



**WATER
for LIFE**

from
**Southern
Water** 

Secretary of State for Energy Security and
Net Zero
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HH

Your ref

Date
14 November 2023

Contact
Tel 0330 303 0119

Email: John.McKenna@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

**SOUTHERN GAS NETWORKS PLC (KINGSFERRY GAS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2023**

**Objection by Southern Water Services Limited, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing,
West Sussex BN13 3NX**

We are writing to make an objection to the Southern Gas Networks PLC (Kingsferry Gas Pipeline Replacement Project) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 (the CPO) on behalf of Southern Water Services Limited (SWS) in its capacity as statutory water and sewerage undertaker.

The objection is made in relation to the Order Land, and SWS assets, apparatus and any related legal rights located within and/or in close proximity to such land.

Reason for objection

SWS considers that SGN is seeking to acquire rights over the land for its Project and that some of these rights are at the same location and/or in close proximity land which SWS has interests in.

To fulfil its statutory duties, SWS maintains a wide range of apparatus and holds rights in land which are critical to the continuing efficacy of its services. If made, the CPO would authorise the acquisition of rights over land in which SWS maintains assets and/or has other rights for the purposes of discharging its statutory duties. Unchecked, the acquisition of such rights could cause severe detriment to it.



In particular, the Order Land is located near to SWS's Queensborough Wastewater Treatment Works and we will need to ensure that our access to the Works and pumping station is maintained in perpetuity and without impediment.

It appears that the Order Land could be crossing apparatus and we will need to ensure that an investigation into the ownership of this is accounted for and undertaken prior to any works commencing in respect of the proposed project in case it transpires that this is a SWS sewer.

SWS notes that SGN's Statement of Reasons recognises that works have been undertaken on parts of the Order Land (both on the Isle of Sheppey and the mainland) by SWS to construct its Sheppey water mains Pipeline Project.

We note that SGN has confirmed that it does not normally enforce its compulsory purchase orders over interests in land over which it has secured a voluntary agreement. SWS welcomes engagement with SGN on these matters going forward but in the absence of such an agreement having yet been formalised, SWS is obliged at this stage to formally object to the CPO on the basis of the CPO causing detriment to SWS's apparatus and operations. We therefore invite SGN to engage with SWS with a view to reaching a satisfactory agreement, with a view to us withdrawing our objection.

Yours faithfully,

Southern Water Services Ltd

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