A proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire

Phase two consultation feedback summary

January 2025

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About the project

Anglian Water is proposing a new reservoir in Lincolnshire to help meet the growing demands on water supply in the East of England.

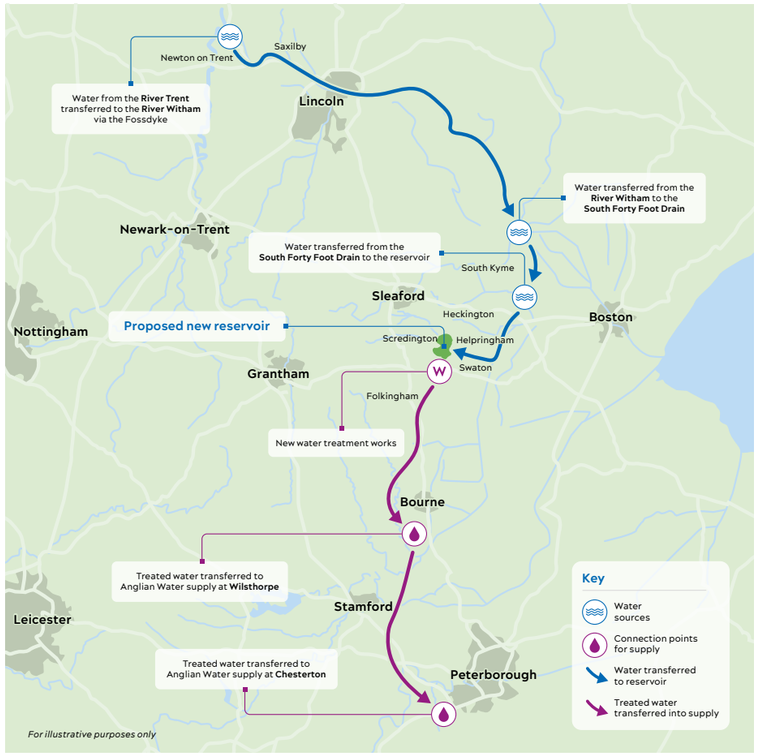
The new reservoir is at the heart of a whole new water supply project. Together with the associated water infrastructure we need to transfer water to the reservoir, treat the water, and supply it to homes and businesses, it will secure a reliable water supply for generations to come.

When there is available water in rivers that would otherwise drain to the sea, we would draw that water and transfer it to the reservoir using new and existing infrastructure and waterways. The reservoir will store the water for when it's needed.

Having this new water resource will reduce demands on sensitive sources, such as chalk streams, helping us to protect and restore the environment. It will make us more resilient to a changing climate, reducing the impact of droughts while helping to manage river levels in wetter periods.

The proposed reservoir is located south-east of Sleaford, about halfway between Grantham and Boston.

This illustrative map shows the sources where water is being transferred from and to the reservoir, and then where the treated water is being sent into supply.



Since identifying a location for the reservoir, we've completed a multi-stage assessment to identify preferred ways for transferring water to and from the reservoir, and the associated water infrastructure needed. We've also developed an emerging design for the main reservoir site and shared the results of this work during our phase two consultation.

Thank you for your feedback

We understand our proposals will have an effect on landowners, homeowners, and nearby communities and we are committed to working with everyone as the project develops. It was great to hear all views on our emerging proposals. We will continue to engage closely with everyone as the project develops.

Your comments will help us to further develop the project including shaping the benefits it could create for people and the environment and how we can seek to minimise impacts.

The feedback we received during our phase two consultation is really valuable to us, and we've learnt a lot from what people have told us.

This summary shares the wide range of feedback we received. It explains how we are using it to inform the next stage of our work to develop the design for the reservoir and its associated water infrastructure.

About us

About Anglian Water

Anglian Water supplies water and wastewater services to almost seven million customers in the East of England and Hartlepool, employing around 5,000 people in the region.

As a purpose-led business, we recognise we have a huge opportunity and responsibility to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities we serve. As one of the largest energy users in the East of England, we are also committed to becoming a net zero carbon business by 2030.

Anglian Water is investing heavily today to help prepare for tomorrow. We continue to lead the water sector in tackling leakage, exceeding our regulatory targets for over 10 years running.

Work is already underway on a half-billion-pound investment to lay hundreds of kilometres of new, interconnecting pipes to bring water from the wettest areas in the north of Lincolnshire to the drier areas in the south and east of our region.

We are also installing over one million smart meters in customer homes, and delivering a multitude of abstraction reduction programmes, protecting precious chalk streams and rivers.

Why the reservoir is needed

We face growing challenges to supply. Our region is low-lying, one of the driest in the UK, and especially vulnerable to a changing climate. Drought is set to become more common amid hotter, drier summers, and intense rainfall events more frequent.

Find out more

You can read **Anglian Water's WRMP** here.

To meet these challenges, we all have to play our part in balancing the needs of society, business, and the environment to enable a sustainable future.

Anglian Water has developed a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) setting out our targets and ways we can improve, such as: boosting efficiency; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources.

Our WRMP was approved by the government and published in September 2024.

We're already working on new strategic pipelines to move water from wetter to drier parts of our region, installing smart meters in customers' homes, and driving down leakage.

While all the investments we're making today will help to keep taps running, the available supply will fall well below the demand for water

unless we plan for future resources now. The proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire has been identified as a large-scale investment in new water resources that we need and will play a critical role in securing water supply long into the future.

Our region is unique, low-lying and one of the driest in the UK:

A 1/3 less rainfall than the UK average

We need to protect supplies in the face of climate change.

Our region is one of the fastest growing in the country:

175,000 new homes in the next five years

20% population growth by 2050

We need more water for more people.

Our region's precious landscapes and environment need water to ensure their survival:

the natural environment relies on rivers and groundwater

We need to reduce the amount of water we take from these sources.

We need to protect and restore the environment.

Our phase two consultation - an overview

Our phase two consultation took place between 30 May 2024 and 9 August 2024. We worked closely with stakeholders and the public to discuss our proposals, answer questions and encourage feedback.

The purpose of our phase two consultation was to gather feedback on:

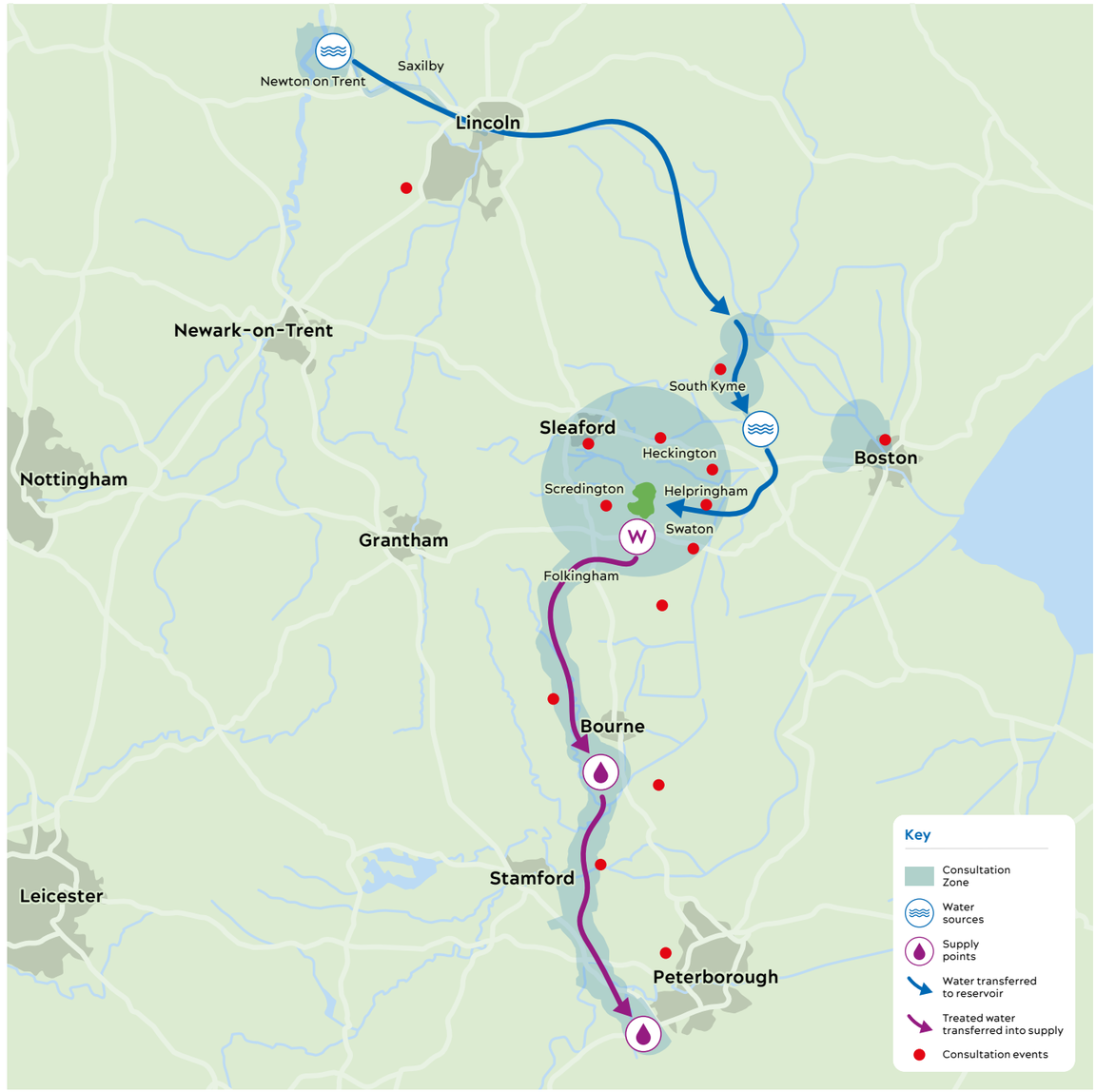
- the **emerging design for the reservoir (main site)**, including our ideas and opportunities for recreation, wildlife, nature and other features.
- our early-stage proposals for areas of land in the vicinity of the reservoir we could need for environmental mitigation and enhancement, construction, or wider uses.
- our proposals for the **water sources infrastructure** needed to transfer water from sources.
- our proposals for the **water supply infrastructure** needed to treat the water stored at the reservoir, and supply it to homes and businesses.
- supporting information about our approach to a range of topics explained in our project fact sheets.

We held a series of consultation events as well as webinars and a pop-up event, all of which were well attended. It was great to meet local people and hear what they had to say.

Your local knowledge is very valuable. It helps us to further understand any potential impacts and opportunities associated with the emerging design for the reservoir and the areas we've identified for its connecting infrastructure.

It also helps us identify if there is anything else we should consider as we develop our early thinking around key areas including construction, environmental mitigation and enhancement and transport options.

This illustration shows where our consultation zone covered and where we held consultation events.



HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED

242 Feedback submissions
received from statutory stakeholders, landowners and the general public

29,000
website page views

620
attendees
at our consultation events

Your feedback

We're pleased to have received really valuable feedback from local people and stakeholders, such as local parish and district councils, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and many more.

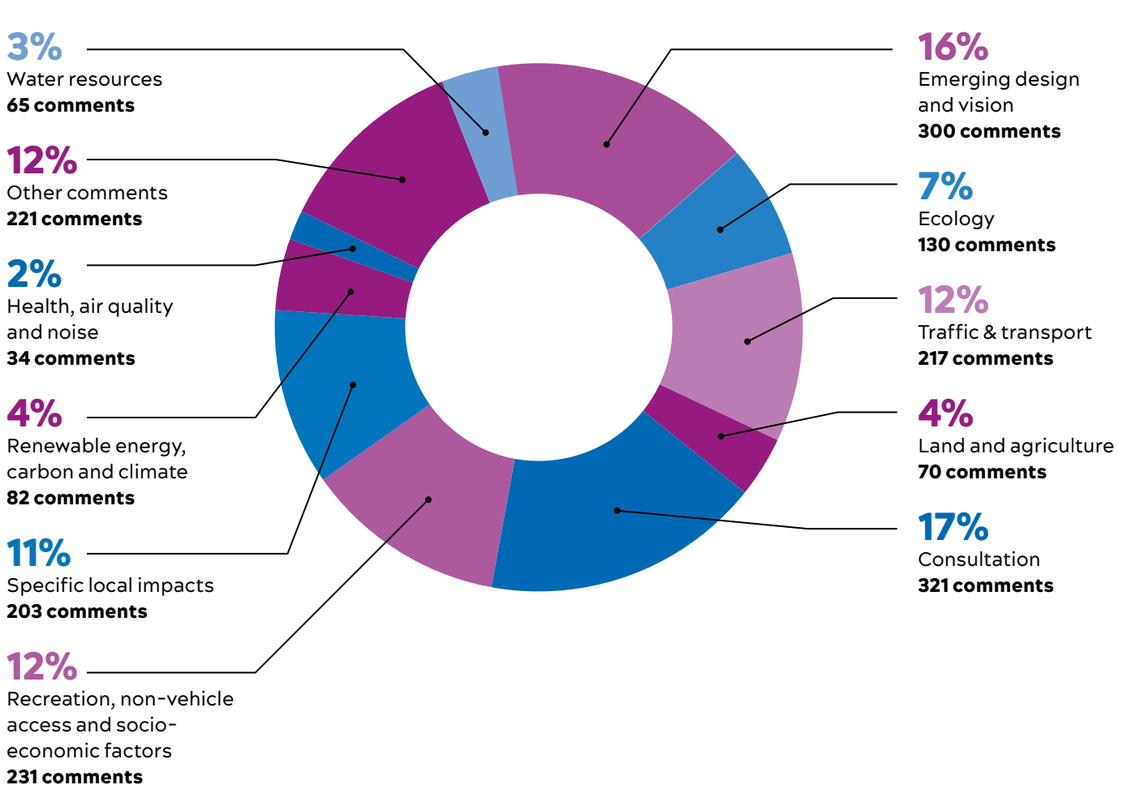
It's clear from your feedback on the emerging design that people want us to carefully consider the effects on surrounding communities and the environment. Your feedback builds on some of the themes that emerged during our phase one consultation. People would also like traffic and transport to be managed safely during both construction and operation.

When it came to our water sources infrastructure people told us that our plans should not negatively affect farmers' water resources and that we should explore opportunities to help manage flood risk.

From your feedback on our water supply infrastructure, we know that people want us to consider how potential impacts from the water treatment works on surrounding areas, specifically Swaton, can be mitigated.

Key themes in your feedback about the main reservoir site

The different topics that people commented on in response to our emerging design for the main reservoir site.



What you would like us to consider in our water sources infrastructure proposals

- Effects on water levels (both increasing and decreasing) and possible consequent effects on ecology
- Effects of reversing the natural flow of the South Forty Foot Drain
- The potential impact of the pumping stations on local communities
- Potential impacts on local land and properties
- Potential disruption and noise during the construction period
- Being mindful of existing infrastructure in the area

What you would like us to consider in our water supply infrastructure proposals

- Location, screening and potential impacts of the water treatment works, specifically on Swaton
- Construction timing, routes and impact on local areas and traffic
- Interaction with the SPA project
- Impact on local land and home owners
- Interaction with the local environment and existing habitats
- Potential impacts on agricultural land and operations

What people told us

Since our consultation closed, we've been analysing the feedback to better understand your concerns and reflect on what opportunities you would like us to consider.

We want to thank everyone for the feedback we've received throughout our phase two consultation.

The more feedback we receive, the more knowledge we gain of the local area, which is vital to inform the ongoing development of our proposals.

The Environmental Impact Assessment we are undertaking will also be important in helping us develop our proposals, as explained in the **what comes next** section of this document. This work will help us to identify and assess the likely significant effects of our proposals and further develop our plans for minimising and mitigating these.

Main reservoir site

Our emerging design for the main reservoir site includes opportunities for recreation, wildlife, nature and other features, and how the reservoir is likely to operate. We also included our early-stage proposals for wider areas of land in the vicinity of the reservoir we could need for environmental mitigation and enhancement, construction, or wider uses.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Emerging design, including the vision and principles	Some people are supportive of our proposed design, vision and principles, commenting that they're optimistic about the proposals. Others also commented that they were pleased to see recreation and wildlife central to our design vision and principles. Our proposals for how we'd integrated access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, recreation opportunities and ecology areas within the emerging design, were notably encouraged by some people. However, others expressed concerns about the design of the reservoir, specifically the size of the embankments. Some are concerned that the reservoir might be able to be seen from a substantial distance and felt that this could negatively impact the look of the landscape. Others are concerned about the locations of the visitors hub and the main access to the reservoir. They suggest that the proposed location is not ideal, especially given its proximity to Swaton.	It's great that people are enthusiastic about our emerging design. We're pleased to see that people recognise how the emerging design shows we're taking steps in the right direction to achieve our vision for the reservoir — to create a place where water, people and nature come together. The suggestions people have made are very useful to us, and we will be considering these as we continue to develop our recreational and ecological proposals. We know that some people are still concerned about the prominence of the reservoir, and how it may impact views from locations nearby. As the design continues to evolve, we will look for opportunities to make our impact on the landscape as positive as possible. All comments we've received will form part of this process. We know that some people are concerned about how close the areas we've identified for the main access and the visitor hub are to Swaton. With appropriate landscape treatment, the land between the visitor hub and Swaton could be designed to maintain a sense of separation between the reservoir and the village, while also presenting an opportunity to provide active travel connections with Swaton. We're at an early stage of developing our proposals regarding access and people's suggestions are very useful for how we will develop our proposals. We will be undertaking detailed surveys and technical studies to progress our thinking.
Recreational areas and opportunities	Some people are supportive of the opportunities for recreational areas included in the emerging design, and commented that water-based activities and walking and cycling paths are a welcome part of the proposals. People also commented that the proposed recreational areas could encourage more people to undertake physical activity or connect with nature, which could improve physical and mental health. However, others expressed concern that the proposed recreational areas would not be prioritised in practice, with some suggesting that recreational areas will not be built, either initially or at all, or that they may be short lived.	We're pleased to hear that some people are supportive of our proposed recreational opportunities and recreational areas. We're also grateful for all the suggestions received and we'll be looking at these as we develop our plans further. We know that some people are concerned about whether the recreational areas will be delivered in practice. This reservoir is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), treated separately from local authority planning processes, and is consented according to the strict rules set out by the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Act sets out the elements of an NSIP and its associated development that can be authorised by a Development Consent Order (DCO). It follows that not all potential land uses in and around the reservoir could be legally authorised by the DCO and it is therefore likely that certain potential uses identified in our emerging design would need to be developed separately (potentially by third parties) if it is ultimately considered that these would be appropriate long-term uses for the main site. We will continue to develop greater definition as to which of these recreational opportunities will be provided as part of the initial phase of development. Through our engagement with regional partners and stakeholders, it's clear that people also want us to think about how the reservoir could help enable separate, wider opportunities beyond those we hope to create for the reservoir itself. We're exploring exactly that, by working with others that share our ambition to boost environmental, social and economic prosperity in our unique region.
Accessing the reservoir	We received mixed views on the proposed primary access route, which comes off the A52. People told us that this is a busy and dangerous road and that we need to think carefully about safety. Some people suggested that building a roundabout by Mill Lane could reduce speed and increase safety. Others expressed concern that the roundabout could negatively affect road safety, as it increases the number of points where vehicles will need to cross paths. People suggested that we should consider opportunities for bus routes, bridleways, separate paths for cyclists and walkers, and wide all-weather walkways, which won't get muddy or slippery in wet weather, to ensure a variety of people can easily access the reservoir without a car.	Our proposals for reservoir access are still in its early stages. Safety will remain a high priority as we work on further developing our access proposals. This applies to all those accessing the reservoir, whether on foot, by bike, by car, and equestrians. In particular, we understand that the A52 is a busy and potentially dangerous road and that we need to carefully consider how visitors coming from this direction can safely cross this road to access the reservoir. The suggestions we've received, such as considering building a roundabout by Mill Lane, are being taken into consideration as our proposals for managing traffic safety evolve. As part of this, we will also work closely with the local highways authority to develop our thinking about how non-vehicular access to the reservoir, including via segregated active travel routes and public transport, could work.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Impact on local traffic	Some people raised questions over potential impacts to local roads, particularly in Swaton, as the main access and visitor parking would be close to the village. Some also told us that the road between Helpringham and Scredington is an important connection between local communities, noting that it is well used by agricultural workers, care givers and many others. Some commented that any diversion options we consider should not add considerable time to journeys between Helpringham and Scredington or significantly increase the amount of traffic travelling through surrounding local villages.	In our second phase of consultation, we presented our early thinking on traffic and transport. We are undertaking technical studies to progress our thinking. This work will help us provide the detail that people want to see at a future consultation. As we look to develop our proposals further, safety will remain our top priority. We know that we need to carefully consider safe traffic access to the reservoir, especially when accessing it from fast local roads. Our ongoing work with key stakeholders, including: local planning and highway authorities, Network Rail, National Highways, port authorities, the Environment Agency, and the internal drainage boards, will be valuable in helping us shape our traffic and transport plans. As will be the community's feedback as part of further consultation on the findings of our Traffic and Transport Assessment, which forms part of our Environmental Impact Assessment. When constructing the reservoir, the existing road link connecting Helpringham and Scredington (at the northern wetlands area of the main reservoir site) will be lost and will need to be replaced. However, we have a project commitment to maintain connectivity between the two locations. We are considering a range of different options for diverting this route.
Environmental opportunities and impacts	People expressed concern about the possible impacts of the project on local wildlife. Some people have also suggested that the project's environmental proposals seem contradictory, as they would replace ecologically rich areas that pre-date the reservoir. As a result, some said that any impact on wildlife during the reservoir's construction should be minimised wherever possible. Others also commented that the lagoon and wetland areas could attract mosquitoes and other water breeding insects, which could spread diseases. Some suggested that the potential impacts of these areas on water breeding insect populations be explored in detail, so any potential impacts can be mitigated.	We recognise that some people are concerned about the potential effects on wildlife of creating the reservoir. Biodiversity is very important to us, and there are many things we are doing to help protect local habitats and wildlife, including: • We are continuing to work with key expert stakeholders, including the Environment Agency and Natural England, throughout our design process. • We'll be conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the development of our proposals. This is an extremely detailed process, used to assess all likely significant environmental impacts of our proposals, and then minimise and mitigate them as much as possible. More information can be found in our fact sheet. • As part of our plans for constructing the reservoir, we will carefully consider how we can mitigate potential impacts of the project upon wildlife (e.g. by avoiding breeding periods). • We're committed to ensuring that the amount of biodiversity, within the main reservoir site, will be higher after the construction of the reservoir than before it. This is known as biodiversity net gain. The comments people made about the possible implications of wetlands introducing or increasing mosquito presence in the area are useful. This is something we will consider in relation to our ecological assessments and climate modelling work, as we will also need to consider how climate change could impact any new or existing ecosystems and the species they support. Where needed, the project team will seek insight and guidance from an independent specialist in this field to ensure all the potential impacts of wetland creation, including on human health, are explored robustly.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Renewable energy opportunities	People are supportive of the potential benefits of renewable energy, acknowledging the long term environmental benefits it could bring. Some expressed concerns about renewable energy opportunities, especially the possibility of wind turbines. People felt that, due to their height and appearance, these would be unfavourable to look at and would be seen from a distance.	We are committed to being an operationally carbon neutral business by 2030, and as such we are exploring opportunities to use renewable energy at the reservoir. Some people have expressed support for this. We understand that some are concerned about the potential visual impacts of wind turbines. Our proposals for renewables are early stage possibilities and open to change based on comments we've received and further technical studies. We will provide more information on this at a future stage of consultation. Once our plans for renewables have been developed further, all likely significant impacts will be evaluated as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment we're undertaking and will help inform our future renewable proposals.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Effects on the local area	People expressed concerns about the potential impact of the reservoir on local villages, including Swaton, Helpringham, Scredington, Burton Pedwardine and Spanby. Some have suggested that these neighbouring villages will be subject to potential disruption and associated impacts (including dust, noise and traffic) during the construction period and potentially beyond. Others were also concerned at the potential loss of agricultural land. Some people also expressed concern regarding the impact the project may be having on land and property owners' mental health. Some want us to consider our proposals and the support we provide to land and home owners.	We understand that our proposals will have an effect on homeowners, landowners and the nearby community and are sympathetic to this. We recognise that people are concerned about what the project will mean for local communities and are committed to assessing these impacts as the project develops. This will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and reported in the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted as part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The Environmental Statement will include a Socio-economic and Community chapter. We will be undertaking detailed surveys and technical studies to progress our thinking. The scope of these studies will be agreed with the Planning Inspectorate as part of the formal EIA scoping process, though noise, air quality and transport impacts will all be assessed. Through these processes we will investigate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, together with how we plan to reduce or limit these impacts. When we were considering locations for the reservoir, the quality of agricultural land and potential impacts were considered in the site selection process. Due to the required size of the reservoir, all possible locations would have impacted agricultural land. However, the reservoir will play a critical role in securing water supply long into the future, which is important to the continued success of the region's agriculture and food production industries. We are looking to minimise impacts of the project upon the agricultural industry and are liaising with local farmers and stakeholders, such as the National Farmers Union, to better understand the impacts of our proposals on the industry. We will continue to liaise with these important stakeholders so that we can minimise potential impacts of the project on local agriculture. We understand that our proposals affect landowners, homeowners, and nearby communities, and we are committed to working with these individuals and groups as the project develops. We are in close communication with affected home and landowners and are committed to working with them to mitigate potential impacts where possible. This includes: • Contacting and providing updated information to those whose land or property is affected by the project prior to public release of new information. • Arranging meetings and drop-in sessions with affected land / property owners and their representatives, including through our Land Engagement Forum (LEF). • Launched a Residential Property Support Scheme (RPSS), which provides assistance to homeowners within the project boundary who wish to sell.
Construction	People were concerned about construction traffic, especially given the rural nature of some of the roads surrounding the proposed reservoir. Some commented that some routes wouldn't be suitable or safe for heavy vehicles to be travelling on. Others were concerned about the increase in noise and air pollution that construction traffic would bring.	We know that some are concerned about the potential impacts of constructing the reservoir, and we presented our early thinking on this during our phase two consultation. In the next stage of the project we will progress our thinking on construction. This work will be informed by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) we are undertaking. The EIA will help us to identify and assess all likely significant impacts that could result from construction activity, and where possible mitigation measures. Our ongoing work with key stakeholders, including: local planning and highway authorities, Network Rail, National Highways, port authorities, the Environment Agency, and the internal drainage boards, will be valuable in helping us shape our traffic and transport plans. As will be the community's feedback and the findings of our Traffic and Transport Assessment, which forms part of our Environmental Impact Assessment. This work will help us provide the detail that people want to see, at a future consultation.
Other comments	Some are concerned about the safety and integrity of the reservoir, particular the emergency drawdown procedure. Separately, people have also asked for more information about how the proposals would impact local flood risks, and what we would do to mitigate this.	We're taking measures to ensure the safety and integrity of the reservoir. We are designing the reservoir in line with the latest industry guidance and standards, following the legislation set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975. Our current work shows releasing water from the reservoir in a controlled manner into an upgraded Helpringham South Beck channel to the South Forty Foot Drain, then on to the sea, as the preferred option. This would avoid water being released into Swaton Eau, Helpringham Eau and North Beck. We are continuing to assess options and will consider the potential environmental effects of an emergency drawdown event as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. We will also incorporate several other safety features into the design of our reservoir, to ensure we can continuously monitor the reservoir's integrity and ensure our plans remain highly effective throughout the reservoir's operation. Assessment of flood risk was a central part of our site selection process, and during the design of the reservoir we carefully considered how we would manage water and flood risk. We are committed to exploring opportunities for the reservoir to assist with local flood risk management and to ensure it does not contribute to any increased risk to river flooding both now and in the future. To help us achieve this, we are working closely with the flood authorities who play a fundamental role in managing water and flood risk in the East of England, including the Environment Agency, local councils, and internal drainage boards.

Water sources infrastructure

The water sources infrastructure proposals show the areas we've identified for the infrastructure needed to transfer water from sources to the reservoir. That infrastructure includes equipment to take in water flows, pump the water and, where needed, treatment facilities to remove impurities and manage water quality. It also includes underground pipelines to transfer water to the reservoir, and the routes to transfer water into the reservoir using existing open channel waterways.

At this stage, we've identified the broad areas of land for the infrastructure needed, which we will seek to refine. Our proposals will continue to develop based on further assessments and feedback received.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Water sources	Some people have said they support the water sources infrastructure proposals, suggesting that these could help to manage water levels on some watercourses. However, others expressed concern about fluctuating water levels, and want us to consider how this could affect biodiversity, boating and available water for farmers. Some of the water courses mentioned included the Kyme Eau, the Fossdyke canal, River Witham and the South Forty Foot Drain.	The project is still at an early stage, especially our water sources infrastructure proposals. All feedback received is very valuable to us as we develop our proposals further. We are also working with local water level management stakeholders to build an integrated water management plan to understand how to develop our proposals with full cognisance of the impact of our work on the water level management in the area.
Environment	People also expressed concerns about flooding, with some keen to understand what our proposed use of the South Forty Foot Drain would mean for flood risk. Some questioned how the South Forty Foot drain would function with more water travelling through it. Others questioned the effects of reversing the natural flow of the South Forty Foot Drain and expressed concern with the impacts this may have on wildlife. They suggest these effects should be thoroughly explored to mitigate impacts.	We know that people are concerned about flooding. We are committed to ensuring our plans for getting water to and from the reservoir are designed to cause no wider change in flood risk, and align with other flood risk management schemes. We are working closely with the flood authorities who play a fundamental role in managing water and flood risk in the East of England as we progress our thinking on this topic. We are also carrying out modelling to help us work out how best to operate the infrastructure needed to transfer water to the reservoir via open waterways, including pumping stations. That includes making sure we don't use the transfer routes when water levels are already high in open waterways, such as the Foss Dyke Canal and South Forty Foot Drain, and understanding how frequently pumping stations may operate. We will continue to closely engage with flood navigation and drainage authorities, in particular the Environment Agency, Canals and Rivers Trust, and Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board, as we complete this work. We are also carrying out a Flood Risk Assessment, which will make sure the transfers are operated in a way that won't negatively impact flood risk. We will consider if improvements to some of the existing channels feeding the reservoir are required that may provide wider benefits for flood risk reduction and habitat creation, among others. All feedback received on how and where our plans might affect flooding risk is also very useful to us.
Local impacts	People expressed concerns about potential impacts the pumping stations included in our water sources infrastructure — particularly those which we've identified could be located near Torksey Lock and Swaton — could have on local communities. Some people raised noise pollution and disruption during construction as particular concerns.	We have been working with those affected by our plans to understand and minimise the effects on them. We have also been in contact with local parish councils about potential local impacts. As our plans continue to develop, we will be looking to work further with local communities to ensure our plans reflect local knowledge and seek to minimise and mitigate local impacts.
Construction	Some are supportive of the option we've identified to use a pipeline, instead of existing waterways, to transfer water from the River Witham to the reservoir, commenting that this would reduce long term impacts on the landscape. Others expressed concerns about some of the proposed locations associated with the combined options, notably around Chapel Hill, due to existing infrastructure in the area.	We've identified two options for how we could draw water from the River Witham when it's available to use and transfer it to the reservoir. One involves an underground pipeline, and the other includes transferring the water via a combination of new infrastructure and existing waterways. We are continuing to explore both options as the combined option has the potential to support wider benefits for the area. Carrying out the enhancement works to the waterways could unlock new environmental and navigation opportunities. However, this option would need to be supported by other organisations if it were to be part of the project and deliver these benefits, and so we are doing more studies and engaging with the relevant stakeholders to understand this. All feedback received on both options, including where there is existing infrastructure we need to consider such as at Chapel Hill, is useful. It will help inform our continued work to identify a preferred option for transferring available water from the River Witham to the reservoir.

Water supply infrastructure

The infrastructure we need to treat the water stored at the reservoir and supply it to homes and businesses.

This includes a new water treatment works located at the reservoir, and the underground pipelines to transfer the treated water to Anglian Water connection points for supply to our customers. It also includes the areas we've identified for new service reservoirs at each connection point to help us put the water into the supply network.

At this stage we've identified the broad areas of land for the infrastructure needed. Our proposals will continue to develop based on further assessments and feedback received.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Water treatment works	Some people expressed concerns about the proposed water treatment work's proximity to Swaton, wary of impacts including light and noise pollution, smell and traffic. Others requested more information on how the water treatment works will look and how it will be screened to help protect views from local communities and nearby properties.	In our second phase of consultation we presented an area in which the water treatment works could be located. The next stage of the project will see us refine this area further as well as consider the facility's design and how potential impacts on the local area could be mitigated. We will provide more information on the water treatment works, and consider the feedback we have received to inform how we will integrate it with its surroundings. How the water treatment works could look will be the subject of a future consultation.
Environment and water levels	Some people are concerned about how pipelines could impact water drainage, ancient woodland and existing habitats. To reduce these impacts, some suggested buffers between areas of scientific or historic interest and pipelines and careful timing of construction to avoid the breeding periods of local birds.	At our second phase of consultation we presented our water supply infrastructure proposals. This included wide pipeline route corridors, within which a much smaller route corridor would be defined. In this next stage, we will be undertaking further technical and environmental assessments to help us narrow this corridor for the pipeline route. A key part of this process will be constraint mapping local issues. The feedback we received will be considered as part of this process — and where possible we will avoid valuable environmental areas. These pipes, watercourses and pumping stations will also be designed to account for flood events. Our Environmental Impact Assessment work will also help us identify whether any mitigations are needed to help us protect local species during construction. The suggestions people have made are very useful to us, and we will be considering these as we develop our proposals for the water supply infrastructure.
Local impacts	Some raised questions about how the locations of the water supply infrastructure had been reached, with some people feeling that other options should be explored. Some also expressed concerns about the potential impacts on landowners, commenting that they feel not enough time has been given for landowners to consider their options. Some people also noted their concerns that the pipelines could damage agricultural land.	We've completed a multi-stage assessment to identify preferred ways for transferring water to and from the reservoir, and the infrastructure needed. The preferred options we've identified for the water supply infrastructure are the ones that, when combined, performed best against our appraisal process, achieving what we need to transfer water to the reservoir, treat the water, and supply it to homes and businesses. Our options appraisal process — including details of the alternatives we considered and why we did not progress them — is explained in our options appraisal report, available here. We are committed to working with homeowners, landowners and communities as we develop our proposals further, to help maximise opportunities and minimise impacts. We are already in contact with land and property owners affected by our proposals, and made sure to contact those we could identify in advance of the public, and before the start of our phase two consultation. At our second phase of consultation we presented broad areas of land within which the water supply infrastructure could be located. In this next stage, we will be undertaking further technical and environmental assessments to help us refine these areas, including the pipeline corridors, and identify preferred locations for the infrastructure within them.
Construction	Some questioned how the construction work would impact homes and land. People are particularly concerned in areas which are also host to Anglian Water's Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) pipeline, which is a separate project being delivered across the region, including between Peterborough and Grantham. Others have expressed concern regarding construction traffic, commenting that they feel Wilsthorpe road would not be suitable for use by construction vehicles because it is a fast, busy and sometimes dangerous road.	We understand that some people are concerned about the impacts of constructing the water supply infrastructure, and that they want more information than we were able to present in our second phase of consultation. The Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) project is much further ahead in project development and construction in order to meet our near-term water transfer requirements. We are aware that our proposed pipeline corridors for the Lincolnshire reservoir affect some areas of land that will be used to build the SPA pipeline. We are evaluating different engineering options to minimise disruption to local communities impacted by both projects. Local insight is very valuable to us. As we look to develop our proposals further, safety will remain our top priority. We know that we need to carefully consider safe access to construction areas, especially when accessing it from fast local roads.

General

This includes other insights people shared, including feedback about the supporting information we shared about our approach to a range of topics and themes that we know are important. It also includes what people thought about the consultation itself.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Project costs and funding	Some people raised concerns about how the project will be funded and requested more clarity on this point. Specifically, they were interested in how the reservoir would be delivered via an Infrastructure Provider, which would be a corporate entity 'Reservoir Company' operating under licence to Ofwat. Others also felt that there were less costly alternatives to a reservoir, such as leak reduction and promoting water saving habits, and suggested that these be explored.	In England, the cost of essential public water supply infrastructure is ultimately paid for by water customers. However, this can be on differing timeframes, depending on how each water company and its projects are financed. It is the role of Ofwat, the water sector's economic regulator, to ensure customers get value for money; that water companies are efficient yet sufficiently funded; and that there is an investor market willing to finance capital investment programmes with appropriate levels of returns. In the delivery and operational phase (when the reservoir is built and used, subject to achieving development consent) of the proposed Lincolnshire Reservoir, funding is expected to be secured via a third party Infrastructure Partner (IP), under the Specified Infrastructure Project Regulations 2013 (SIPR), meaning a newly appointed corporate entity is competitively tendered and established under a project licence agreement with Ofwat. The IP will build and finance the reservoir and its associated water infrastructure, in accordance with the planning consent, provide the ongoing supply of treated water to Anglian Water, who will then continue to distribute it to customers. The SIPR model has most recently been used successfully to deliver the Thames Tideway tunnel project in London. It is anticipated that delivery of the Reservoir via the SIPR model will help to ensure achieve the best possible value for money outcome for customers. The delivery of opportunities and the management of potential impacts will be primarily secured through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process. The Development Consent Order will incorporate conditions which must be complied with during construction and operation. Compliance with these conditions will be monitored and, if necessary, enforced, by the local planning authority. When considering the best value options for securing water supply for the region, we've evaluated many options including desalination, water recycling, aquifer storage, and water recovery. Reservoirs contain a volume of water that provides a level of resilience and environmental opportunities that are not provided by other resource options such as desalination or water reuse. Our latest Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) identifies the new reservoir in Lincolnshire as a crucial investment needed to meet the growing demands on water supplies in the East of England. More information about how we plan future resources can be found in our WRMP here.
The consultation process, events and materials	Some felt positive about the events, commenting that they were clear and informative. While others felt that the events did not provide them with the clarity they were looking for. Some felt the consultation materials were clear and comprehensive, while others have told us they wanted them to contain more detail. For example, some suggested that the maps in the materials were unclear. Others commented that the feedback form did not provide them with the amount of space they would have liked to provide feedback.	All feedback received is very valuable to us, so it's great to hear that people liked our consultation materials and events, and appreciated the opportunity to have their say. Some people said the consultation materials were too detailed while others suggested they were not detailed enough. Because we know that people will seek varying levels of information, we created and published: • Three brochures (A guide to our proposals, Our main site design brochure, Our associated water infrastructure proposals), predominantly for the general public. • Technical documents on the project's proposals, as we appreciate that some people are interested in the more technical detail. We will continue to refine our content style in our main public brochures, taking into account all feedback, whilst also raising awareness of our more technical documents for those that require more detailed information. We will look for ways to make our print and online maps easier to understand for our next phase of consultation. We appreciate that some people felt they did not have enough space in the feedback form to provide their views. We had looked to provide ample space by including an 'any other comments' question at the end of each section. We also accepted feedback that had been emailed or posted to us, without the form being used. We will continue to make sure people can easily participate and submit feedback in future consultations.

What comes next

Your feedback is crucial to developing our proposals further.

Next steps

Our summer 2024 consultation was the second phase in a multi-phase consultation approach. Local communities, stakeholders and landowners have a crucial role to play in helping to shape our proposals and this will continue as we progress our plans for this vital new water resource.

Both of our new reservoirs in Lincolnshire and in the Cambridgeshire Fens are a key part of our latest Water Resources Management Plan which sets out when each reservoir is needed.

To ensure we deliver that plan, while also managing impacts on customer bills over the next five to 10 years through our AMP8 and AMP9 periods, we have reviewed some of the timings for the reservoir in Lincolnshire.

Our target for the reservoir to be in supply by 2039 at the earliest remains the same, but the pre-application phase will now be extended by around two years. This will give us more time to meaningfully engage with everyone who could be impacted by the project. It will ensure we develop the project in a way that best reflects your feedback and seeks to mitigate impacts, while also spreading out our investment costs to our customers.

Future consultations are planned to take place between 2026 and 2027, and we plan to submit our application for development consent in Autumn 2028.

The consenting process

This reservoir is recognised as being a strategic regional asset. The volume of water it can hold means it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and is treated separately from local authority planning processes, although local authorities are key stakeholders in this process.

The government agency responsible for examining NSIPs is the Planning Inspectorate, who acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We will work with them as we prepare our application and submit it for acceptance. If accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate, a panel of inspectors will be appointed who will then examine the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the project should be granted development consent. It is the Secretary of State that makes the final decision.

Environmental Impact Assessment

We're now progressing with our environmental assessment work to help us identify and assess the likely significant effects of our proposals, and further develop our plans for minimising and mitigating these.

This process is a crucial part of the consenting process and will help us make design decisions informed by what we need to do to avoid or reduce impacts.

The findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be reported in an Environmental Statement that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of our Development Consent Order application for the project.

We will provide further environmental information during a future phase of consultation, including publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

For more information about the EIA process, view our approach to the environment factsheet.

Keep informed

We'll keep people up to date via our project website, and our email and freephone continue to be available if people would like to get in touch. Those who would like to sign up for our newsletter can do so by subscribing online.

We also hold regular Community Liaison Group meetings with members of the community in the areas surrounding the proposed reservoir. Please note that these meetings are on an invite-only basis.

The development timeline

2022-2027

Pre-application consultation (multiple phases)

Have your say

DCO application submitted

2028/29

2029

DCO examination

Secretary of State Decision

2029/30

2031/32

Construction of reservoir starts

Reservoir in supply (earliest)

2039

Please note: this timeline is indicative and may change as our proposals develop.

How to get in touch

The close of our consultation doesn't mark the end of our communication with stakeholders and valued members of the community.

We encourage you to sign up for email updates to keep up to date with the latest project information. You can register for updates on our website.

Please get in touch with any questions.

Email **info@lincsreservoir.co.uk**

Write **Freepost Lincs Reservoir**

Freephone **0800 915 2491**

Website **www.lincsreservoir.co.uk**

love every drop anglianwater