

Saltford water recycling centre – expansion



Wessex Water is investing £35 million towards expanding the water recycling centre at Mead Lane, Saltford. The project is expected to be completed by 2026.

What is it?

- Built more than a century ago, the Saltford site was expanded in the 1960s but, apart from an upgrade in the early 2000s, has remained largely unaltered since.
- The local population is projected to further expand in future years, so further development is needed to ensure the centre continues to meet the highest industry standards for the treatment of water.
- Our investment will add the new treatment processes and storage to ensure those regulations to improve river water quality are met.
- The Saltford centre also forms part of Wessex Water's nutrient removal programme within the Bristol Avon Catchment.

What will the expansion look like and how will it help?

- As a result of the expansion, we will be able to treat more than 800 litres of wastewater per second – around a 40 per cent increase on current flows.
- Based to the west of the existing water recycling centre site, we're adding new treatment processes, including primary and final settlement tanks and grit and phosphorous removal facilities.
- An activated sludge plant, pumping stations and electrical supply and control mechanisms will also be part of the expanded site.
- During both this and the access bridge project, more than 300,000 tonnes of earth have been shifted to help prepare the ground.

Find out more at
[wessexwater.co.uk](https://www.wessexwater.co.uk)

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- In total, more than 12 million litres of reused treated effluent are required for testing across all of the site's new structures, which is enough to fill five Olympic-sized swimming pools, which will continue into 2026.

How does the new bridge help?

Our new £9 million access bridge, helping to ease traffic travelling through narrow lanes locally and allowing staff to get to and from the centre and A431 road, was completed in 2024.

An adjacent footway crossing also now links the A431 on the east of the River Avon to the local public right of way network and the River Avon Trail on the west, providing a new pedestrian link between the villages of Bitton and Saltford.

The new footway was officially opened by members of the parish council of Saltford and Bitton, as well as Wessex Water chief executive Colin Skellett, in September 2024.

Approximately 5,000 trees and shrubs were planted and ground reinstated around the bridge.

An 'Ecological Wetland Scrape', which has been designed to provide a habitat

for amphibians, invertebrates, mammals and wetland birds has also been created.

Centred on three ponds designed to give seasonally wet areas, extended undulations mimic the 'ridge and furrow' of a natural, ancient floodplain meadow, allowing native plants - and the animals that rely on them - to naturally establish.

Progress

February 2024: Construction traffic began using the new access bridge.

September 2024: Opening of pedestrian footway adjacent to access bridge.

To September 2025: Civil construction of main structures at expansion, including piling, then phased handover of structures for mechanical and electrical installation.

January - December 2025: Mechanical and electrical installation.

August - October 2025: Final landscaping and seeding.

January - May 2026: Site to be cleared, commissioning, reliability and performance testing.

Any questions?

Visit our dedicated project webpage at wessexwater.co.uk/saltfordaccess or email our project team at saltford.access@wessexwater.co.uk.

Find out more.
Use the QR
code to access
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