love every drop
anglianwater

Cambridge Water

A proposed reservoir in the Fens

Phase one consultation brochure

October 2022

Contents

Rutland Water, East Midlands

A joint message from us

"Water is vital to the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of the East of England, and to maintaining a thriving natural environment that we can all enjoy.

Geoff Darch
Water Resources Strategy Manager
Anglian Water

Natalie Akroyd
Head of Water Strategy and Environment
Cambridge Water

The East of England is one of the driest and fastest-growing regions in the country, and is home to many unique and precious landscapes that rely on water. This summer's drought and heat wave are just some of the kinds of extreme weather challenges that are becoming more common.

We all need to work together and invest heavily today to help prepare for and meet tomorrow's challenges.

The proposed new reservoir that we are developing together in partnership – which will be around the size of Anglian Water's Grafham Water near Huntingdon – will help to secure water supplies for the East of England, while protecting the environment from the effects of climate change.

We expect the new reservoir to enable wider social, environmental and economic benefits too. The new reservoir will be a valuable leisure destination for activities such as walking, cycling, sailing and angling.

It will be used to support and conserve wildlife and biodiversity, protecting valuable species and providing new habitats for wildlife and to provide a variety of places to explore and learn, offering people the chance to get closer to nature.

The reservoir will help to ensure resilient supplies for decades to come and contribute to our long term goals of ensuring the East of England is resilient to the risks of drought and flooding. It will enable sustainable economic and housing growth whilst also enabling improvements in ecological quality across our catchments.

You can play an important role in helping to shape our proposals, so they best serve the needs of everyone.

We look forward to receiving your feedback."

About the project

Anglian Water, working in partnership with Cambridge Water, is proposing a new reservoir in the Fens that will secure water supply to our customers for future generations.

The new reservoir will store more water so it's always on tap when we need it, meeting the challenges of a changing climate and a growing population. It will mean less water is taken from sensitive sources, such as chalk streams, helping us to protect and restore the environment.

Alongside meeting these challenges, the project presents significant social, economic and environmental opportunities. Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where water, people and nature come together.

That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

Together, Anglian Water and Cambridge Water have undertaken a detailed site selection study to identify a proposed site for the reservoir. We've considered a wide range of factors as part of this study from people and communities, landscape and environment, engineering requirements, and many more.

Through this process we've identified a best-performing site – one which balances all of the factors we must consider, and that provides opportunities to unlock wider benefits.

The proposed site is between Chatteris and March, near to Doddington, Wimblington and Manea. During times of high rainfall, river flows from the Great Ouse catchment would feed the reservoir with water.

The water stored at the reservoir will then be treated and transported so it can be supplied to people's homes and businesses throughout the year.

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.

Provide your views on our proposals

Our proposals are at an early stage. We understand the effect on those impacted by our proposals including homeowners, landowners and the nearby community. We are committed to working with everyone as the project develops and want to hear all views on our emerging proposals.

In this booklet there is information about our proposals and what we'd welcome your feedback on.

Your local knowledge is very valuable. It will help us to further understand any potential impacts and opportunities and inform the development of our proposals going forward.

We're keen to understand your views on the area we have identified for the reservoir and the features you'd like to see included as the design develops.

Our consultation is open from 12 October 2022 until 21 December 2022.

See page 25 for how to provide your feedback.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Grafham Water, Huntingdonshire

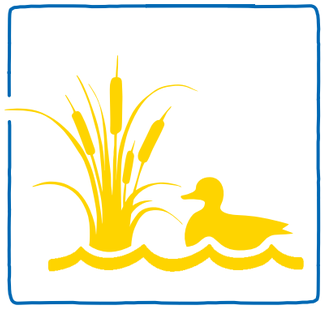
Creating a new destination

Our existing reservoirs not only provide vital water resources for the region, they also provide a range of other benefits. They:

Support a whole host of activities and facilities including:

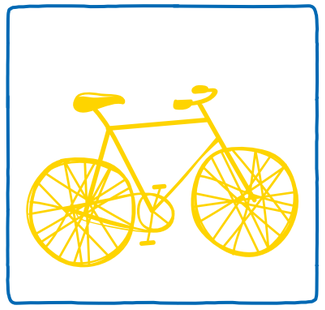
- beaches and nature parks
- water sports and fishing clubs
- business and community events
- cycling and walking trails

Offer the chance for people to enjoy nature, and make sure wildlife can thrive with:



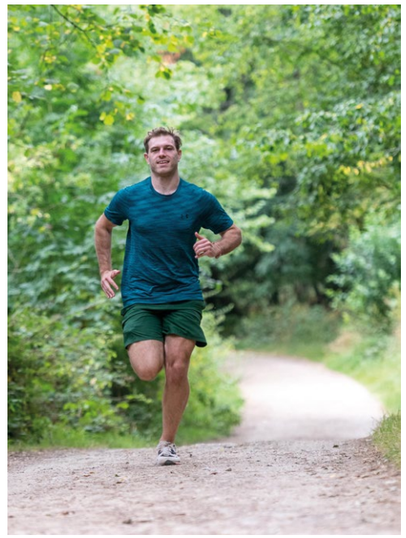
- space for nature reserves and parks
- wetlands and meadows
- educational nature workshops
- nature trails and bird watching

Welcome two million people every year:



- Rutland Water
- Grafham Water
- Alton Water
- Pitsford Water
- Ravensthorpe Reservoir
- Hollowell Reservoir
- Covenham Reservoir

Rutland Water, East Midlands



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That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

Rutland Water, East Midlands

About us

About Anglian Water

Anglian Water supplies water and wastewater services to almost seven million customers in the East of England and Hartlepool. We employ 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 in excess of 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 the 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.

About Cambridge Water

Cambridge Water is a water only company supplying high-quality drinking water to around 351,000 people in and around the city of Cambridge. Our operating area extends from Ramsey in the north to beyond Melbourn in the south, and from Gamlingay in the west to the east of Cambridge city.

We have a long history of delivering an essential public service that enables our customers to go about their daily lives. We work in partnership with our local communities, and to protect and enhance the local environment. We also run an efficient business, which is in everyone's interests.

We are playing our part to deliver an ambitious £600 million investment programme by 2025 – our largest ever – to deliver for our customers, communities and the environment.

Both Cambridge Water and Anglian Water identified the need for a reservoir in the Fens that can store water to supply to our customers.

Since then, we have been working in partnership to progress our plans for the new reservoir. We will continue to work together now and throughout the process of delivering this reservoir.

Planning for the future

Making sure we continue to have a reliable supply of water takes careful planning and co-ordination, nationally and regionally.

The **National Framework for Water Resources** explores England's long-term water needs. It considers what actions are required to provide water in the future, and how much is needed in each region.

The five regional water resource groups develop **regional plans**. In our region, that's **Water Resources East (WRE)**. Regional plans set out more detail on the water supplies for the region, including the needs of the environment. The emerging WRE regional plan identifies the need for new reservoirs as a key element of the overall package to ensure our region can continue to thrive.

Water companies then develop a **Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)** setting their plans and investments – such as improving efficiency; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources.

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water's existing plans - both published in 2019 - set out what we need to do from 2020 to 2045. Both plans identified new reservoirs as a crucial solution to meet the growing demands on water supplies in the East of England.

The proposed new reservoir is part of a process set up by the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) to develop new strategic water resource solutions. RAPID is made up of the three water regulators – **Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat),** the **Environment Agency (EA)** and the **Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI)**.

RAPID assesses proposals for new large-scale, strategic investments to make sure water companies are progressing proposals that best meet their customers' needs. This assessment is carried out when companies submit information about their proposals at points in time called 'gates'. There are five gates in total, and we are approaching gate two, which is in November 2022.

Find out more

Both Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are currently developing new plans setting out what we need to do from 2025 to 2050. We will each publish our new plans in draft in November 2022 for public consultation (a separate process from the consultation on the proposed reservoir in the Fens). The proposal for the new reservoir in the Fens will continue to be an important part of both our plans.

Find out more about Anglian Water's WRMP at: **https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/water-resources-management-plan/**

Find out more about Cambridge Water's WRMP at: **https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/environment/managing-water-resources/water-resources-management-plan**

Why the reservoir is needed

Water is vital to health and wellbeing, to the economic prosperity of the East of England, and to maintaining a thriving natural environment that we can all enjoy.

Yet we face growing challenges to supply, from population growth in our region and a changing climate. 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.

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.

A new reservoir in the Fens

The proposed new reservoir in the Fens 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.

Reservoirs provide a level of resilience, volume of water, and environmental opportunities that are not provided by other resource options such as desalination or water reuse. They take excess river water in winter, when flows are at their highest, and store it for use in dry summers, when water is more scarce.

This enables us to make the most of wet weather to then service periods of dry weather. It also reduces the reliance on ground water sources, which in turn enables ground water recovery, such as to chalk streams.

When we looked at where we might best build reservoirs across our broader region, we identified rivers in both Lincolnshire and the Fens areas as having enough water surplus in the winter.

Providing two large new reservoirs, one in each area, would give sufficient water supply to enable resilience to future droughts, while protecting our most sensitive environments.

Together, the two reservoirs will make the most of the available resources and provide water to local communities and businesses across our region, including in Cambridgeshire.

How we identified a location for the reservoir

We've carried out a detailed site selection study to identify the proposed site for the reservoir.

The site selection process

We completed multiple stages of assessments to identify our proposed site. This aimed to make sure we identified a location that would be suitable for hosting a reservoir, and aimed to minimise impacts on nearby areas and communities, and meet planning and regulatory frameworks.

Looking across a broad search area we identified a large number of potential locations and assessed how they performed against a wide range of factors. Geology plays a significant role in selecting a site for a reservoir; equally we needed to exclude areas of land where the reservoir could not be located due to existing restrictions or protections.

The site locations that performed best at each stage were taken forward and assessed again, in more detail, against a range of criteria including those below.

At each stage the list got shorter until we identified a best-performing site – one which balances all of the factors we considered, and that also provides significant opportunities to unlock wider benefits.

The factors we assessed

People and community: the effects on the local area from the reservoir and during construction, including on agriculture, local businesses, homes and communities.

Engineering: the suitability of the ground and underlying material for the construction of the reservoir embankment, the need to design and build in a safe and carbon efficient manner, traffic and transport movements, and flooding risks.

Environment: the effect on natural environment features such as nature conservation sites, and sites of historic and cultural importance such as listed buildings, and scheduled monuments.

Wider benefits: the potential opportunities the location of the reservoir could offer for measures to support biodiversity; the local economy; reducing flood risk; creating links to communities; leisure and tourism.

Economic: the costs for the reservoir over its whole life cycle – from planning and building through to its ongoing operation, including the need to deliver value for money to our customers.

Carbon: the carbon emissions related to the construction and operation of the reservoir, including water industry targets to be operationally Net Zero by 2030.

Landscape: the effect on protected landscapes such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, local landscape character, and views.

Working with stakeholders

Through all our work to identify the best performing site, we've sought input from a range of stakeholders on our proposals, as they continued to develop.

> **Eastern England, one of the driest parts of the country, needs to make the most of the rain that does fall in our river catchments. That means significantly more water storage is urgently needed. Water Resources East is proud to play its part and I'm delighted to see the opportunities the project brings beginning to be brought to life.**

Daniel Johns
Managing Director
Water Resources East
and Chair, **Fens Water Partnership**

This has ensured our work has been informed by those responsible for the local area and the region's environment, alongside our own teams.

We have engaged with:

- national bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England
- the local authorities in Cambridgeshire to keep informed of their own proposals for the region, and seek their opinion on how the reservoir could minimise potential impacts, and maximise potential benefits
- existing water-focused groups including Water Resources East and the Fens Water Partnership, of which Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are members
- agriculture groups to hear their views on the importance of water to agriculture as a key industry for the local economy

This work has helped guide and inform the development of our proposals so far to ensure we're assessing factors that are important for the region.

These groups and organisations, alongside others, are also being encouraged to provide their feedback to this consultation, so we can continue to take their views into account.

Find out more

If you'd like more information on how we identified a best performing site and the information we considered, please read our **Site Selection Report** (see page 26 for details).

The proposed site area

Through our site selection process we identified that the best performing site for the proposed reservoir is an area north of Chatteris, as shown on the map.

When assessing the most suitable sites, this location was found to be the most appropriate for building a new reservoir, and, on balance, performed best across a range of the key factors we assessed. It also provides the potential opportunities to deliver wider benefits to the regional economy and neighbouring communities.

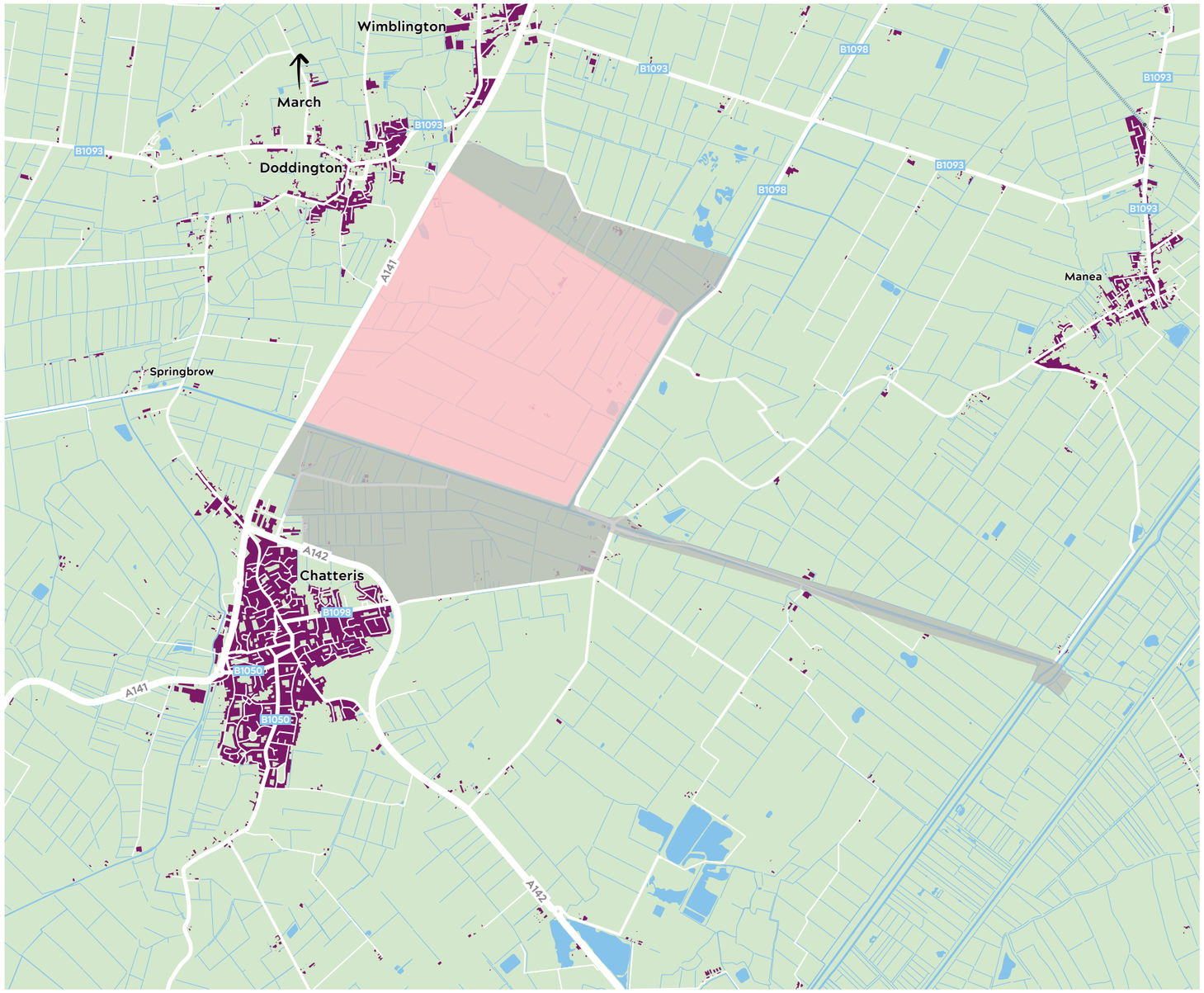
Building the reservoir and its connecting infrastructure

To build the reservoir, we will excavate soil and underlying material from the site and use this to create a surrounding embankment that will contain the water in the reservoir.

In addition to the embankment, the primary infrastructure needed is:

- a water treatment plant
- water pumping equipment and pipelines
- inlet/outlet facilities within the reservoir
- other equipment for operating and maintaining the reservoir

Your consultation feedback will help inform our design process. We will provide further information on the location of this infrastructure as part of a future consultation, where you will be able to provide feedback on these proposals.



The proposed site area includes:

Pink area: area for the reservoir and its embankments.

Grey area: this is an initial wider area of land we could need for supporting infrastructure and during construction. This is also where we could include wildlife and environmental areas, spaces for leisure and recreation, education facilities and others. These are the additional developments that would help ensure the reservoir brings social and environmental benefits, alongside water supply. This area is only indicative at this stage and is subject to change following consultation, and as we develop our proposals.

Have your say

We'd like to hear your views on the areas we've identified for the reservoir and its embankments (pink) and the area of land around it that would support additional infrastructure and measures (grey).

We welcome any local knowledge you may have that we should be aware of before we develop our proposals further. **See page 25 for how to provide feedback.**

Water surface area
Size:
5km²
(a little smaller than Grafham Water)

Volume
55 million
cubic metres
(50 million usable volume)

The reservoir could supply up to:
87 million litres
of water per day

250,000
homes
throughout the year

Water will come from
Great Ouse
catchment

Reservoir
needs to be in supply by
2040

What the reservoir could deliver

We're at a very early stage in our proposals for the reservoir.

Its design will evolve as we continue to refine our proposals for the project, based on further studies and feedback received from this phase and future phases of consultation.

Alongside meeting the challenges of a changing climate and growing population, the project presents significant social and environmental opportunities. Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where water, people and nature come together.

That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

The table below explains the broad principles that are guiding the development of the design for the reservoir. There is also more information on the features we could include and a concept design on the following pages.

We plan to include features that local communities would value and use, like those shown across some of these images. We would like to identify opportunities to deliver ecological benefits and promote sustainability. And we will find ways to contribute to the health and economy of the area.

This is an opportunity to create a place that everyone values.

CLIMATE

- managing water sustainably in a changing climate
- minimising carbon emissions and waste
- designing the project so that it is resilient to the effects of a changing climate

PEOPLE

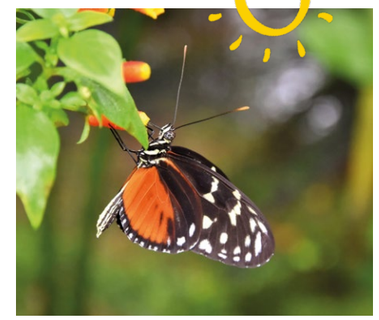
- making sure the project responds to local communities' needs
- engaging meaningfully with people as the project is developed
- delivering a project that's inclusive and improves wellbeing, with improved access to outdoor space

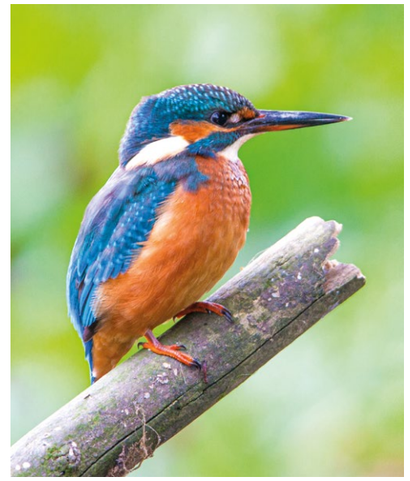
PLACE

- developing the reservoir responsibly, in a way that's sensitive to its place and context
- ensuring a nature-led approach that looks to enhance the surrounding environment
- creating a project that's been thoughtfully designed to be attractive

VALUE

- ensuring the reservoir is delivered in a way that maximises benefits for the area
- exploring further possible benefits and looking at ways these could be supported or enabled
- making sure the project has a lasting and positive contribution to society

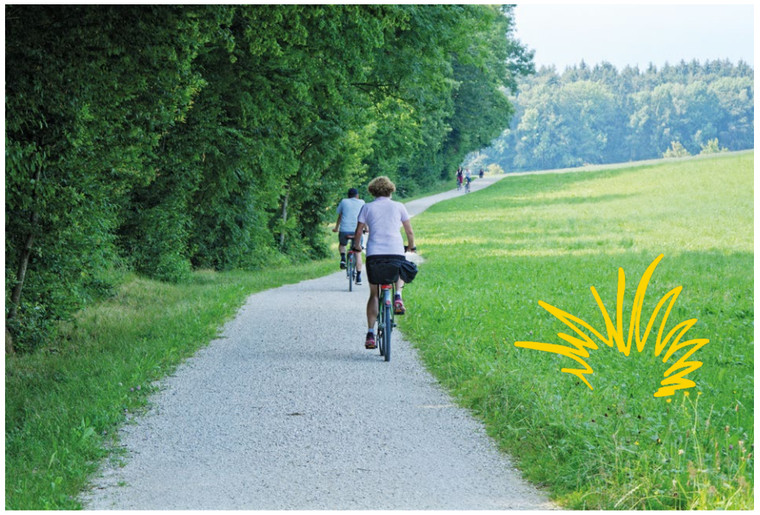




Have your say

We'd like to hear your views on the wider features you'd like to see included as we develop a design for the reservoir.

See page 18 to see our early concept design and page 25 for how to provide feedback.



Rutland Water, East Midlands

Help shape our proposals

You have a role to play in helping to shape the design of the reservoir and we're keen to get feedback from local people.

As part of this consultation we have provided a very early concept design for the reservoir to help stimulate thought and discussion. It shows some of the potential features we hope to include in the reservoir like wildlife areas, recreation and water sports, green infrastructure like cycleways and renewable energy, and others. This will be developed further as the project progresses taking into account your feedback.

The embankment illustration gives an early indication of what the reservoir could look like. The height of the embankments would vary around the reservoir and could be potentially up to 20 metres in places.

The outer faces of the embankments will be designed to reflect the character of the existing landscape. There are opportunities to reflect the straight lines of existing water courses or look at options to create a visual contrast.

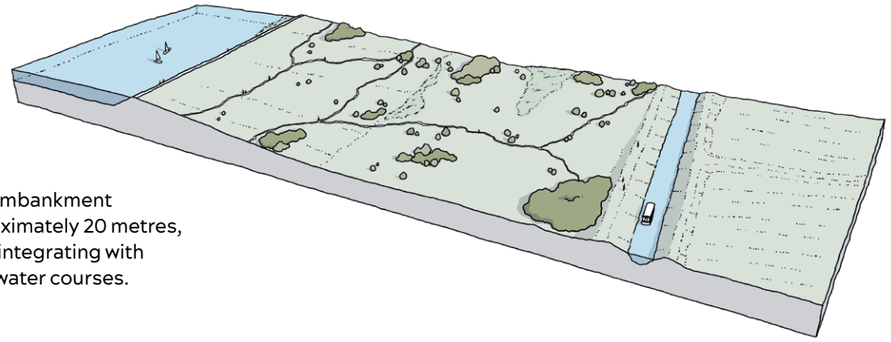
Where villages are close to the embankments, we will carefully consider views to and from the reservoir.

Any buildings required for the reservoir will also be thoughtfully designed to feature in a flat landscape. There is opportunity to create interesting, elegant structures reflecting the vertical lines of the existing landscape.

Have your say

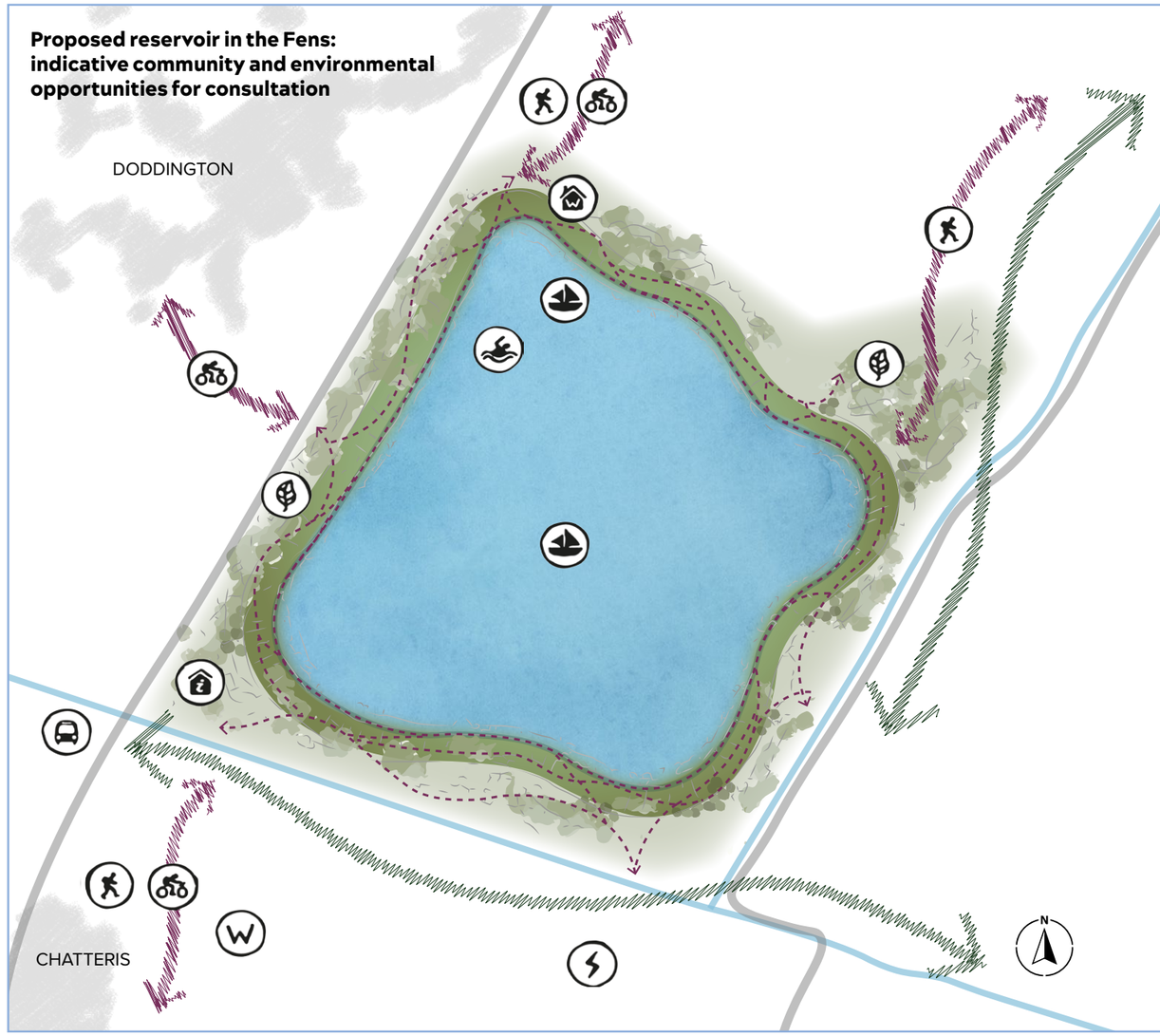
Do you have any comments on the early concept design at this stage or the features you would like to see included in the reservoir?

See page 25 for how to provide feedback.



Example illustration of embankment showing height at approximately 20 metres, with planting and paths integrating with existing landscape and water courses.

Proposed reservoir in the Fens: indicative community and environmental opportunities for consultation



The concept plans shown are indicative at this stage and will develop following more detailed design and in response to consultation

Key:

- Watersports Centre
- Visitor Centre
- Footpath improvements
- New cycleway provision
- Sustainable transport opportunities
- Renewable energy opportunities
- Sailing / watersports
- Biodiversity opportunities
- Water treatment works
- Wetland habitat areas within reservoir
- Multi-use recreation routes
- Opportunities for cycle / footpath connections
- Opportunities for green / blue infrastructure enhancement

Getting water to and from the reservoir

This sketch illustrates how these elements may fit together in the landscape (indicative only)

A further important part of our proposals will be the facilities we need to get water to the reservoir and then from the reservoir to the homes, businesses and essential services that need it.

We are currently in the process of exploring potential routes and will consult on these proposals at the next phases of consultation, where we will seek your feedback.

The illustration opposite gives an indication of the facilities we would need and how it all links together. Much of this infrastructure is likely to be installed below ground.

Supporting infrastructure

The location of the supporting infrastructure needed to move water to and from the reservoir is not included in this consultation.

We will provide our proposals for these facilities in future consultations, and seek your feedback.

Key:

- Reservoir
- Watercourse
- Potable transfer
- Raw water transfer
- Potential connectivity

Wider opportunities

As well as a vital water resource and new destination, the reservoir also has the potential to contribute to wider benefits for the East of England.

The reservoir would be a once in a generation investment and, in our early engagement with stakeholders, they have been encouraging us to think about how the reservoir could be part of a wider system. This could bring social, environmental, and economic benefits, in addition to those we hope to create from the reservoir itself.

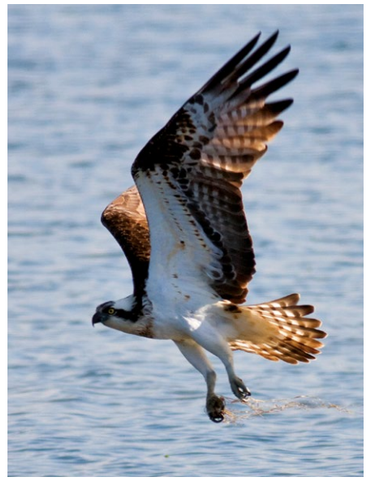
Potential wider plans and opportunities, might include:

- Water sharing and license trading to mitigate drought crop losses or facilitate growing higher value crops
- New and improved waterways to enhance navigation, improve habitats and reduce flood risk
- Improvements in soil health and habitat creation to increase carbon sequestration and biodiversity
- New water/country parks for communities to enjoy
- Natural flood measures, including bankside washlands to be flooded in high flows to protect people, property, and agricultural land

This thinking is at an early stage and no decisions have been made on exactly what plans could be brought forward, the planning permissions we might need, or how these wider opportunities could be funded. To realise the vision will require leadership and funding from numerous stakeholders in addition to Anglian Water and Cambridge Water.

These opportunities are not part of the autumn 2022 consultation on the reservoir. However, it's important that together we start investigating these ideas now as they could influence how the reservoir is designed.

As the reservoir project develops, so too will the opportunities for the wider system. We will have more detailed discussions with stakeholders and communities on these ideas over the further phases of the project.



What you can influence at this time

There are many factors that we are considering when it comes to developing the design of the reservoir, and how we might build it. Your feedback is a key part of how we will develop the design of the reservoir.

Your local knowledge is very valuable to us and we welcome any feedback you have on our proposals. It will help us to further understand any potential impacts and opportunities from the project. And it will help inform the development of our proposals going forward, including the features you'd like to see.

This is our first phase of consultation, and we plan to hold at least two further phases of consultation as the proposals develop. Find out more about the consenting process we are required to follow on page 27.

For this consultation we are asking for your feedback on:

- the pink area we have identified for the reservoir and its embankments
- the grey area we have identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction. This is also where we could include wildlife and environmental areas, spaces for leisure and recreation, education facilities and others
- the very early concept design for the reservoir and the features you would like to be considered in the design of the reservoir as it's developed

However, there are some aspects not open to influence. That's because they cannot be shaped for technical reasons, such as safety and engineering requirements, or because they have been and continue to be established and consulted on through other processes.

This includes:

- The project's need case (set by the Water Resources Management Plan process)
- The capacity of the reservoir (set by the Water Resources Management Plan process)

See page 9 for details of Anglian Water and Cambridge Water's Water Resources Management Plans.

Help us deliver the best possible project

Find out how to provide feedback, plus information about the planning application process we need to follow, on the next pages in this booklet.

This consultation is open from 12 October until 21 December 2022

Have your say

Your feedback will help us to develop the project design and understand what people would like to see as part of the project. All feedback you share will be reviewed, recorded, and carefully considered as we refine our proposals.

We understand the effect on those impacted by our proposals including homeowners, landowners and the nearby community. We are committed to working with everyone as the project develops and want to hear all views on our emerging proposals.

Submitting your comments

You can submit feedback to us in several different ways:

- **Using the project website:** www.fensreservoir.co.uk

Submit feedback on our website using our online form and interactive map. The mapping tool lets you pin your comments to different locations on the proposed site area.

- **Sending an email to:** info@fensreservoir.co.uk
- **Sending written feedback to us at our freepost address:** Freepost Fens Reservoir

You can write us a letter or send hard copy feedback forms, which will be available at events in community venues or by request.

Please make sure you submit your feedback to us by 23:59 on 21 December 2022.

Find out more

You can also find out more about the project and meet the team at our consultation events and webinars.

Community events	Date	Time
Doddington Village Hall, 5 Benwick Rd, Doddington, PE15 0TG	Thursday 3 November	11:30am – 5pm
King Edward Centre, 3 King Edwards Rd, Chatteris, PE16 6NG	Saturday 5 November	2pm – 5:30pm
Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Rd, Wimblington, PE15 0QT	Tuesday 8 November	10:30am – 3pm
Manea Village Hall, 2-4 School Ln, Manea, PE15 0BF	Tuesday 15 November	3:30pm – 7pm
Community webinars	**Date**	**Time**
Register to attend on our website: **www.fensreservoir.co.uk**	Wednesday 2 November, Monday 14 November	6pm – 7pm

You can pick-up information at community venues.

Doddington Village Hall	5 Benwick Rd, Doddington, PE15 0TG
King Edward Centre	3 King Edwards Rd, Chatteris, PE16 6NG
Wimblington Parish Hall	Addison Rd, Wimblington, PE15 0QT
March Library	City Rd, March, PE15 9LT
Chatteris Library	2 Furrowfields Rd, Chatteris, PE16 6DY

Supporting documents

We have published the following documents for the consultation. They can be viewed online at *www.fensreservoir.co.uk* and are available by contacting our project team.

Site selection report: an explanation of the process we have followed to identify a proposed site for the reservoir.

Consultation brochure: an overview of our proposals for the reservoir and how to take part in the consultation.

Approach to consultation: an outline of our plans for consultation.

Reference copies of these documents are also available at the following locations:

March Library, City Rd, March, PE15 9LT

Chatteris Library, 2 Furrowfields Rd, Chatteris, PE16 6DY

Somersham Library, Church St, Somersham, PE28 3EG

Littleport Library, Victoria St, Littleport, CB6 1LU

Warboys Library, 48 High St, Warboys, PE28 2TA

Timeline and what happens next

This is the first phase of consultation on our proposals for the reservoir. Although we are at an early stage, we want to give you the opportunity to influence how we develop our proposals for the reservoir. We plan to hold at least two further phases of consultation as the proposals develop.

The planning application process

This reservoir is recognised as being a strategic regional asset, so much so that it qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This is due primarily to the size of the scheme and the number of properties it will be able to supply. We will therefore follow the procedures set out in the Planning Act 2008 which provides the framework for how major projects are developed and consented.

We will apply to the Planning Inspectorate, who act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for permission to build the reservoir.

Our application would then be considered by the Planning Inspectorate during an 'examination', likely to last six months. After examination, the Planning Inspectorate will issue a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then make a final decision as to whether the project is consented.

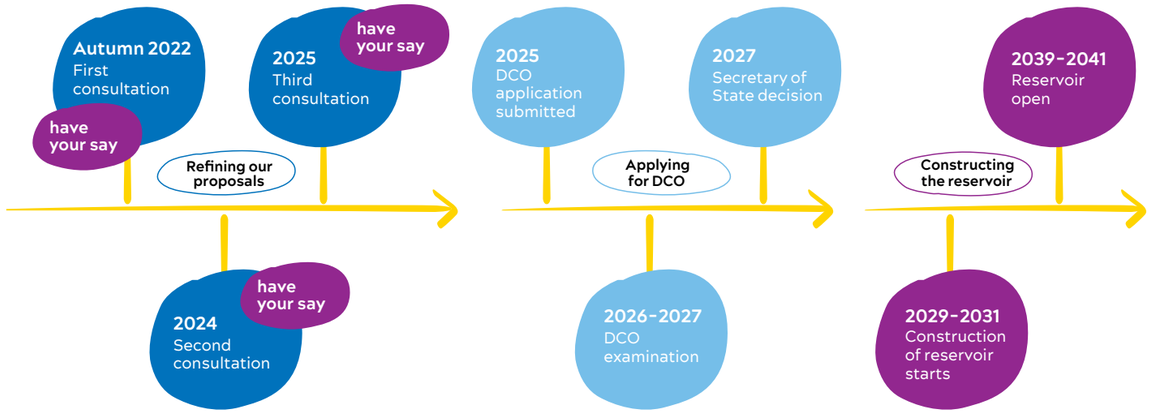
The permission is called a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Local people and stakeholders have an important role in influencing how the reservoir is developed and designed. During this pre-application phase, we will be consulting with local people, affected landowners and stakeholders to gather feedback to help shape our proposals before we submit the application for the DCO.

Our autumn 2022 consultation is the first phase in a multi-phase approach – at least two more consultations will follow.

The DCO would also grant powers to compulsorily purchase land and property required for the project, although our strong preference would be to purchase any required land and property by agreement. We are directly engaging with those who may be most affected by our proposals.

You can see where you will have the chance to comment on our proposals on this timeline



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

You can find out more about the DCO process here:

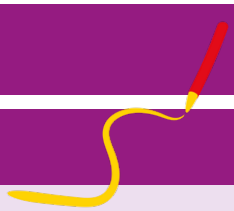
https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/

We'll be able to give people more information on how we would construct the reservoir (and the impacts of this) later, when we have developed our proposals further. We will be asking for people's views on this in future consultations.

Get in touch with the project team by:

EMAIL

info@fensreservoir.co.uk



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Freepost Fens Reservoir

FREEPHONE

0800 915 2492

WEBSITE

www.fensreservoir.co.uk

love every drop
anglianwater

Cambridge Water