



# Position Statement

## Nitrates in the Solent

July 2019

Nutrients, including nitrates, entering the water system from a variety of sources, are understood to be causing eutrophication in certain waterbodies within the Solent region.

Natural England has issued advice to Local Planning Authorities on achieving nutrient-neutral development in the Solent region to reduce the impact of additional nutrients, in particular nitrogen, arising from new homes.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the water industry's environmental regulator and defines the environmental permits that water companies are required to meet. The EA works with water companies, including Southern Water, to develop the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) which includes schemes and investigations that protect and enhance the environment. The latest dataset, issued in March 2019, can be [downloaded from Environment Agency](#).

In June 2019, the EA issued a [Technical Guidance Note on Wastewater treatment capacity for new development in the Solent Area](#) (a copy can be requested by emailing them at [planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:planningssd@environment-agency.gov.uk)). This Guidance Note confirms no further investment is needed to treat wastewater to a tighter nitrogen limit for any of the treatment works in the Solent area. Where there is capacity to take extra wastewater flows from new development within existing permit limits, the EA considers the development would be acceptable.

Southern Water is cooperating with the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Water Quality group, (comprising local authorities, Natural England, the EA and others), on this issue. The group is working to identify and agree effective measures that will enable new homes to be built, whilst also ensuring the environment of the Solent and its harbours can be protected.

Further updates on the outcomes of the PUSH Water Quality Group work will be provided as they become available.