

*Dear Graham,*

*We have received a number of queries recently about existing and future water quality in the Letcombe Brook in relation to the airfield development, including from Anthony Harker. As a result, I contacted the EA and attach their response below. I would be very grateful if you could pass this onto the Anthony and the Parish for information.*

*Many thanks,*

*Geraldine*

"Mansbridge, Jon" <jon.mansbridge@environment-agency.gov.uk> 03/02/2010 09:33 >>>

Geraldine,

Further to your enquiry regarding water quality in the Letcombe Brook please see our following advice.

We have several sample points for Letcombe Brook that have been and will be used for monitoring water quality. These can provide a suitable baseline to work from and have been used for the Water Framework Directive.

New development has the potential to have a number of impacts on water quality if it is not planned and design well.

#### **Foul Drainage**

Any additional housing developments in the area which connect to the local public sewerage system will be dealt with by Thames Water Utilities Limited (TWUL) Wantage sewage treatment works (STW). The Environment Agency has issued a discharge consent for this STW, which has been designed to protect the water quality of Letcombe Brook. Even with an increase in flow into the works Thames Water will need to comply with the consent. Before Thames Water would accept new flows to their Wantage STW they would assess their capacity and therefore their ability to meet their consent. Any additional treatment or capacity that is required to apply with the consent would be planned and delivered along side development. This is why it is important for there to be good communication links between the developer, the Local Planning Authority and TWUL.

If future growth is beyond that all ready planned an appropriate lead in time would be required to allow us and TWUL to review the level of treatment and the limits set within the discharge consent to maintain current water quality standards. We would undertake modelling to assess what new consent standards are required. Any new consent standards and STW improvements would be funded through 'periodic reviews' which happen every 5 years, the next review that Wantage could be included in will be 2015-2020. TWUL can confirm if they have the current capacity within their growth forecasts for the Grove Airfield development. I presume that as it is a allocated site within the local plan they will have already planned for this growth. The developer should however confirmed this as soon as possible with TWUL if they haven't already done so.

#### **Surface Water**

The other possible impact that a development of this scale could have on the quality of the Letcombe Brook is the quality of the surface water runoff from the site. The quality of surface water runoff can be significantly improved from this site if sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) are used in place of antiquated piped surface water drainage systems. It is my understanding that this development will be developing an exemplar SUDS design that will reduce flood risk in the area, enhance biodiversity and improve water quality.

## **Water Framework Directive**

Under the Water Framework Directive, Letcombe Brook is its own distinct waterbody. It is currently classified as attaining Good Ecological Status and compliant with its water quality standards. However, we will be pursuing the No Deterioration policy under the WFD to ensure that current and future activities do not have a negative impact upon the watercourse. As far as development goes we will do this through the two points above.

If you have any further questions please give me a call.

Kind regards

**Jon Mansbridge**  
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**From:** Geraldine LeCointe [mailto:geraldine.lecointe@whitehorsedc.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 26 January 2010 13:45  
**To:** Mansbridge, Jon  
**Cc:** paul.davis@persimmonhomes.com; John - TW South East Aylwin  
**Subject:** Grove Airfield

*Dear Jon,*

*I and my colleagues have been contacted by a number of local residents querying the future control of water quality in the Letcombe Brook if the Grove development goes ahead.*

*Their main concern is that it will not be possible to monitor the post development quality of the water if there is no pre-development baseline information available.*

*Can you clarify if this is something that the EA would require - I would have thought that it would be.*

*Kind regards*

*Geraldine*