected WwTWs	Key water dependencies/aspects	Identified hydrological and water quality issues & pressures
Paines Cross Meadow SSSI	Tributary of River Rother	N/A	This site comprises neutral grassland including fen meadow species that the connected water body supports.	- Upper Rother Five Ashes to Coggins Mill WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - Dissolved Oxygen (Moderate). - SSSI Pressures: No water related pressures.
Park Corner Heath SSSI	Little Horsted Stream	N/A	This site comprises acid grassland and provides habitat for invertebrates and butterflies that the connected water body supports.	No WFD or SSSI Pressures.
Pevensey Levels SSSI / SAC / Ramsar	- Langney Sewer - Pevensey Haven - Waller Haven - Dowle Stream - Kentland Fleet - Chilley Stream - Hurst Haven - Yotham - Glynleigh Sewer - Whelpley Sewer - Puckeridge Stream - Iron Stream - Mill Stream	Wartling WwTW, Hailsham North WwTW, Hailsham South WwTW, Hoove WwTW	This site is a complex mosaic comprising grassland, fen, marsh and swamp land that the connected water bodies support. Provides habitats for birds, invertebrates and dragonflies.	- Langney Sewer WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Dissolved Oxygen (Bad). - Pevensey Haven WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate). - SSSI Pressures: Water Company Discharges causing Water Pollution (Potential High Risk), Water Level Changes (Potential Medium Risk).
Plashett Park Wood SSSI	Tributary of Iron River	Uckfield WwTW	The site is a broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland that the connected water body supports. Provides habitats for birds, invertebrates and butterflies.	- Iron River WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Dissolved Oxygen (Bad). - SSSI Pressures: No water related pressures
Sapperton Meadows SSSI	Tributary of Waldron Gill	N/A	This site comprises neutral grassland that the connected water body supports.	- Waldron Ghyll WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Poor). - Cuckmere from Warbleton to Lower Horsebridge WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Phosphate (Moderate).

Site	Connected water body	Connected WwTWs	Key water dependencies/aspects	Identified hydrological and water quality issues & pressures
Weir Wood Reservoir SSSI	- Weir Wood Reservoir - River Medway	Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW	Water supply source for SW. Supports fen, marsh and swamp land.	- Weir Wood Reservoir WFD classified waterbody – less than Good Status for: - Dissolved Oxygen (Bad). - Total Nitrogen (Moderate). - Total Phosphorus (Moderate). - SSSI Pressures: Unknown Sources of Water Pollution (Potential High Risk).

4.6 Other designations

4.6.1 Bathing Waters

The UK has over 600 designated bathing waters defined as areas of inshore waters designated for public swimming, these areas are typically characterised by large numbers of swimmers and visitors per year. The Bathing Waters Regulations¹² sets out water quality standards to protect the environment at bathing waters throughout the Bathing Water Season, in England this is between 15th May and 30th September. The Environment Agency are required to monitor water quality at these sites regularly throughout the bathing water season.

Water quality standards are based on the incidence of potentially harmful bacteria, *E. coli* and intestinal enterococci, and are categorised as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor' based on bacteria levels. Sites are rated annually and on a short-term basis in response to any temporary pollution incidents.

As shown in Appendix C, Figure 12, there are 3 designated bathing waters in Eastbourne and Wealden. The most recent classification of bathing waters shows that two were rated Good and one was rated Excellent, based on samples taken from 2021 through to 2024. A designated bathing water is also present adjacent and to the east of the Wealden boundary that was rated as Excellent.

4.6.2 Shellfish Waters

The WFD Regulations are designed to protect the ecological health of water bodies, and where relevant the shellfish growing within it. The WFD regulations follow the repeal of the Shellfish Waters Directive in 2013 and are intended to ensure that the protections provided by the Shellfish Waters Directive continue as part of the WFD Regulations.

Technical advice from the UK technical advisory group for the implementation of the WFD indicate that the physical and chemical parameters set within the WFD for protecting water quality are equivalent or better than the requirements that were set in the Shellfish Waters Directive. No shellfish water protected areas are in/near to Eastbourne and Wealden.

4.6.3 Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Drinking Water Safeguard Zones are catchment areas that influence the water quality for their respective Drinking Water Protected Area. They are identified where the protected area has been assigned as being "at risk" of failing the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017.

The majority of Wealden is covered by Surface Water Drinking Water Safeguard Zones, excluding some areas in the south of the District. No area of Eastbourne is covered by Surface Water Drinking Water Safeguard Zones. Both Eastbourne and Wealden are not covered by Groundwater Drinking Water Safeguard Zones.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. Several areas in Wealden are covered by NVZs and the south of Eastbourne is also covered by a NVZ.

4.7 Nature based Solutions (NbS) opportunities

Nature based Solutions (NbS) are a multidisciplinary tool for sustainably utilising the landscape and its features to address socio-environmental challenges. Opportunities for NbS in Eastbourne and Wealden have been identified to explore existing and potential new nature-based solutions to manage water resources and flood risk. NbS can be used as standalone adaptation measures, or they can be combined with traditional grey infrastructure solutions to provide water and flood risk benefit. Within this integrated approach, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) play a key role by slowing, storing and filtering surface water before it enters watercourses. SuDS features such as swales, rain gardens, permeable paving and detention basins help reduce peak runoff volumes, improve infiltration, and enhance water quality by removing sediments and pollutants. Incorporating SuDS

¹² The Bathing Water Regulations 2013. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1675/contents> (Accessed March 2026)

alongside wider NbS creates a more resilient, catchment-wide water management strategy that reduces pressure on conventional drainage networks and supports ecological and community benefits.

To identify the potential for water based NbS solutions which could provide water and flood risk management benefits in Eastbourne and Wealden, a review was undertaken of opportunities within the Working With Natural Processes (WWNP)¹³ dataset for Natural Flood Management (NFM) opportunities. Appendix C, Figure 13 displays the opportunities for water based NbS identified. It should be noted that the WWNP dataset is national-scale and is indicative; local considerations should be taken into account when identifying potential schemes.

The WWNP dataset shows that there are opportunities for riparian woodland potential throughout Eastbourne and Wealden, along the majority of watercourses. There are areas of floodplain woodland potential along most of the watercourses in Wealden. There are limited areas of floodplain reconnection potential in Eastbourne and south Wealden. There are areas of potential for runoff attenuation features throughout Wealden and in the central/eastern area of Eastbourne. There are limited opportunities identified for NFM in the urbanised areas of Eastbourne and Wealden.

In addition to these datasets, Sussex Nature Recovery is currently producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) document including an interactive map highlighting areas with potential to be of particular importance and could contribute to habitat creation opportunities. The East Sussex and Brighton and Hove LNRS has identified the following key nature recovery opportunities relating to water:

- Natural Flood Management: deliver NFM techniques in 'focus' areas upstream of settlements, including Uckfield and Eastbourne.
- River systems and wetlands: enhance the quality, state and structure of all Wealden rivers, streams, standing water bodies, wetlands and floodplains. Key river catchments include Ouse, Cuckmere, Rother and Medway.
- Coastal habitats: Create and enhance coastal habitats and retain natural coastal processes where possible. Take opportunities to reconnect rivers to their floodplains and improve natural river function. Create and enhance coastal vegetated shingle habitats in the Pevensey Levels.
- Wetland habitats: Significantly enhance the network of ancient woodland, gill woodland, shaws, hedgerows and trees – through woodland management and small-scale woodland creation in the Low Weald. Enhance the network of wetland habitats on the Pevensey Levels, planning for change and resilience to climate change.

The LNRS Mapping Viewer¹⁴ shows a series of maps included in the East Sussex and Brighton and Hove LNRS that shows where measures would be best targeted for nature recovery.

¹³ Working with Natural Processes (2018). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6036c5468fa8f5480a5386e9/Working_with_natural_processes_evidence_directory.pdf (Accessed October 2025)

¹⁴ LNRS Mapping Viewer. Available at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34c16447fd654766a80592b5ec1f2a5a/page/Page?views=Map-Layers#data_s=id%3AdataSource_3-199855aafcd-layer-51%3A14 (Accessed October 2025)

5. Water Services Infrastructure baseline

5.1 Infrastructure provision

Two infrastructure providers operate within Eastbourne and Wealden:

- Southern Water is responsible for providing sewerage and wastewater treatment for Eastbourne and Wealden.
- South East Water is responsible for supplying potable (clean) water for Eastbourne and Wealden.

5.2 Water infrastructure planning

It is important to consider the planning timelines for both the Local Plan and also for water and sewerage providers in terms of the funding mechanisms for new water supply and water treatment infrastructure. There are elements of water company planning that are pertinent to the WCS; specifically with regard to integration with spatial planning timelines for the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). Water companies have a statutory duty to supply water and wastewater services for residential development and therefore input into the planning process.

Financial and Asset Planning

Water company planning for asset management and funding is governed by the Asset Management Plan (AMP) process that runs in 5-year cycles. The Office for Water Services (Ofwat) is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales and regulates this overall process.

In order to undertake maintenance of its existing assets and to enable the building of new assets, water companies seek funding by charging customers according to the level of investment they need to make. The process of determining how much asset investment is required is undertaken in conjunction with key regulators and the outcome is a Business Plan that is produced by each water company setting out the required asset investment over the next 5-year period, the justification for it and the price increase required to fund it.

Overall, the determination of how much a water company can charge its customers is undertaken by Ofwat. Ofwat will consider the views of the water company, the other regulators (Environment Agency, and the Drinking Water Inspectorate) and consumer groups such as the Consumer Council for Water when determining the price limits to allow a water company to set future asset investment. This process is known as the Price Review (PR) and is undertaken in 5-year cycles. When Ofwat determine a water company's business plan, the price limits are set for the following 5 years allowing the water company to raise funds required to undertake the necessary investment within the AMP round. The current AMP period is known as AMP8 that runs from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2030. The business plan for this period was initially submitted to Ofwat in October 2023 (the PR24 process). The PR24 business plans for SW therefore contain the WSI proposals to be delivered (or commenced) up to 2030 that will be critical to supporting proposed growth within the early part of the new Local Plans. Subsequent AMP periods will also be critical to delivering the full quantum of growth across the Local Plan periods.

Regional Water resources planning

Water Resources East (WRE) is a multi-sector alliance, including the four water companies that supply drinking water across East England. WRE published a regional plan in December 2023 to ensure that there are resilient water resources available to meet the needs of the environment, growing population and regional economy through to 2050 and beyond, taking full account of climate change.

Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)

Water companies undertake medium to long term planning of water resources to demonstrate that there is a long-term plan for delivering sustainable water supply within its operational area to meet existing and future demand. This is reported via a statutory WRMP produced every five years to coincide with each of the water companies' five-yearly asset management (or business) plans. SEW produced its latest WRMP in 2024 for the 2025-2075 time period.

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)

Water and sewerage companies undertake long-term planning of wastewater management to improve drainage and environmental water quality. This is reported via a DWMP that is a long-term plan spanning 25 years that sets out how wastewater companies intend to extend, improve, and maintain a robust and resilient drainage and wastewater system. SW published their current (non-statutory) DWMP in 2023, that covers Eastbourne and Wealden; this was produced under initial guidance.

The Environment Act 2021 has made the future production of DWMPs statutory to assess current and future capacity, pressures, and risks to sewerage networks, and outlines the investment needs to meet the challenges posed by population growth and climate change. The next DWMP iteration will be produced as a statutory requirement under section 79 of the Environment Act using updated guidance. The SW website notes that works have commenced on their first statutory DWMP and further information will be provided on the programme in due course.

5.3 Water supply baseline

5.3.1 Water stress classification

Along with the rest of the south east and east of England, the Environment Agency classified Eastbourne and Wealden to be within an area of serious water stress in 2021¹⁵. Water stress in this context applies to both the natural environment and to public water supplies, including how both are affected by climate change. A severe water stressed classification reflects that the household demand for water is a high proportion of effective rainfall that is available in the area to meet that demand.

The classification outcome shows where the Environment Agency believe there are (or are likely to be) environmental impacts caused by public water supplies and/or where the Environment Agency consider the need for major water resources developments.

5.3.2 Local Surface Water Availability

The Environment Agency manages water resources at a local level using abstraction licensing strategies (ALS). Within the ALS, the Environment Agency's assessment of the availability of water resources is presented as a classification system. The classification gives a resource availability status which indicates the relative balance between the environmental requirements for water and how much is available to be licensed for abstraction. In doing so, it sets out whether water is available for further abstraction and areas where abstraction needs to be limited or reduced.

The categories of resource availability status are shown in Table 5.1. The classification is based on an assessment of a river system's ecological sensitivity to abstraction-related flow reduction. This classification is then used to assess the potential for additional water resource abstractions in each catchment.

Table 5.1 Water Resource Availability Status Categories

Indicative Resource Availability Status	License Availability
Water Available for Licensing	There is more water than required to meet the need of the environment. New licenses can be considered depending on local and downstream impacts.
Restricted water available for licensing	Full Licensed flows fall below the Environmental Flow Indicators (EFIs). If all licensed water is abstracted there will not be enough water left for the needs of the environment. No new consumptive licenses would be granted. It may also be appropriate to investigate the possibilities for reducing fully licensed risks. Water may be available if you can 'buy' (known as licence trading) the entitlement to abstract water from an existing license holder.

¹⁵ Environment Agency Water Stressed Areas <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification> (Accessed October 2025)

Indicative Resource Availability Status	License Availability
No water available for licensing	Recent actual flows are below the EFI. This scenario highlights water bodies where flows are below the indicative flow requirement to help support Good Ecological Status. No further consumptive licences will be granted. Water may be available if you can 'buy' (known as license trading) the amount equivalent to recently abstracted from an existing licence holder.
Discharge Rich Waterbodies	These waterbodies have a modified flow that is influenced by reservoir compensation releases, or they have flows that are augmented. These are often known as 'regulated rivers' and may be managed through an operating agreement often held by a water company. The availability of water is dependent on these operating agreements. There may be water available for abstraction, the Environment Agency would need to be contacted to find out more.

The Environment Agency aims to protect the annual flow variability in rivers, from low to high flow conditions through the application of flow statistics derived from flow data collected at river gauging stations. Flow statistics are expressed as the percentage of time that flow is exceeded. Resource availability is calculated by the Environment Agency for four different flow scenarios:

- Q95 (lower flow);
- Q70;
- Q50; and,
- Q30 (higher flow)

Q95 is the flow exceeded for 95% of the time and is used as a low flow indicator. Q30 is the flow exceeded for 30% of the time and is a higher flow. Appendix C, Figure 14 identifies the water availability for the four different flow scenarios within Eastbourne and Wealden and indicates the following:

- **Q95:** The majority of Eastbourne and Wealden do not have water available for licensing. However, the middle of Wealden has water available for licensing or is within a discharge rich water body area.
- **Q70:** Similar to Q95, the majority of Eastbourne and Wealden does not have water available for licensing. A slightly larger area of the middle of Wealden has water available for licensing or is within a discharge rich water body area.
- **Q50:** The north, north-east and south-east of Wealden does not have water available for licensing. Areas in the west of Wealden and in Eastbourne have restricted water available for licensing. The middle of Wealden has water available for licensing or is within a discharge rich water body area.
- **Q30:** The north of Wealden does not have water available for licensing. Areas in the middle and south of Wealden, and Eastbourne have water available for licensing. Areas in the middle to north of Wealden have restricted water available for licensing.

It should be noted that the southern edge of Wealden and the south of Eastbourne is covered by a groundwater body and therefore does not have surface water available for abstraction. This is discussed below in Section 5.3.3.

5.3.3 Local Groundwater Availability

Table 5.2 shows the groundwater bodies across Eastbourne and Wealden, and the groundwater availability described in the ALSs.

Table 5.2: Local Groundwater Availability

Groundwater Body	License Availability
Seaford and Eastbourne Chalk	Restricted groundwater available (no new consumptive licences will be granted)
Adur and Ouse Hastings Beds	Groundwater available
Hastings Beds Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels	Groundwater available
Kent Weald Eastern – Rother	Water not available for licensing for Q95, Q70 and Q50. Restricted water available during Q30.

Groundwater Body	License Availability
Kent Weald Western – Medway	Water not available for licensing for all flow scenarios
Lower Greensand Adur and Ouse	Groundwater available
Lower Greensand Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels	Restricted groundwater available (no new consumptive licences will be granted)

5.3.4 Water supply baseline

SEW supply potable water to Eastbourne and Wealden which is managed by the WRMP process. Water companies have a statutory duty to plan for water supply over a minimum of 25-year periods via the production of 5-yearly WRMPs. Once approved by regulators, the WRMPs then inform the Business Plans produced by SEW for each AMP period, identifying where and when investment in water resources is required in that period.

All water companies plan for water resource availability within planning areas called Water Resource Zones (WRZ) where all customers within each WRZ share access and connectivity to the same sources of potable supply via the water supply grid. LPA growth strategies should be considered in the context of the relevant WRZ serving the area. While SEW plans investments across its supply area to maintain security of supply, the scale and distribution of growth can influence the timing and extent of interventions required within individual WRZs. Understanding which WRZs will be affected by proposed development therefore helps to identify whether the planned growth strategy is likely to place additional pressure on areas forecast to have tighter supply-demand balances and whether any mitigation or infrastructure investment will be required.

The SEW Revised Draft WRMP 2024¹⁶ was published in October 2024 and covers the period 2025 – 2075. This WRMP sets out that the average household per capita consumption (PCC) for SEW is 154 l/h/d (litres/head/day) in 2021/22. It should be noted that the WRMP 2024 was published before the December 2024 NPPF and therefore has not taken into account the uplift in objectively assessed housing and employment needs as a consequence of the revised standard method and updated corresponding employment evidence.

The plan identifies Eastbourne to be within the Eastbourne WRZ. Wealden is located primarily within the Eastbourne and Haywards Heath WRZs with some small parts in the Tunbridge Wells WRZ. WRZs are areas defined by a water company where populations within the area are interconnected and hence can be supplied by the same water resource options, thereby having the same overall surplus or deficit of available water supply. The WRZs are mapped in Appendix C, Figure 15.

The need for new water resource interventions to meet demand is identified through the statutory WRMP process, which is undertaken in accordance with national guidance and regulatory requirements. This process involves calculating available water supply available to the WRZ over the WRMP period (25 years) and comparing it to future demand for water within the WRZ allowing for a range of factors including population growth and climate change. This process is called supply and demand balance forecasting and results in all water company WRZs assessed as having a balanced supply and demand (supply equals demand), a surplus (supply exceeds demand), or a deficit (demand exceeds supply).

Eastbourne WRZ

The Eastbourne WRZ (SEW WRZ3) consists of a mixture of surface water sources, groundwater sources and bulk transfers. Surface water is abstracted from the River Cuckmere and stored in Arlington reservoir for treatment at Arlington WTW; and directly abstracted from the River Rother at Crowhurst Bridge, and the River Waller's Haven at Hazards Green. The sources on the River Rother and River Waller's Haven are supported during the summer months with groundwater augmentation schemes. Groundwater is abstracted at Powdermill, Sweet Willow Wood, Hazards Green, Crowhurst Bridge, Friston, Waterworks Road, Holywell (Eastbourne), Cornish, Birling and Deep Dean.

SW provide a uni-directional raw water transfer from the River Medway (Bewl) via Darwell Reservoir into Hazards Green WTW. A new contract relating to this Bulk Supply of Water to SEW from Darwell Reservoir has been agreed between both parties. This agreement had an end date in 2025, at which point the licensed capacity will transfer to Bewl Reservoir, from where SEW will abstract and treat the water for transfer into Eastbourne WRZ.

¹⁶ South East Water (2024) Water Resources Management Plan 2025 to 2075. Available at: <https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/about/our-plans/future-water/>

The SEW WRMP shows that the Sussex region, which the Eastbourne WRZ is located within, is predicted to go into supply deficit by 2030 (and remaining so until 2075) if no water resource interventions are implemented.

Haywards Heath WRZ

The Haywards Heath WRZ (SEW WRZ2) consists of a mixture of surface water sources, groundwater sources and bulk transfers. Surface water is abstracted from the River Ouse and stored in Ardingly reservoir located in the headwaters; and then either treated directly at Shellbrook WTW or released into the River Ouse for abstraction and treatment at Barcombe WTW in the lower catchment. Groundwater is abstracted at Coggins Mill and Sharnden, Forest Row, Groombridge and Eridge, Holywell (Cockhaise), Cow Wish, Poverty Bottom, Rathfinny, Offham, Coombe Down, Whitelands, Clayton and Saddlescombe. A groundwater source at Hempstead is not currently in use, but options to reinstate the source are under review.

SEW provide a uni-directional bulk supply transfer from Weirwood Surface WTW and Hardham WTW. A new contract relating to this bulk supply of water to SEW in the Crawley Area has been agreed between both parties. SW provide a uni-directional raw water transfer from the River Medway (Bewl) via Darwell Reservoir into Hazards Green WTW. A new contract relating to this Bulk Supply of Water to SEW from Darwell Reservoir has been agreed between both parties. This agreement had an end date in 2025, at which point the licensed capacity will transfer to Bewl Reservoir, from where SEW will abstract and treat the water for transfer into Haywards Heath WRZ.

The SEW WRMP shows that the Sussex region, which the Haywards Heath WRZ is located within, is predicted to go into supply deficit by 2030 (and remaining so until 2075) if no water resource interventions are implemented.

Tunbridge Wells WRZ

The Tunbridge Wells WRZ (SEW WRZ1) consists entirely of groundwater sources. The source works are Kemsing, Cramptons Road, Oak Lane, Tonbridge, Saints Hill and Pembury. There are currently no inter-company bulk transfers associated with this resource zone.

The SEW WRMP shows that the Sussex region, which the Tunbridge Wells WRZ is located within, is predicted to go into supply deficit by 2030 (and remaining so until 2075) if no water resource interventions are implemented.

5.4 Wastewater services baseline

The whole of Eastbourne is served by the Eastbourne WwTW whilst Wealden is served by 35 WwTWs that process, treat and return wastewater from housing and non-residential sources safely back to the water environment; these WwTWs are all operated by SW. Appendix C, Figure 16 shows the WwTW locations and the catchments they serve. It should be noted that although the Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW is located outside of the Eastbourne and Wealden districts, the WwTW discharges into a watercourse that runs through Wealden and therefore could impact upon the Study Area.

Appendix C, Figure 16 also shows the sewer network across Eastbourne and indicates that the sewer network is split between foul and surface water sewers, with isolated combined sewer pipes. The sewer network across Wealden was not available to inform this WCS. Therefore, it is unknown whether the sewer network is separated into foul and surface water or if it is combined. Capacity within the sewer network across Eastbourne and Wealden is unknown and is something that should be considered as part of a Detailed WCS.

A baseline capacity assessment for each WwTW was completed prior to considering the impact of growth on capacity. The headroom flow capacity at the WwTWs has been assessed using current per capita consumption levels and using a measured discharge flow based on the average of the 2023, 2024 and 2025¹⁷ values provided by SW; this measured Dry Weather Flow (DWF) was compared to the maximum DWF that each WwTW is allowed to discharge under its current permit conditions to give a residual flow permit capacity. Further details on the methodology are available in Appendix B. This identified that the baseline capacity (excluding committed growth) of existing WwTWs across Eastbourne and Wealden is variable as shown in Table 5.3.

¹⁷ Based on measured Q80 DWF

Table 5.3: Baseline (pre-growth) capacity at WwTWs likely to receive growth

Site Name	Permitted Capacity ¹⁸ Remaining
Alfriston WwTW	No capacity
Berwick WwTW	54%
Blackboys WwTW	35%
Blackham WwTW	64%
Bodle Street Green WwTW	N/A
Buxted WwTW	19%
Crouch Farm Mayfield WwTW	19%
Danehill WwTW	19%
East Dean WwTW	39%
East Hoathly WwTW	46%
Eastbourne WwTW	10%
Fletching WwTW	58%
Forest Row WwTW	44%
Frant WwTW	52%
Hailsham North WwTW	13%
Hailsham South WwTW	12%
Halland WwTW	22%
Hartfield WwTW	24%
High Hurstwood WwTW	N/A
Hooe WwTW	33%
Lime Park Herstmonceux WwTW	N/A
Lunsfords Cross WwTW	25%
Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW	21%
Maresfield WwTW	27%
Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW	64%
Nutley WwTW	41%
Redgate Mill Crowborough WwTW	25%
Ripe WwTW	11%
Rushlake Green WwTW	No capacity
St Johns Crowborough WwTW	44%
Uckfield WwTW	28%
Vines Cross WwTW	37%
Wartling WwTW	N/A
Washwell Lane Wadhurst WwTW	13%
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst WwTW	55%
Wilmington WwTW	N/A
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux WwTW	10%

Note: WwTW with N/A do not have a numerical permit and therefore capacity cannot be calculated.

It is important to note that the DWF values provide the principal data that water companies use to assess population growth within a wastewater catchment. A 'buffer' is built into water company calculations to ensure the resulting volume is within the Q80 for DWF. This means that any property numbers quoted for indicators of

¹⁸ Based on permitted Dry Weather Flows (DWF) see Appendix B

headroom cannot be interpreted literally as these numbers are conservative indicators, not absolute limits to growth, and will vary year on year as annual average DWF figures are updated.

SW have noted during their review of the Stage 1 Scoping WCS that the capacity values calculated in this report are generally lower than SW May 2025 assessments which may be due to different assumptions applied. SW use 150 litres per property per day (lppd) at an Occupancy Rate of 2.4, whereas the Stage 1 Scoping WCS has used 110l/h/d at an Occupancy Rate of 2.37. Details of how assumptions have been decided are available in Appendix B. The headroom capacity calculations should be refined as part of a Detailed WCS.

5.4.1 Wastewater planning

SW manage wastewater assets across the Eastbourne and Wealden area. There are 11 river basin catchments in the SW operating region, 4 of these cover the Eastbourne and Wealden area.

Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels

The whole of Eastbourne and the south-east of Wealden is located within the Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels catchment. The SW DWMP identifies that storm overflows is the main concern in the catchment. There are 77 combined sewer overflows and emergency overflows in the catchment. Pollution, sewer collapse and flood risk are also significant concerns. Data in the DWMP shows that the Hailsham South WwTW catchment experiences a high number of sewer flood incidents, as well as the Eastbourne WwTW catchment. The Eastbourne WwTW catchment also experiences a high number of sewer collapses.

Adur and Ouse

The west of Wealden is located within the Adur and Ouse catchment. The SW DWMP identifies that storm overflows, flooding and sewer collapse are the main concerns in the catchment. There are 156 combined sewer overflows in the catchment. Data in the DWMP shows that sewer collapses have occurred in the Neaves Lane Ringmer, Newick and Blackboys WwTW catchments. Sewer flood incidents are shown to have occurred in the Newick, Neaves Lane Ringmer, Maresfield, Blackboys, Halland, Buxted, Danehill and High Hurstwood WwTW catchments.

Rother

A small part of the east of Wealden is located within the Rother catchment. The SW DWMP identifies that nutrients, pollution, storm overflows and potential to achieve good ecological status are the main concerns in the catchment. Data in the DWMP shows that sewer collapses have occurred in the Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW catchment. Sewer flood incidents are shown to have occurred in the Meres Farm Mayfield and Crouch Farm Mayfield catchments.

Medway

The north of Wealden is located within the Medway catchment. The SW DWMP identifies that pollution, storm overflows and flooding are the main concerns in the catchment. Data in the DWMP shows that a high number of sewer collapses have occurred in the Tunbridge Wells South, Lamberhurst, Redgate Mill Crowborough and Hartfield WwTW catchments. The Redgate Mill Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells South, Forest Row, St Johns Crowborough and Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW catchments experience a high number of sewer flood incidents.

5.4.2 Event Duration Monitoring Data

In March 2025, the Environment Agency published its 2024 Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) Data¹⁹ that relates to the performance of storm overflows in England. This information is provided to the Environment Agency by the water companies through their Annual Return to fulfil their permitted conditions to discharge from these storm overflows under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

Storm overflows are an important part of a sewerage system as during intense rainfall they release diluted, excess water into waterbodies to reduce the risk of the WwTW becoming overwhelmed. This untreated water can have a negative impact on the water environment, particularly if spills exceed those permitted by Environmental

¹⁹ Environment Agency (2025) Event Duration Monitoring Storm Overflows Annual Returns. Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/21e15f12-0df8-4bfc-b763-45226c16a8ac> (Accessed February 2026)

Permits. The storm overflow discharge reduction plan²⁰ notes that by 2050 storm overflows will not be permitted to discharge above an average of ten rainfall events per year.

Appendix C, Figure 17 presents the EDM data across Eastbourne and Wealden. There are 37 storm overflows throughout Eastbourne and Wealden. During the 2024 monitoring period, 35 of these storm overflows were recorded to have spilled at least once. The number of recorded spills ranged between 4 and 183, and the duration of these spills ranged from 7 hours to 3,549 hours. The storm overflow located at Halland WwTW in Wealden spilled the most times (183) and for the longest amount of time (3549 hours) into Ridgewood Stream. The storm overflow located at Eastbourne WwTW spilled 85 times for 609 hours into the English Channel.

²⁰ DEFRA (2023) Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/storm-overflows-discharge-reduction-plan> (Accessed March 2026)

Capacity – constraints and opportunities

This section looks at potential environmental and infrastructure capacity constraint issues, to identify any evidence gaps that need further assessment in a detailed WCS. It also considers planned measures and the potential opportunities which could be explored.

5.5 Wastewater treatment

5.5.1 Headroom flow capacity

To support the Stage 1 Scoping process, a high-level qualitative assessment of WwTW capacity based on proposed growth has been undertaken to determine whether there are likely key constraints that need further consideration in a detailed WCS. Appendix B details the assessment methodology. Appendix C, Figure 2 and Table 3.1 displays how the proposed growth is split across Eastbourne and Wealden.

The baseline headroom flow capacity pre-growth at each WwTW across Eastbourne and Wealden can be seen in Table 5.3. Table 5.4 shows headroom flow capacity remaining when considering the committed and proposed allocations. Due to the uncertainty in the location of the 2,000 dwellings for windfall across Wealden, the headroom capacity has been calculated including the windfall equally split across the WwTWs and without the windfall to provide an indication of the impact.

The study calculations indicate that when including the Wealden windfall dwellings, 13 of the WwTWs would not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed growth and therefore upgrades may be required. When windfall is not considered, 10 of the WwTWs would not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed growth and therefore upgrades may be required. Many of the WwTWs that would have insufficient capacity are small and/or have no capacity in the baseline scenario.

It is important to note that these calculations are high-level and development sites have been provisionally assigned to the nearest WwTW by distance, for the purposes of identifying potentially affected assets. Further assessment should be undertaken at the Detailed WCS stage to confirm which WwTWs will receive the proposed growth through liaison with SW. Further consideration windfall sites should also be considered.

Table 5.4: Future (post Local Plan growth) capacity at WwTWs

Site Name	Permitted Capacity Remaining (Including Windfall)	Permitted Capacity Remaining (No Windfall)
Alfriston WwTW	-15%	-9%
Berwick WwTW	15%	26%
Blackboys WwTW	-5%	4%
Blackham WwTW	31%	59%
Bodle Street Green WwTW	N/A	N/A
Buxted WwTW	-7%	-2%
Crouch Farm Mayfield WwTW	6%	18%
Danehill WwTW	10%	18%
East Dean WwTW	33%	39%
East Hoathly WwTW	-69%	-60%
Eastbourne WwTW	3%	3%
Fletching WwTW	15%	53%
Forest Row WwTW	41%	42%
Frant WwTW	22%	38%
Hailsham North WwTW	-13%	-13%

Site Name	Permitted Capacity Remaining (Including Windfall)	Permitted Capacity Remaining (No Windfall)
Hailsham South WwTW	-4%	-3%
Halland WwTW	9%	20%
Hartfield WwTW	12%	21%
High Hurstwood WwTW	N/A	N/A
Hooe WwTW	16%	23%
Lime Park Herstmonceux WwTW	N/A	N/A
Lunsfords Cross WwTW	-29%	7%
Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW*	1%	2%
Maresfield WwTW	-23%	-18%
Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW	57%	60%
Nutley WwTW	30%	41%
Redgate Mill Crowborough WwTW	21%	21%
Ripe WwTW	-63%	-23%
Rushlake Green WwTW	-108%	-27%
St Johns Crowborough WwTW	36%	39%
Uckfield WwTW	-3%	-3%
Vines Cross WwTW	21%	22%
Wartling WwTW	N/A	N/A
Washwell Lane Wadhurst WwTW	-10%	6%
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst WwTW	52%	54%
Wilmington WwTW	N/A	N/A
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux WwTW	-11%	-7%

* Growth from East Grinstead located outside of the Study Area has also been accounted for in the headroom capacity calculation.

Note: WwTW with N/A do not have a numerical permit and therefore capacity cannot be calculated.

As stated in Section 5.4, it is important to note that the DWF values provide the principal data that water companies use to assess population growth within a wastewater catchment. A 'buffer' is built into water company calculations to ensure the resulting volume is within the Q80 for DWF. This means that any property numbers quoted for indicators of headroom cannot be interpreted literally as these numbers are conservative indicators, not absolute limits to growth, and will vary year on year as annual average DWF figures are updated.

It is also important to note that DWF capacity is just one performance parameters measured to judge how a WwTW is performing now or in the future.

5.5.2 Water quality

As well as flow limit condition, environmental permits for WwTWs may also include limits on the quality of the treated water that can be discharged. These conditions are expressed as a concentration limit for various potentially polluting substances. These are set for substances or parameters that need to be controlled to meet environmental standards in the receiving water body.

For the water quality risk assessment, the current permit conditions for three key parameters were provided by SW on 3rd November 2025: BOD (mg/l), Ammonia (mg/l) and Phosphorus (mg/l). The values assigned on permits for these three parameters define the existing permitted conditions. In some scenarios the values may also indicate how much more intensively WwTW flows can be treated. This is because some permits contain Technically Achievable Limits (TAL) that are considered to be the lowest achievable with current technologies. Therefore, if an existing permit already has a condition for parameter set at a concentration that is at (or close to) the TAL for that parameter, there may be future constraints to growth in cases where growth effectively

'consumes' the headroom on this part of the permit. Planning would at this point need to consider what scope alternative solutions or newer technologies could provide for further discharge from the WwTW. Future technological advances may increase what is achievable.

A classification of High, Medium or Low for each future TAL risk WwTW category was carried out as follows:

- **High:** if the current permit for BOD is 6 mg/l or less, for Ammonia is 1.5 mg/l or less and for Phosphorus is 0.5 mg/l or less.
- **Medium:** if the current permit for BOD is 10 mg/l or less (but greater than 6), for Ammonia is 5 mg/l or less (but greater than 1.5) and for Phosphorus is 4 mg/l or less (but greater than 0.5).
- **Low:** if none of the above apply.

In more simplistic terms, the ratings broadly mean:

- **High** – the watercourse that receives the treated discharge is sensitive when considering the volume of the discharge relative to the size of the river and has limited capacity to accept additional pollutant load – a new permit to discharge is likely to require quality conditions close to (or greater than) TAL hence there is potential that:
 - a solution may not be possible,
 - not all growth can be accepted,
 - significant improvements are likely to be required at the WwTW that may severely restrict early phasing (potentially beyond 2030).
- **Medium** - the watercourse that receives the treated discharge has some sensitivity – a new permit to discharge is likely to need some degree of WwTW improvement that is likely to affect early phasing (up to 2030).
- **Low** - the receiving watercourse has a lower sensitivity, and generally there is scope to improve the discharge without getting close to the TAL – some upgrades may be required, but it is likely they can be delivered relatively quickly.

It should be noted that these future TAL risk categories apply if dwelling numbers to be directed towards a WwTW catchment are likely to exceed the remaining dwelling capacity as identified at each WwTW. It should also be noted that this assessment is high level and does not replace the need for river modelling which may be required as part of a detailed WCS. It should only be used as an initial relative guide to potential future risk; if more certainty is needed in this information, modelling should be carried out which represents the water quality processes explicitly.

Table 5.5 presents the results of the water quality assessment. Where summer and winter permit values were present, the summer permit was used in the calculation as this is the strictest permit. Where no information is shown, permit information is not available.

11 WwTWs have been categorised as high meaning that the watercourses that receive treated discharge are sensitive and a new permit to discharge is likely to require quality conditions close to (or greater than) TAL. All WwTWs that are shown to be categorised as High is as a result of a TAL on Phosphorous, apart from Forest Row WwTW which is as a result of BOD. 9 WwTWs are categorised as Medium, meaning that the watercourses that receive treated discharge have some sensitivity and a new permit to discharge is likely to need some degree of WwTW improvement. 11 WwTWs are categorised as Low, meaning that the receiving watercourses are less sensitive and generally there is scope to improve the discharge as no TAL limits are yet imposed on the permits for these WwTW.

Table 5.5: Water Quality Assessment

Site Name	Headroom capacity remaining considering proposed growth?	BOD Permit (mg/l)	Ammonia Permit (mg/l)	Phosphorous Permit (mg/l)	Future TAL Risk Categorisation*
Alfriston WwTW	No	40	20	-	Low
Berwick WwTW	Yes	25	-	-	Low
Blackboys WwTW	No	25	10	0.5	High

Site Name	Headroom capacity remaining considering proposed growth?	BOD Permit (mg/l)	Ammonia Permit (mg/l)	Phosphorous Permit (mg/l)	Future TAL Risk Categorisation*
Blackham WwTW	Yes	25	-	-	Low
Bodle Street Green WwTW	N/A	-	-	-	-
Buxted WwTW	No	20	10	0.5	High
Crouch Farm Mayfield WwTW	Yes	14	10	0.6	Medium
Danehill WwTW	Yes	15	5	-	Medium
East Dean WwTW	Yes	20	10	0.5	High
East Hoathly WwTW	No	20	10	-	Low
Eastbourne WwTW	Yes	25	-	-	Low
Fletching WwTW	Yes	40	-	-	Low
Forest Row WwTW	Yes	5	10	1	High
Frant WwTW	Yes	20	10	-	Low
Hailsham North WwTW	No	7	2	0.25	High
Hailsham South WwTW	No	7	2	0.25	High
Halland WwTW	Yes	15	5	0.5	High
Hartfield WwTW	Yes	40	15	-	Low
High Hurstwood WwTW	N/A	-	-	-	-
Hooe WwTW	Yes	20	12	0.7	Medium
Lime Park Herstmonceux WwTW	N/A	-	-	-	-
Lunsfords Cross WwTW	No	20	12	-	Low
Luxfords Lane East Grinstead WwTW	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield WwTW	No	20	10	0.5	High
Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW	Yes	25	-	1	Medium
Nutley WwTW	Yes	15	5	-	Medium
Redgate Mill Crowborough WwTW	Yes	10	3	2	Medium
Ripe WwTW	No	40	16	-	Low
Rushlake Green WwTW	No	30	6	1.6	Medium
St Johns Crowborough WwTW	Yes	20	4	-	Medium
Uckfield WwTW	No	10	3	0.5	High
Vines Cross WwTW	Yes	30	2	2	Medium
Wartling WwTW	N/A	-	-	-	-
Washwell Lane Wadhurst WwTW	No	15	3	0.5	High
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst WwTW	Yes	20	-	-	Low

Site Name	Headroom capacity remaining considering proposed growth?	BOD Permit (mg/l)	Ammonia Permit (mg/l)	Phosphorous Permit (mg/l)	Future TAL Risk Categorisation*
Wilmington WwTW	N/A	-	-	-	-
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux WwTW	No	10	7	0.4	High

* These future TAL risk ratings only apply if a WwTW is unlikely to have any remaining headroom capacity when considering future growth.

5.6 WwTW AMP 8 Upgrades

The effective operation of WwTWs relies on routine maintenance, timely asset renewal, and robust management practices. Ensuring that equipment is regularly inspected and replaced as it reaches the end of its service life is a standard component of maintaining resilience and minimising the risk of operational issues. Ongoing investment in asset condition is recognised across the sector as essential to sustaining reliable performance

SW provided information on their key planned investments during AMP8 (2025-2030) for WwTWs in the Eastbourne and Wealden area as shown in Table 5.6. SW note that project plans and delivery schedules can be subject to change, in line with the risks emerging throughout each 5 year investment period. The more significant investments are tabulated below. Additional to the schemes listed, SW have stated smaller projects and capital maintenance continues across multiple assets and locations to enhance resilience and safeguard asset life.

Table 5.6: SW Key Planned Investment During AMP8

WwTW	Key Planned Investments
Alfriston WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Berwick WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Blackboys WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Blackham WwTW	Nutrient (phosphorous removal) solution to pump flows to Tunbridge Wells South WwTW
Bodle Street Green WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Buxted WwTW	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Crouch Farm Mayfield WwTW	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Danehill WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
East Dean WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
East Hoathly WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Eastbourne WwTW	Spill reduction in the catchment to improve receiving water quality Possible upsizing of sewers and pumping stations Coastal management to prevent flooding of the treatment works by rising sea levels and an increase in storms due to climate change. Contribute to Environment Agency delivered Pevensy Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management scheme.
Fletching WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Forest Row WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Frant WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Hailsham North WwTW	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution) Combined Emergency Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Hailsham South WwTW	WINEP Quality Sanitary/Chemicals - Provide additional Treatment Capacity & Control System Upgrade Combined Spill Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution) Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Halland WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8

WwTW	Key Planned Investments
Hartfield WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
High Hurstwood WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Hooe WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Lime Park Herstmonceux WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Lunsfords Cross WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Maresfield WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Meres Farm Mayfield WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Nutley WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Redgate Mill Crowborough WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL Combined Sewer Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)
Ripe WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Rushlake Green WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
St Johns Crowborough WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Uckfield WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Vines Cross WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Wartling WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Washwell Lane Wadhurst WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8
Wilmington WwTW	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux WwTW	No significant investment above £1m is planned in AMP8

5.7 Water Supply

5.7.1 Future supply strategy

As set out in 5.3.4, SEW calculate a supply deficit in all 3 WRZs in the Eastbourne and Wealden area without measures to manage demand and provide additional water supply. DEFRA's Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water²¹ and the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan²² set pathways for reducing demand domestically to manage long term water supplies. These plans are key drivers in the development of measures to manage the forecast deficit and provide a focus for the following demand management measures set out within SEW WRMP24:

- Reduce leakage levels by 40% by 2040, 50% by 2050, and 56% by 2075.
- Reduce per capita consumption to 118 l/h/d by 2040, and 110 l/h/d by 2050.
- Reduce non-household demand by 9% by 2038, and 15% by 2050.

In parallel, to increase water supplies, the WRMP24 sets out a preferred plan that incorporates the following supply schemes to increase the volume of potable water:

²¹ DEFRA (2023) Our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water. Available at: [Our Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-integrated-plan-for-delivering-clean-and-plentiful-water) (Accessed December 2025)

²² DEFRA (2025) Environmental Improvement Plan 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025> (Accessed December 2025)

- Importing water from Sutton and East Surrey Water to the Tunbridge Wells WRZ by 2039 and the Haywards Heath WRZ by 2040.
- Building a new reservoir at Arlington in Eastbourne WRZ by 2057.
- Zonal transfer schemes to improve the water network within each WRZ including in the Eastbourne WRZ to ensure the new supply from the Arlington reservoir reaches the location within the WRZ. These are to be implemented by 2056.

The reduction in demand and additional supplies ensures that the WRZs remains in surplus over the planning horizon (2025 – 2075).

5.7.2 Comparing growth – WRMP and Local Plan

To validate whether the planned forecast supply demand balance within the WRMP24 preferred plan is appropriate for the level of growth to come forward in Eastbourne and Wealden, analysis has been completed of the number of houses allowed for from the Eastbourne and Wealden area in the SEW WRMP compared to the proposed growth.

5,526 dwellings are proposed in Eastbourne between 2022 and 2042. SEW WRMP indicates that 6,299 dwellings have been allowed for from the Eastbourne area between 2022 and 2042 showing that the proposed growth in Eastbourne has been accounted for by SEW.

17,212 dwellings are proposed in Wealden between 2025 and 2042. SEW WRMP indicates that 13,406 dwellings have been allowed for from the Wealden area between 2025 and 2042 indicating a shortfall of 3,806 dwellings. As part of a detailed WCS, potential options should be investigated to identify how the shortfall in number of dwellings assessed in the WMRP24 will be met. This would include:

- consideration of any surplus in the WRZ and whether it is adequate to allow for higher numbers of delivered houses by the end of the Plan period;
- whether feasible additional supplies could be brought forward in the Plan period, or;
- whether there is evidence and justification for implementing more stringent water demand/efficiency target within planning policies.

5.8 Flood Risk

Table 5.7 summarises the flood risk to the settlement areas within Eastbourne and Wealden. The following figures from the South Wealden and Eastbourne, and Wealden Level 1 SFRA have been used to assess the flood risk:

- **Rivers and the Sea:** Figure 4-7 from South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA and Appendix A from Wealden Level 1 SFRA.
- **Surface Water:** Figure 4-8 from South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA and Appendix E from Wealden Level 1 SFRA
- **Groundwater:** Figure 4-9 and Figure 5-10 from South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA and Appendix F from Wealden Level 1 SFRA.
- **Sewers:** Figure 4-11 from South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA and Figure 5-2 from Wealden Level 1 SFRA.
- **Reservoirs:** Figure 4-12 from South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 SFRA and Figure 5-3 from Wealden Level 1 SFRA.

Settlements at higher risk of flooding, particularly from rivers or the sea, may encounter constraints with planning due to guidance outlined in the NPPF³ and Planning Practice Guidance⁴.

The following measures have been set out in the Level 1 SFRA to manage and mitigate flood risk through spatial planning and development management:

- Application of the Sequential and Exception Tests.
- Site layout and design.
- Finished Floor Levels.

- Resistance and resilience measures.
- Safe access/egress.
- Surface water management.

Measures related to development layout and surface water management could consider opportunities at a catchment level through delivery of nature-based solutions (see Section 6.4) as well as opportunities for integrated water management where development is likely to be delivered through new or expanded settlements.

5.9 NbS Opportunities

Nature based Solutions (NbS) are a multidisciplinary tool for sustainably utilising the landscape and its features to address socio-environmental challenges. Opportunities for NbS in Eastbourne and Wealden have been identified at a high level in this Stage 1 Scoping study to explore existing and new nature-based solutions to manage water resources and flood risk, as discussed in Section 4.7. NbS can be used as standalone adaptation measures, or they can be combined with traditional grey infrastructure solutions to provide water and flood risk benefit.

Table 5.7: Summary of Flood Risk to Settlement Areas

Key	Risk			
	Low			
	Medium			
	High			
Settlement	Fluvial/Tidal Flood Risk	Surface Water Flood Risk	Groundwater Flood Risk	Reservoir Flood Risk
Alfriston	The majority of the area is located in Flood Zone 1. Small areas on the eastern boundary are located in Flood Zones 2 and 3.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Small areas on the eastern boundary are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when river levels are normal and when there is also flooding from rivers.
Berwick	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Blackboys	The majority of the area is located in Flood Zone 1. Areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 are associated with the Tickerage River that flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Blackham	The majority of the area is located in Flood Zone 1. Areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 are associated with the River Medway that flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Some areas are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when river levels are normal and when there is also flooding from rivers along the River Medway.
Bodle Street Green	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Buxted	The majority of the area is located in Flood Zone 1. Areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 are associated with the River Uck that flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.

Settlement	Fluvial/Tidal Flood Risk	Surface Water Flood Risk	Groundwater Flood Risk	Reservoir Flood Risk
Crouch Farm Mayfield	The majority of the area is located in Flood Zone 1. Small area of Flood Zones 2 and 3 where a tributary of the River Rother flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Danehill	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along ordinary watercourses that flow through the area.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
East Dean	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. A surface water flow path is present in the eastern part of the area.	Located in an area considered to be at very low risk of groundwater flooding according to the Eastbourne and South Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
East Hoathly	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Eastbourne	The majority of the western part of Eastbourne is located within Flood Zone 1. Large areas in the eastern part are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is in an area considered to be at very low or low risk of groundwater flooding according to the Eastbourne and South Wealden Level 1 SFRA. Some areas are considered to be at medium or high risk of groundwater flooding, primarily along the coast.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Fletching	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Forest Row	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the River Medway flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Some areas are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when river levels are normal and when there is also flooding from rivers along the River Medway.
Frant	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.

Settlement	Fluvial/Tidal Flood Risk	Surface Water Flood Risk	Groundwater Flood Risk	Reservoir Flood Risk
Hailsham North	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the River Cuckmere flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Some areas are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when there is also flooding from rivers along the River Cuckmere.
Hailsham South	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where a tributary of the River Cuckmere flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Halland	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the Ridgewood Stream flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Hartfield	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the River Medway flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present generally along land drains.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Some areas are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when river levels are normal and when there is also flooding from rivers along the River Medway.
High Hurstwood	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where a tributary of the River Uck flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Hooe	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Lime Park Herstmonceux	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Lunsfords Cross	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.

Settlement	Fluvial/Tidal Flood Risk	Surface Water Flood Risk	Groundwater Flood Risk	Reservoir Flood Risk
Maresfield	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the Shortbridge Stream flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Meres Farm Mayfield	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the River Rother flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Nutley	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Redgate Mill Crowborough	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the Crowborough Ghyll flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Ripe	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where a tributary of the Glynde Reach flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Rushlake Green	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
St Johns Crowborough	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where a tributary of the River Medway flows through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Uckfield	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 with the River Uck, Ridgewood Stream and Framfield Stream flowing through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The majority of the area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents. Some areas are located in the risk of flooding from reservoirs extent when river levels are normal and when there is also flooding from rivers along the River Uck, Ridgewood Stream and Framfield Stream.

Settlement	Fluvial/Tidal Flood Risk	Surface Water Flood Risk	Groundwater Flood Risk	Reservoir Flood Risk
Vines Cross / Heathfield	The majority of the area is located within Flood Zone 1. Some of the area is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where the Waldron Gill, Whitehouse Gill, a tributary of the River Cuckmere and tributary of the Bull River flow through the area.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Wartling	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Washwell Lane Wadhurst	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Some surface water flow paths are present.	Partly located in areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Wilmington	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Located in an area of groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux	The area is located in Flood Zone 1.	The majority of the area is located outside of any surface water flood extents. Isolated areas are located in high, medium and low risk of surface water flooding.	Majority is located outside of areas with groundwater concern according to the Wealden Level 1 SFRA.	The area is located outside of any reservoir flood extents.

6. Summary and recommendations

Table 6.1 provides a summary of the opportunities and constraints for each settlement area/WwTW catchment across Eastbourne and Wealden.

Table 6.1: Summary of WCS assessments per WwTW catchment in Eastbourne and Wealden

Settlements / WwTW catchment	WwTW capacity when considering proposed growth (including windfall)	WwTW future TAL categorisation risk	Southern Water Key AMP8 proposed WwTW upgrades	Local water abstraction potential (non-residential)	Surface or Groundwater Connectivity to water dependent habitats	Flood risk	Bedrock geology type and permeability	Nature-based solutions opportunities indicated by WWNP dataset
Alfriston	No capacity	Low risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : N/A (not covered by surface water body). <u>Groundwater</u> : Restrictive groundwater available.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Chalk – highly permeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts.
Berwick	Capacity Available	Low risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Discharge rich during Q95 and Q75. Water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	Close proximity to Arlington Reservoir SSSI. Upstream of Milton Gate Marsh SSSI via Cuckmere River.	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts.
Blackboys	No capacity	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Blackham	Capacity Available	Low risk	Nutrient (phosphorous removal) solution to pump flows to Tunbridge Wells South WwTW	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : N/A (not covered by groundwater body).	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Bodle Street Green	N/A	N/A	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Buxted	No capacity	High risk	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Crouch Farm Mayfield	Capacity Available	Medium risk	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Restricted water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Restricted water available for licensing during Q30.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Danehill	Capacity Available	Medium risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
East Dean	Capacity Available	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : N/A (not covered by surface water body). <u>Groundwater</u> : Restrictive groundwater available.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water.	Chalk – highly permeable	No opportunities identified.
East Hoathly	No capacity	Low risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts.
Eastbourne	Capacity Available	Low risk	<u>Spill reduction in the catchment to improve receiving water quality</u>	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea.	Sandstone –permeable	No opportunities identified in south-western area of

Settlements / WwTW catchment	WwTW capacity when considering proposed growth (including windfall)	WwTW future TAL categorisation risk	Southern Water Key AMP8 proposed WwTW upgrades	Local water abstraction potential (non-residential)	Surface or Groundwater Connectivity to water dependent habitats	Flood risk	Bedrock geology type and permeability	Nature-based solutions opportunities indicated by WWNP dataset
			Possible upsizing of sewers and pumping stations Coastal management to prevent flooding of the treatment works by rising sea levels and an increase in storms due to climate change. Contribute to Environment Agency delivered Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management scheme.	for licensing during Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Restrictive groundwater available.		- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Eastbourne. In north-eastern area, opportunities for creation of woodland, floodplain reconnection and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Fletching	Capacity Available	Low risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Forest Row	Capacity Available	High risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing.	Weir Wood Reservoir SSSI via River Medway and Secondary A Aquifer. Ashdown Forest SSSI/SAC/SPA via River Medway and Secondary A Aquifer	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Frant	Capacity Available	Low risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Hailsham North	No capacity	High risk	Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution) Combined Emergency Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Discharge rich during Q95 and Q75. Discharge rich/water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Northern area covered by a groundwater body which has water available for licensing.	Pevensey Levels SSSI via Hurst Haven	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Hailsham South	No capacity	High risk	WINEP Quality Sanitary/Chemicals - Provide additional Treatment Capacity & Control System Upgrade Combined Spill Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution) Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Discharge rich during Q95 and Q75. Discharge rich/water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : N/A (not covered by groundwater body).	Pevensey Levels SSSI via unnamed ordinary watercourse	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Halland	Capacity Available	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Hartfield	Capacity Available	Low risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing.	Ashdown Forest SSSI/SAC/SPA via River Medway and Secondary A Aquifer	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
High Hurstwood	N/A	N/A	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.

Settlements / WwTW catchment	WwTW capacity when considering proposed growth (including windfall)	WwTW future TAL categorisation risk	Southern Water Key AMP8 proposed WwTW upgrades	Local water abstraction potential (non-residential)	Surface or Groundwater Connectivity to water dependent habitats	Flood risk	Bedrock geology type and permeability	Nature-based solutions opportunities indicated by WWNP dataset
Hooe	Capacity Available	Medium risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	Close proximity to Pevensey Levels SSSI	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Lime Park Herstmonceux	N/A	N/A	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Discharge rich during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Lunsfords Cross	No capacity	Low risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Maresfield	No capacity	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Meres Farm Mayfield	Capacity Available	Medium risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Restricted water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Restricted water available for licensing during Q30.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Nutley	Capacity Available	Medium risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL Settled Storm Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	Ashdown Forest SSSI/SAC/SPA via Mill Brook and Secondary A Aquifer	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Redgate Mill Crowborough	Capacity Available	Medium risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL Combined Sewer Overflow capacity (reduced spills green or grey solution)	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Ripe	No capacity	Low risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q50. Water available for licensing during Q75 and Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Rushlake Green	No capacity	Medium risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q70 and Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
St Johns Crowborough	Capacity Available	Medium risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. <u>Groundwater</u> : Water not available for licensing.	Ashdown Forest SSSI/SAC/SPA via King's Standing Gill and Secondary A Aquifer	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability	Small areas with potential for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Uckfield	No capacity	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	<u>Surface Water</u> : Water not available for licensing during Q95 and Q75. Restricted water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30.	Plashett Park Wood SSSI via tributary of Iron River	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea.	Sandstone –permeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small

Settlements / WwTW catchment	WwTW capacity when considering proposed growth (including windfall)	WwTW future TAL categorisation risk	Southern Water Key AMP8 proposed WwTW upgrades	Local water abstraction potential (non-residential)	Surface or Groundwater Connectivity to water dependent habitats	Flood risk	Bedrock geology type and permeability	Nature-based solutions opportunities indicated by WWNP dataset
				Groundwater: Water available for licensing.		- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern. - Some areas at risk of reservoir flooding.	Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Vines Cross / Heathfield	Capacity Available	Medium risk	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	Surface Water: Discharge rich during Q95 and Q70. Water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. Groundwater: Water available for licensing.	Heathfield Park SSSI via unnamed ordinary watercourse and Secondary A Aquifer	- Some areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. - Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and floodplain reconnection on outskirts. Small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Wartling	N/A	N/A	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	Surface Water: Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. Groundwater: Water available for licensing.	Close proximity to Pevensey Levels SSSI	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	No opportunities identified.
Washwell Lane Wadhurst	No capacity	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	Surface Water: Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. Groundwater: N/A (not covered by groundwater body).	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Whitegates Lane Wadhurst	Capacity Available	Low risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	Surface Water: Water not available for licensing during all flow scenarios. Groundwater: N/A (not covered by groundwater body).	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Small areas with potential for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Wilmington	N/A	N/A	Nutrient removal of phosphorus to the lowest TAL	Surface Water: Discharge rich during Q95 and Q70. Water available for licensing during Q50 and Q30. Groundwater: Northern part not covered by groundwater body. Water available for licensing in southern part.	Close proximity to Milton Gate Marsh SSSI and connected via Principal Aquifer.	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Located in an area of groundwater flooding concern.	Chalk – highly permeable Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.
Windmill Hill Herstmonceux	No capacity	High risk	No significant investment above £1m is currently planned at this location	Surface Water: Water not available for licensing during Q95, Q75 and Q50. Water available for licensing during Q30. Groundwater: Water available for licensing.	None	- Some areas at risk of flooding from surface water. - Some areas of groundwater flooding concern.	Sandstone –permeable Siltstone – low permeability Mudstone – impermeable	Opportunities for creation of woodland on outskirts and small areas with potential for runoff attenuation features.

6.1 Evidence review summary

The Stage 1 Scoping WCS has identified several water environment and water infrastructure factors that have the potential to constrain future growth across Eastbourne and Wealden:

- The majority of surface water bodies have Moderate, Poor or Bad Ecological Status, and for a large number of those water bodies, the Water Industry has been identified as one of the reasons for them not achieving Good status.
- Parts of Eastbourne and Wealden are at risk of flooding, primarily from fluvial/tidal, surface water and groundwater sources.
- Significant parts of the Study Area are classified as not having water available for additional licensing or restricted water available for additional licensing, even during high flow conditions. This affects the potential for local abstraction, to support future non-residential water uses linked to employment growth.
- The Environment Agency has classified the Study Area to be within an area of serious water stress, and where there are (or are likely to be) environmental impacts caused by public water supplies and/or where they consider the need for major water resources developments.
- SEW calculate a supply deficit in all 3 WRZs in the Study Area without measures to manage demand and provide additional water supply. However, if SEW's demand management options and additional supply schemes are realised, the WRZs are in balance. It should be noted that SEW's WRMP 2024 was published before the December 2024 NPPF and therefore has not taken into account the uplift in objectively assessed housing and employment needs as a consequence of the revised standard method and updated corresponding employment evidence.
- A shortfall of houses accounted for in the SEW WRMP in the Wealden area indicating water supply is a potential constraint to future residential growth in Wealden.
- Stage 1 Scoping WCS headroom calculations indicate that there is insufficient headroom at a significant number of WwTWs to accommodate all proposed growth without additional investment.
- The future TAL risk categorisation indicates that a high number of WwTWs operate to permits that include Technically Achievable Limits (TAL) on one or more parameters. Assuming there are no technological advancements for these TAL parameters, there may be future constraints to growth in cases where growth effectively 'consumes' the headroom on this part of the permit. Planning would at this point need to consider what scope alternative solutions could provide for further discharge from the WwTW.
- There is potential for cumulative impact on WwTW capacity from growth outside of the Study Area.
- There is a significant number of CSOs within the Study Area, several of which discharge to coastal and inland water bodies. EDM data shows that many CSOs operate frequently during periods of heavy rainfall, contributing to water quality pressures and posing risks to designated bathing waters. Reducing reliance on CSOs will require a combination of network upgrades, surface water separation, and wider catchment interventions to manage stormwater more sustainably. SW's Clean Rivers and Sea Plan maps out the high level programme of work being delivered by SW along with other responsible organisations and enhances what is able to be achieved in each area.

It is therefore recommended that a Detailed WCS is undertaken. Based on the assessment undertaken in this Stage 1 Scoping WCS, the following recommendations are made for a Detailed WCS:

- Refine the headroom flow capacity calculation undertaken in this Stage 1 Scoping WCS. Development sites have been provisionally assigned to the nearest WwTW by distance, for the purposes of identifying potentially affected assets. Actual drainage routes and WwTW allocations will need to be confirmed with SW and refined at the Detailed WCS stage, taking account of existing sewer catchments and network configuration. Opportunities to increase capacity for proposed growth without new infrastructure and/or phasing of development should be considered in partnership with SW. Where this is not possible, infrastructure upgrades required to accommodate the proposed growth should be identified.
- Consideration on the water quality impact on receiving water bodies from the additional proposed housing and resultant increase in treated wastewater discharges. Water quality modelling should be undertaken to assess the potential impacts on receiving freshwater quality and should include close working with SW to

better understand the treatment constraints at WwTWs, whether upgraded treatment processes could be implemented and the timescales involved that may affect the phasing of development in some locations. Although the Stage 1 Scoping WCS indicative calculations suggest Eastbourne WwTW has flow capacity within the existing permit for the additional proposed housing, additional assessment could be undertaken to consider the water quality impacts to any coastal or estuarine receiving water bodies.

- Network capacity for strategic growth locations (wastewater and water supply) should be considered in liaison with SW and SEW, including where storm overflow pressures could be exacerbated and where developers will need to consider contributions to wider surface water removal (e.g. through NbS delivery) to facilitate available capacity. The impact of combined sewer overflow events is a key consideration and the Detailed WCS will need to demonstrate that additional growth will not exacerbate and ideally contribute towards reducing spills to ensure that the Government's 2050 target is met.
- Consideration of how the shortfall of houses accounted for in the SEW WRMP in the Wealden area can be addressed, including providing ideas of methods and options for improving water efficiency and reducing PCC, along with recommendations for supporting delivery of these methods. Liaison should be undertaken with SEW to discuss future supply options and constraints to understand how development can be phased with respect to any future proposals for water supply.
- Further detail on NbS opportunities that should be considered for confirmed growth locations within a Detailed WCS, particularly where they reduce flood risk, are hydrologically linked to downstream water dependent habitats and offer opportunity for integrated water management. The Detailed WCS should explore opportunities for NbS on a site-by-site basis.
- Continue to identify key partners needed to make use of any opportunities identified.

Depending on the timing of the Detailed WCS, a review of content covered in the Stage 1 Scoping WCS may be required to check that the information remains relevant and if necessary, update information. The emerging latest WRMP and DWMP should be used, as well as the latest Local Plan.

Appendix A Policy and legislative drivers shaping the WCS

A.1 WFD surface water body status

Status	Description
High	Near natural conditions. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impacts on amenity, wildlife or fisheries
Good	Slight change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity or fisheries. Protects all but the most sensitive wildlife.
Moderate	Moderate change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity. Some impact on wildlife and fisheries.
Poor	Major change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restrictions on the beneficial uses of the waterbody. Some impact on amenity. Moderate impact on wildlife and fisheries.
Bad	Severe change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Significant restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. Major impact on amenity. Major impact on wildlife and fisheries with many species not present.

A.2 Relevant Legislation

Directive/Legislation/Guidance	Description
The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Provides for the designation of Special Protection Areas.
Building Regulations Approved Document G – sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency (March 2010)	The current edition covers the standards required for cold water supply, water efficiency, hot water supply and systems, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities, bathrooms and kitchens and food preparation areas.
Environment Act 1995	Sets out the role and responsibility of the Environment Agency.
Environment Act 2021	Provides a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK. Brings in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to waste, resource efficiency, air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, and conservation.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) system for emissions to air, land and water.
Flood & Water Management Act 2010	The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is the outcome of a thorough review of the responsibilities of regulators, local authorities, water companies and other stakeholders in the management of flood risk and the water industry in the UK. Its key features relevant to this WCS are: 1. To give the Environment Agency an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils the lead in managing the risk of all local floods. 2. To encourage the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SuDS for new developments and redevelopments. 3. To widen the list of uses of water that water companies can control during periods of water shortage and enable Government to add to and remove uses from the list. 4. To enable water and sewerage companies to operate concessionary schemes for community groups on surface water drainage charges. 5. To make it easier for water and sewerage companies to develop and implement social tariffs where companies consider there is a good cause to do so, and in light of guidance that will be issued by the Secretary of State following a full public consultation.
Future Water, February 2008	Sets the Government's vision for water in England to 2030. The strategy sets out an integrated approach to the sustainable management of all aspects of the water cycle, from rainfall and drainage, through to treatment and discharge, focusing on practical ways to achieve the vision to ensure sustainable use of water. The aim is to ensure sustainable delivery of water supplies and help improve the water environment for future generations.

Directive/Legislation/Guidance	Description
The Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016	To protect groundwater against pollution by 'List 1 and 2' Dangerous Substances.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	To conserve the natural habitats and to conserve wild fauna and flora with the main aim to promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of social, economic, cultural and regional requirements. In relation to abstractions and discharges, can require changes to these through if they are impacting on designated European Sites. Also, the legislation that provides for the designation of Special Areas of Conservation provides special protection to certain non-avian species and sets out the requirement for Appropriate Assessment of projects and plans likely to have a significant effect on an internationally designated wildlife site.
Land Drainage Act 1991	Sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of key organisations such as Internal Drainage Boards, local authorities, the Environment Agency and Riparian owners with jurisdiction over watercourses and land drainage infrastructure.
The General Development Management Procedure Order 2015	Imposes a statutory consultee role on LLFAs to comment on the drainage and local flood risk implications of major development. This leads on to the implementation of the SuDS National Standards. The national standards for SuDS were published by the Government in 2025.
National Planning Policy Framework	Planning policy in the UK is set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). NPPF advises local authorities and others on planning policy and operation of the planning system. A WCS helps to balance the requirements of various planning policy documents and ensure that land-use planning and water cycle infrastructure provision is sustainable.
Pollution Prevention and Control Act (PPCA) 1999	Implements the IPPC Directive. Replaces IPC with a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) system, which is similar but applies to a wider range of installations.
Ramsar Convention	Provides for the designation of wetlands of international importance
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD)	This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. Its aim is to protect the environment from any adverse effects caused by the discharge of such waters.
Water Act 2003	Implements changes to the water abstraction management system and to regulatory arrangements to make water use more sustainable.
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	The WFD, combines water quantity and water quality issues together. An integrated approach to the management of all freshwater bodies, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters at the river basin level has been adopted. The overall requirement of the directive is that all river basins must achieve 'Good ecological status' by 2015 or by 2027 if there are no grounds for derogation. The Environment Agency is the body responsible for the implementation of the WFD in the UK. The Environment Agency have been supported by UKTAG ²³ , an advisory body which has proposed water quality, ecology, water abstraction and river flow standards to be adopted in order to ensure that the water bodies in the UK (including groundwater) meet the required status ²⁴ . Standards and waterbody classifications are published via River Management Plans (RBMP) the latest of which were completed in 2015.
Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006	Covering Duties of public bodies – recognises that biodiversity is core to sustainable communities and that Public bodies have a statutory duty that states that "every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
Water Resources Act 1991	Protection of the quantity and quality of water resources and aquatic habitats. Parts have been amended by the Water Act 2003.
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Legislation that provides for the protection and designation of SSSIs and specific protection for certain species of animal and plant among other provisions.

²³ The UKTAG (UK Technical Advisory Group) is a working group of experts drawn from environment and conservation agencies. It was formed to provide technical advice to the UK's government administrations and its own member agencies. The UKTAG also includes representatives from the Republic of Ireland.

²⁴ UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Phase I) Final Report, April 2008, UK Technical Advisory Group on the Water Framework Directive.

A.3 Strategies and plans

Category	Author	Document Name	Publication Date
Flood Risk	JBA	South Wealden and Eastbourne Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2025
Flood Risk	JBA	Wealden Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2022
Water Resources	DEFRA	Storm overflows discharge reduction plan	2023
Water Resources	DEFRA	Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water	2023
Water Resources	DEFRA	Environmental Improvement Plan	2025
Water Resources	SEW	Water Resources Management Plan	2024
Water Resources	SW	Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan	2023
Water Resources	WRE	Regional Water Resources Plan for Water Resources East	2023
Water Resources	East Sussex and Brighton and Hove City Council	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	2025
Water Resources / Flood Risk	Environment Agency	South East River Basin District River Basin Management Plan	2022
Water Resources / Flood Risk	Environment Agency	Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan	2022

Appendix B WwTW capacity assessment methodology

B.1 Assessment methodology

A WwTW flow headroom calculation spreadsheet was developed by AECOM and used to inform this assessment. The calculator identified which WwTW within the Study Area will receive future growth based on allocation sites and existing commitment site locations.

The permitted flow headroom capacity within an existing permit is assumed to be usable; therefore, the following steps were applied to calculate approximately how much available headroom each WwTW has:

1. Determine the quantity of growth within a WwTW catchment to determine the additional flow expected at each WwTW;
2. Calculate the additional wastewater flow generated at each WwTW;
3. Calculate the remaining permitted flow headroom at each WwTW by subtracting the Q80 DWF 3-year average volume from the DWF permit to give an estimated headroom;
4. Determine whether the growth can be accommodated within existing headroom.

B.2 Assumptions and input data

Several key assumptions were used in the WwTW flow headroom calculation spreadsheet as follows:

- The wastewater generation per new household was based on an assumed Occupancy Rate (OR) of 2.37 people per house that is the future OR SEW predict in 2039/40 within their WRMP, and a consumption of 110 l/h/d that is the standard to which new housing must be designed to in accordance with Policy CC6 of Wealden's Regulation 18 Local Plan March 2024. Policy CR6 of Eastbourne's Regulation 18 Local Plan February 2026 notes a consumption of 105 l/h/d is required for new housing, therefore Wealden's 110 l/h/d has been used in the calculations as a conservative approach.
- Employment numbers are uncertain, therefore an allowance for future employment has been based on a 10% increase in water demand per household.
- The dwelling capacity assessment requires an estimate of water that would enter the drainage network via groundwater or water in the soil (called 'infiltration') as this uses available treatment capacity. A global assumption has been applied whereby a percentage of the water used by new dwellings would be added to as infiltration once in the sewer network to allow for this aspect. The infiltration percentage was set to 40% of water used as provided by SW.
- Dry Weather Flow (DWF) is defined as the total daily flow value that is exceeded by 80% of the total daily flow values in a period of twelve months (the 80%-exceeded flow, or Q80) and is measured in cubic metres. Therefore, the WwTW current/measured discharge flows were taken as the Q80 of measured flow to give the DWF assumption. Measured flows were provided by SW in 2025 (using the 3 years of data 2023 to 2025). Future discharge flows at each WwTW were calculated by adding the volume of additional wastewater generated by new dwellings and employment (using an OR of 2.37 and a consumption value of 110l/h/d multiplied by 1.5 (taking account 10% for employment and 40% for infiltration)) to the current permitted DWF value.

It should be noted that the measure of DWF capacity varies year-on-year based on the population assessment and flows received at the WwTW. A statistical method is applied to a rolling 3 year average of measured DWF each year, and therefore a particularly wet or dry year can skew the capacity assessment.

For the purposes of the headroom assessment, Southern Water converts cubic metres into a representative number of properties on the assumption of each property contributing 500l wastewater per day. This approach was agreed with the Environment Agency for planning purposes. This 500l is a somewhat inflated figure* - which means

that any number of properties stated in relation to headroom remains a broad estimate, not an exact limit that can be interpreted as a constraint to growth.

** The 500 litres per property per day (lppd) was originally used by the Environment Agency and agreed with Southern Water for use in planning purposes. It was originally based on an occupancy of 2.4 persons per household consuming 200 litres per person per day in part to include an allowance for employment development, public buildings and other unaccounted flows. Given water metering has brought average figures down from this significantly, and that Building Regulations now support an optional water consumption target of 110 litres per person per day in our water stressed region, the actual volume of wastewater generated by each new home is likely to be lower than 500lppd on average.*

