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Future Investment Challenges for the Water Industry – A Thames Water Perspective

The presentation examines the challenges that all water companies face but from a Thames Water Perspective, and a nod to some modelling challenges.

London has some of the oldest water infrastructure in the UK, planned and built in Victorian times to feed a population of 4.5 million. The London Water Resource Zone population is currently touching 8 million and is set to increase by another million over the next 20 years. Thames Water faces the challenge of modelling and designing a distribution system fit for the future. Challenges include high population density and narrow roads designed for horses and carts. Also growing business and commercial water demand including data centres and varying population demand forecasts.

The Thames Valley is highly attractive to planners, housing developers (with the surrounding public infrastructure) and the economic opportunities the area presents. Bicester, Aylesbury and Banbury are examples of small historical market towns that could potentially double in size. The Oxford–Cambridge Arc bring further potential pressure to the area, as do Technology and Business Parks located in rural areas and the added demand for data centres that support them. Also, the environmental challenges of taking less water from the environment present a different and possibly more immediate challenge.