

Variation of Independent Water Networks Limited's appointment to include Hampton Mill, Okehampton

On 16 November 2022, Ofwat began a [consultation](#) on a proposal to vary Independent Water Networks Limited's (“**Independent Water Networks**”) appointment to become the water and sewerage services provider for a development in South West Water Limited (“**South West Water**”) water supply and sewerage services area called Hampton Mill, Okehampton (“**the Site**”). Details of the application and our assessment of it were set out in the consultation document.

The consultation ended on 14 December 2022. During the consultation period, we received representations from one organisation, which is summarised in Section 1 of this document.

We will only make an appointment or variation if our assessment concludes that the application meets the criterion it has been made under; that customers or future customers on the site will be no worse off than if the site had been served by the existing appointee; and if the applicant will be able to finance the proper carrying out of its functions as a water and sewerage company. As set out in our consultation we are satisfied this is the case. The response we received to the consultation has not changed that view.

Having assessed Independent Water Networks' application and having taken account of the response we received to our consultation, we decided to grant a variation to Independent Water Networks' area of appointment to allow it to serve the Site for water and sewerage services. This appointment became effective on 31 January 2023.

The Site maps for the variation can be found in Section 2 of this document.

The Variation Notice legally making the variation can be found in Section 3 of this document.

1. Response received to the consultation

We received a response to our consultation from South West Water. We considered this response before making the decision to vary Independent Water Networks' appointment.

South West Water's Response

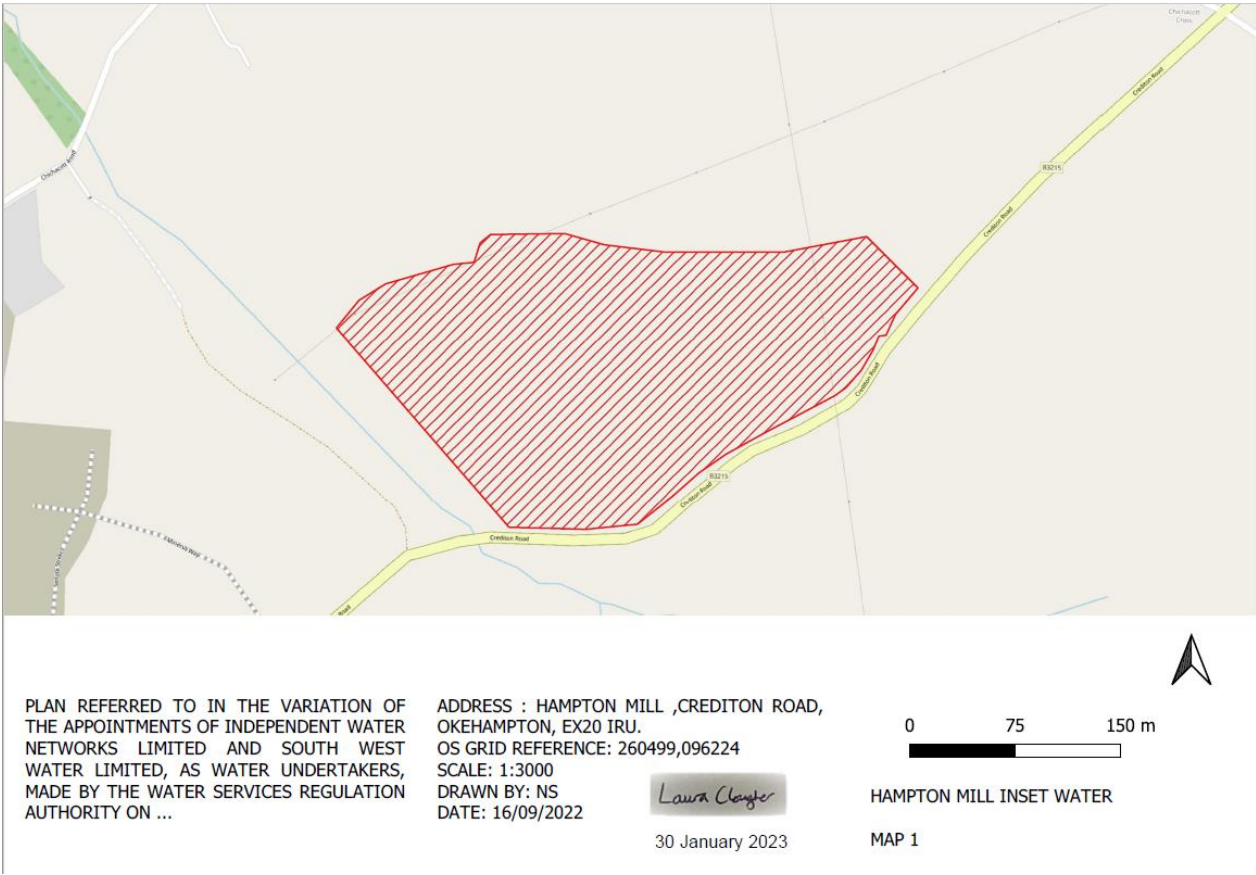
South West Water support the development of markets where customers could benefit, or in the least suffer no detriment and note that there is an estimated financial impact of £0.01 on the wastewater annual bills for existing South West Water customers but no estimated impact on water bills. It also notes that this estimate does not take account of potential spill-over benefits and that Independent Water Networks proposes to offer a 2.5% discount against South West Water's charges, subject to annual review, and that savings will be available for those opting to pay by Direct Debit or e-billing.

Ofwat's Response

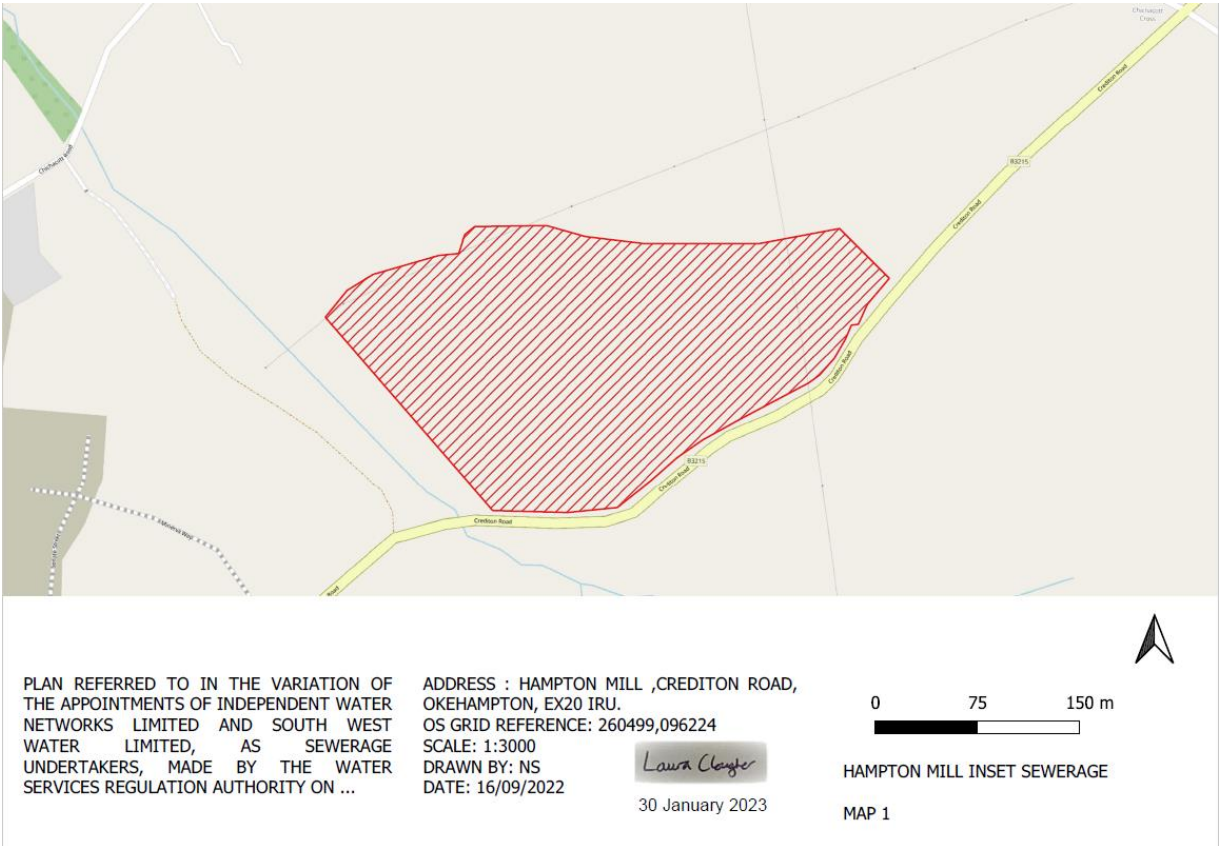
One of our key policies when considering NAV applications, is that customers should be no worse off if a new appointment and variation is granted. That is, an applicant must ensure its new customers are made no worse off in terms of charges and service than if they had been supplied by the previous appointee and we are satisfied this is the case for this Site.

2. Site Maps

Water



Sewerage



3. Variation Notice

WATER SERVICES REGULATION AUTHORITY

WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991, SECTIONS 6 TO 9

Variation of the Appointments of Independent Water Networks Limited and South West Water Limited as Water and Sewerage Undertakers

Made on 30 January 2023

Coming into effect on 31 January 2023

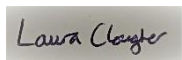
1. Independent Water Networks Limited ("Independent Water Networks") and South West Water Limited ("South West Water") hold Appointments as water and sewerage undertakers for their respective areas ("the Appointments").¹ The areas to which the Appointments of Independent Water Networks and South West Water as water and sewerage undertakers relate ("Water Supply Area" and "Sewerage Services Area") are set out in their Instruments of Appointment.
2. The Site called Hampton Mill, Okehampton, which is shown edged in red on the plan attached to this variation, ("the Site") is within South West Water's Water Supply Area and Sewerage Services Area. The Site is being developed by BDW Trading Ltd.
3. Independent Water Networks has applied under section 7(4)(b) of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") for a variation of its Appointment as a water and sewerage undertaker to include the Site and for a consequential variation of South West Water's Appointment to exclude the Site.
4. On 27 June 1995, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Wales acting jointly and pursuant to sections 6(1) and 7(2) of the Act authorised the Director General of Water Services² to make variations such as those contained in paragraph 5 below. After public consultation, as required by section 8 of the Act, the Water Services Regulation Authority has decided that it should grant Independent Water Networks' application.

¹ South West Water's original Appointment as a water and sewerage undertaker was made by the Secretary of State for the Environment under sections 11 and 14 of the Water Act 1989, now replaced by sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991. Independent Water Networks' original Appointment was made by the Water Services Regulation Authority under sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

² With effect from 1 April 2006 the functions of the Director General of Water Services were transferred to the Water Services Regulation Authority in accordance with section 36 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Water Act 2003.

5. Therefore, as provided by sections 7(2) and 7(4)(b) of the Act, and with the agreement of BDW Trading Ltd, the Water Services Regulation Authority **varies** –
- (a) the Appointment of Independent Water Networks as a water and sewerage undertaker so that the Site is included in Independent Water Networks' Water Supply Area and Sewerage Services Area; and
 - (b) the Appointment of South West Water as a water and sewerage undertaker so that the Site is excluded from South West Water's Water Supply Area and Sewerage Services Area.

Signed for and on behalf of the Water Services Regulation Authority



Laura Clougher
Principal, Casework and Enforcement