

Saltford Water Recycling Centre

With construction of the new access bridge over the River Avon nearing completion this winter, Wessex Water project manager Kelvin Brick provides an update to SCAN about the next steps in the upcoming expansion of the Saltford Water Recycling Centre

The bridge Wessex Water is building over the River Avon is expected to be completed in early 2024.

As that year-long project reaches its conclusion, the focus will turn towards the £34 million upgrade of the water recycling centre at the end of Mead Lane.

The people of Saltford have played a vital role in helping to bring the bridge to fruition. The community's patience, understanding and co-operation have been crucial in assisting access for vehicles delivering materials and equipment via the High Street and Mead Lane to the project.

Once complete, the bridge will help take construction traffic to and from the water recycling centre expansion and away from the village.

As that expansion reaches its conclusion in 2026, the bridge will then provide an alternative permanent access for operations staff at the Saltford site – which also houses our regional scientific centre analysing thousands of water supply and wastewater samples a day from across our region - via a connection to the A431 road.

And a footpath, linking the A431 to the local public right of way network and the River Avon Trail, will mean people who live on either side of the river will have access by foot across when it is in full use.

As the new access road and bridge phase are completed around next January, construction on the expansion of the water recycling centre will get under way.

Treating sewage and wastewater from Bath and the surrounding area before it is safely returned to the environment, the expansion of the site will ensure the expected growth in the local population and enhanced regulations to improve river water quality are met.

The project – an estimated £34 million investment by Wessex Water - is expected to take two years to complete. Once the new capacity has been added, more than 800 litres of wastewater a second will be able to be treated – around a 40 per cent increase on current levels – to help meet these demands and higher regulatory standards.

New treatment processes will be built to the west of the existing water recycling centre site, including new flow measurement and screening equipment, grit and phosphorous removal facilities, settlement tanks, a sludge tank, electrical supply and pumping stations.

As one of 66 water recycling centres within the Bristol Avon Catchment, the site will also continue to play a key role as part of our nutrient removal programme.

Saltford currently contributes between seven and 12 per cent of the total catchment removal of nutrients entering local watercourses, preventing blue green algae endangering aquatic life and these facilities will be extended as the site expands.

Protecting our rivers and environment are a key driver of this project – and this extends beyond the expanded site, which sits within the green belt and in view of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In accordance with the planning permission, Wessex Water is working with Bath & North East Somerset Council to develop measures to reduce the landscape and visual impact of the expansion scheme

An earth bund, or embankment, will be landscaped to provide for planting of new native woodland, species-rich grassland, and native hedgerow. Overall, these measures will provide a biodiversity net gain of more than 10 per cent.

The expansion is expected to be complete in early 2026. You can get more background and updates from the Salford webpage at the Wessex Water website: www.wessexwater.co.uk/salford-water-recycling-centre

The bridge and access road across the River Avon to Salford Water Recycling Centre is taking shape this summer



Salford Water Recycling Centre treats sewage and wastewater from Bath and the surrounding area before it is safely returned to the environment

An impression of how the bridge and access road will look upon completion

