

Kier appointed to its first Southern Water design contract to support their AMP8 Strategic Delivery Partner Framework

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Kier has been appointed to its first contract with Southern Water, advancing two critical schemes that support environmental protection and future growth.

The Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) appointment has been made under Southern Water's Strategic Delivery Partner Framework for Asset Management Period 8 (AMP8).

The £15.8 million ECI contract covers early-stage design and planning for nitrogen reduction works at Portswood Wastewater Treatment Works and the installation of UV disinfection at Thornham Wastewater Treatment Works, where growth-driven upgrades are also being developed.

At Portswood, near Southampton, Kier is developing solutions to meet a new total nitrogen discharge consent of 9mg/l by 2030, in line with the Water Industry National Environment Programme.

The site is heavily constrained, requiring innovative, space-efficient approaches. Current proposals include repurposing existing infrastructure and expanding the activated sludge and tertiary treatment facilities.

At Thornham, near Havant, the scope includes installing a UV disinfection system to improve shellfish water quality by 2027, alongside longer-term upgrades to increase treatment capacity to support population growth. Options under consideration include converting the plant to an activated sludge process and building new assets south of the existing site.

Together, these upgrades will help Southern Water continue to deliver safe, high-quality wastewater services for its customers, strengthening resilience, supporting regulatory compliance, and enhancing

environmental performance across its network.

Simon Tomlinson, Director for Capital Delivery at Southern Water, said: “Together, these upgrades will help Southern Water continue to deliver safe, high-quality wastewater services for its customers, strengthening resilience, supporting regulatory compliance, and enhancing environmental performance across its network.”

Rob Campbell, operations director, water for Kier Natural Resources, Nuclear & Networks, said: “We’re excited to be taking on the first projects awarded to Kier under Southern Water’s Strategic Delivery Partner Framework. These are two technically complex schemes on constrained sites, and we’re bringing our expertise to shape the right long-term solutions. This early collaboration sets the tone for how we’ll work together throughout AMP8, aligned, agile and focused on delivering real value for communities and the environment.”

This award reinforces Kier’s position as a trusted delivery partner across the UK water sector and builds on recent contract wins with Severn Trent, Anglian Water, and Wessex Water.