

Preparing for a more sustainable future

New conditioning facility in Sundon to help reduce reliance on chalk groundwater

In 2021/22, we announced plans to build a new water treatment works at Sundon, Bedfordshire, to enable us to reduce the amount of water we take from chalk groundwater sources in the Chilterns.

We are committed to ending unsustainable abstraction from chalk groundwater sources in the Chilterns and beyond to help the rare chalk streams in the region. Chalk streams are home to an abundance of wildlife species such as water crowfoot, flag iris, mayfly, brown trout, kingfisher, otters and the endangered water vole.

To achieve this, we will need to bring water down through an existing pipe network from Anglian Water's Grafham Water reservoir, near Huntingdon.

Affinity Water already imports water from Anglian Water's Grafham water treatment works, but this will need to increase to compensate for the reduction in abstraction from chalk groundwater in our region. This increased supply will be used by customers who have previously been supplied from local groundwater sources. These waters are chemically different, so we will condition the imported water to make it compatible with pipes that have been accustomed to a water with different chemistry.

The preferred location to do this is the existing Sundon Reservoir site, located between Streatley and Upper Sundon, which has been operated jointly for many years with Anglian Water,



and already has a great deal of the infrastructure required.

Following an initial public consultation with the local community, Affinity Water submitted a planning application for this water conditioning facility, adjacent to the existing underground reservoir, in 2021. Conditional planning permission was granted in April 2022.

We appointed contractors for the design and build of the facility in February 2022, with completion due in January 2024.

The facility will then be in operation, allowing Affinity Water to implement its committed reductions from chalk groundwater sources gradually, with all measures completed by the end of 2024.



"As part of our commitment to end unsustainable abstraction, in 2021 we started our plans to bring in a significant supply of water from a neighbouring area. As part of this, a new conditioning facility will be built at our Sundon site and will allow us to reduce abstraction from sensitive chalk groundwater sites in the Chilterns."


Steve Plumb,
Director of Asset Strategy and Capital Delivery




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 Stewards of the Local Environment

Customer outcomes

 Supplying high quality water you can trust

 Making sure you have enough water, whilst leaving more water in the environment

UNSDGs

