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Objection to growth in North Hykeham Water Recycling Centre (WRC) Catchment

This statement presents the justification for the current objection for sites within the North Hykeham Water Recycling Centre (WRC) catchment.

The current position is necessitated by exceedances of the dry weather flow (DWF) permit limits, alongside the anticipated increase in housing connections and the impact this has on the receiving watercourse and risk to the environment.

Water Framework Directive

Under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017, there is a requirement for water bodies not to deteriorate and to achieve 'good status' by 2027. Under regulation 33, local planning authorities as 'public bodies' must have regard to these requirements.

National Planning Policy Framework

Under the National Planning Policy Framework, there is a requirement that plans and planning decisions do not result in unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Consideration should be given to paragraph 8 (c) improving biodiversity and minimising pollution. As well as paragraph 187 (e) preventing unacceptable risk to water

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy April 2023

Policy S21: Flood Risk and Water Resources – Protecting the Water Environment part H:

h) that adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development. Non mains foul sewage disposal solutions should only be considered where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that connection to a public sewer is not feasible;

This policy and its supporting text recognises the need for foul water treatment to be available for the proposed development so as not to cause a risk to the water environment.

Dry Weather Flow Permit and Compliance Data

The Environment Agency (EA) has set a dry weather flow consent limit of 4540 m³/day for North Hykeham WRC. The permit limits are unique to each WRC and are based on several factors, including the sensitivity of the receiving watercourse. The DWF limit is set to ensure the discharge from the WRC does not cause a detriment.



Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Q90	3248.1	4429.9	4207.6	4772	4524.5

As shown in the table above, North Hykeham WRC exceeded Dry Weather Flow (DWF) in 2023 and, in 2024, was only 15.5 m³/day (0.3%) below the permit limit. This data excludes sites with planning consent that have yet to connect.

Receiving Watercourse Status

The outfall of the North Hykeham WRC is to the river Witham, which has an overall classification of Moderate, with phosphate identified as poor.

Full details can be viewed on-line : [Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain | Catchment Data Explorer | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

Asset Management Plan 8

Within our business plan for AMP 8 (2025-2030) North Hykeham WRC has not been identified as a growth scheme. This means that there is no investment approved by Ofwat to deliver a scheme within this catchment to accommodate additional growth.

Considerations for Decision Making on Applications

A all development requiring new connections to mains sewer will increase the flow volumes to the North Hykeham WRC and increase phosphate discharges to the water body and flow beyond what the permit allows.

The effect of new development on sewage infrastructure is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Paragraph 8(c) of the NPPF states that sustainable development will ‘protect and enhance our natural environment....minimising waste and pollution’.

Paragraph 187(e) which states that policies and decision should “contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment’ by ‘preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution....”

Please see our KC Opinion regarding our approach to planning applications.

Conclusions

Given the current situation in regards to DWF permit limits at North Hykeham and the volume of development already approved, with the right to connect, within the catchment, any further connections will pose an unacceptable risk on the environment.