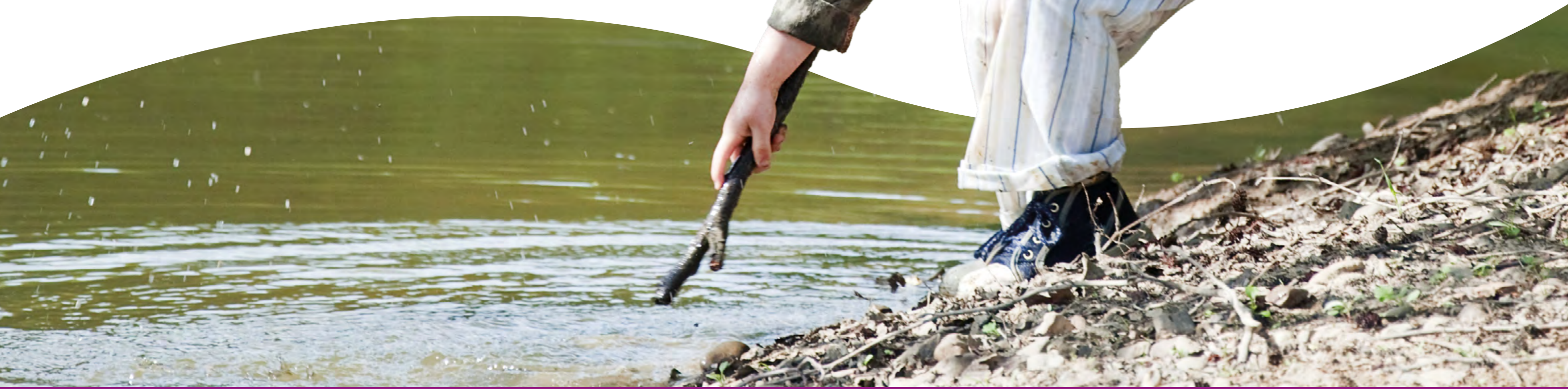


A proposed reservoir in the Fens

Phase two consultation
feedback summary



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About the project

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are proposing a new reservoir in the Fens to help meet the growing demands on water supply in the East of England.

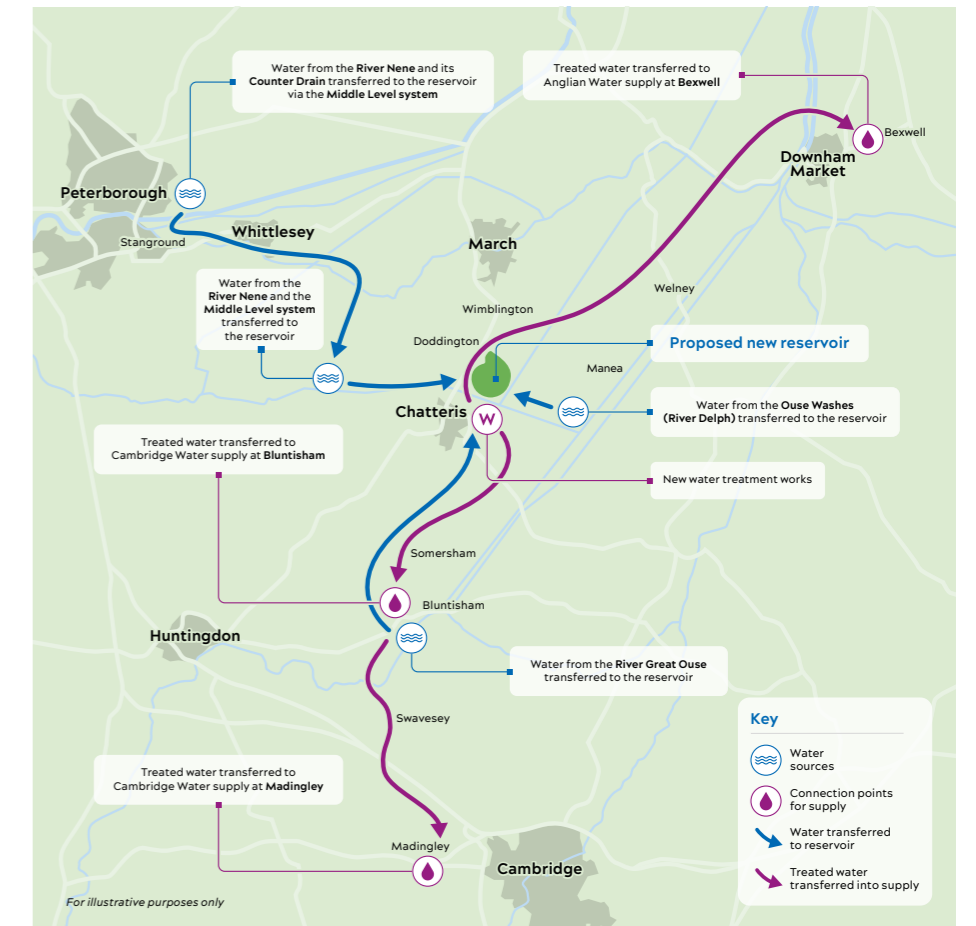
The new reservoir is at the heart of a whole new water supply project. Together with the associated water infrastructure we need to transfer water to the reservoir, treat the water, and supply it to homes and businesses, it will secure a reliable water supply for generations to come.

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 between Chatteris and March, near to Doddington, Wimblington and Manea.

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. We shared the results of this work during our phase two consultation in spring/summer 2024.

Thank you for your feedback

We understand that our proposals will have an effect on landowners, homeowners, and nearby communities. We are committed to working with everyone as the project develops, and 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 this feedback to inform the next stages 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.

About Cambridge Water

Cambridge Water supplies 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 provided an essential service to customers since 1853, when we were founded in the interests of public welfare to supply clean water. Our small size and strong local focus mean we are firmly embedded in the communities we serve.

As well as putting customers' needs at the heart of all our decision-making, we actively work in partnership with our local communities. We also act as the guardians of our assets, building resilience with regular investment.

And we run an efficient business that is in everyone's interests.

Over the next five years, from 2025 to 2030, we will deliver our largest-ever investment programme, spending £926 million to protect water supplies, improve our customer service, enhance the environment and safeguard the resilience and health of our infrastructure.

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.

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.

Both Anglian Water and Cambridge Water have developed Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) setting out our plans and improvements, such as: improving efficiency; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources. Anglian Water's plan was approved by the Government and published in September 2024, with Cambridge Water's plan expected to be approved and published early this year.

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 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.

i **Find out more**
You can read [Anglian Water's WRMP here](#), and [Cambridge Water's draft WRMP here](#).



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

15 water drop icons, with 10 highlighted in yellow.

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:

4 house icons.

175,000 new homes in the next five years

2 people icons.

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:

1 globe icon.

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 pop-up events, 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 the approach to construction, environmental mitigation and enhancement and transport options.

HOW YOU GOT INVOLVED

467 Feedback submissions

received from statutory stakeholders, landowners and the general public

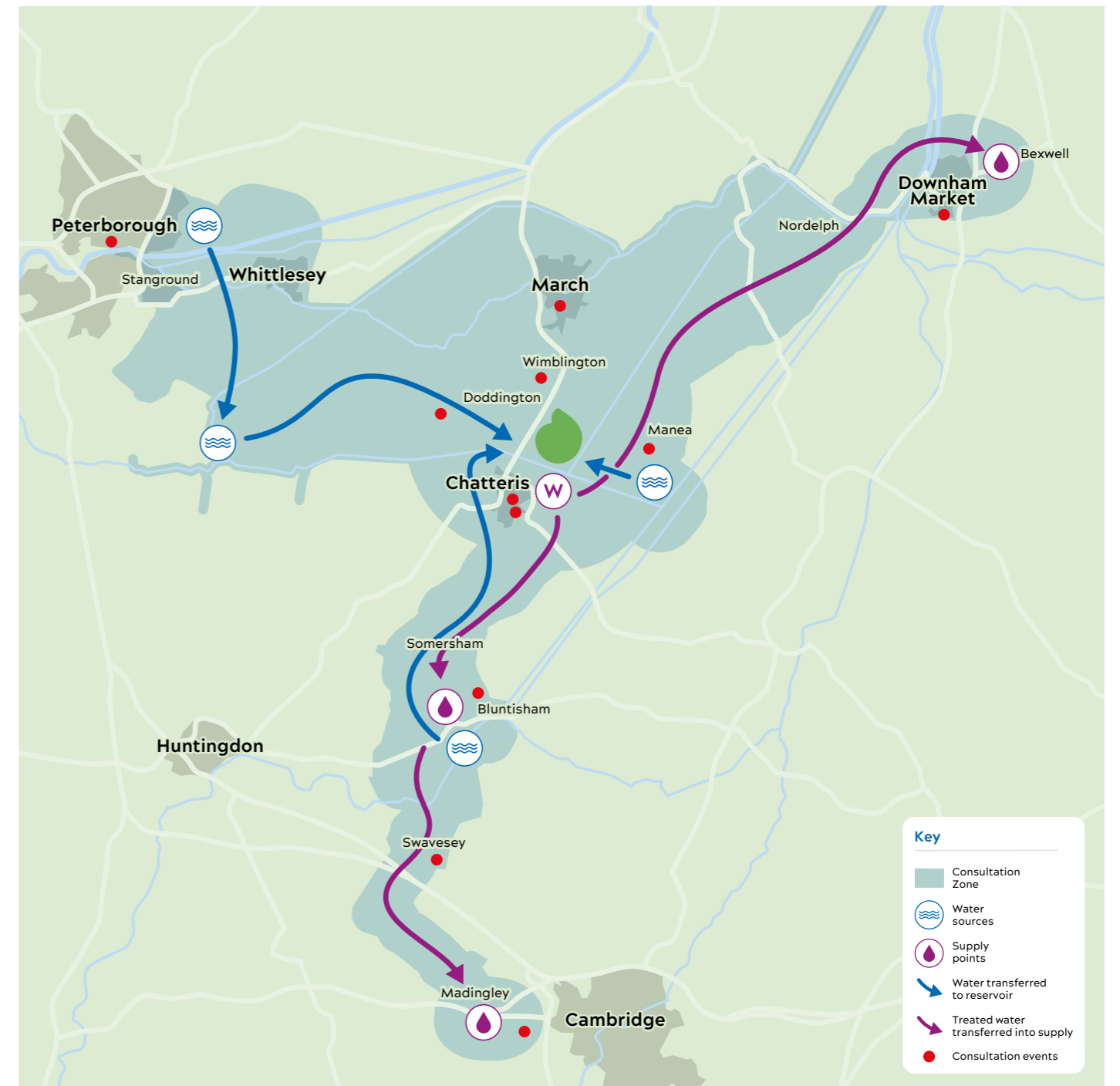
46,000 website page views

655 attendees

at our consultation events



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

There was broad support from communities for the reservoir and the economic, recreational and environmental opportunities it could bring. We received good feedback about the features people want to see included, and connections to the reservoir from surrounding towns and villages.

You also gave us feedback on points where you have concerns and areas

that you want us to focus on as we continue to develop the proposals. It's clear people want wildlife to be considered and traffic and transport managed safely during construction and operation. Finding ways to limit potential effects on existing communities and properties was also important to you, as it is to us as well.

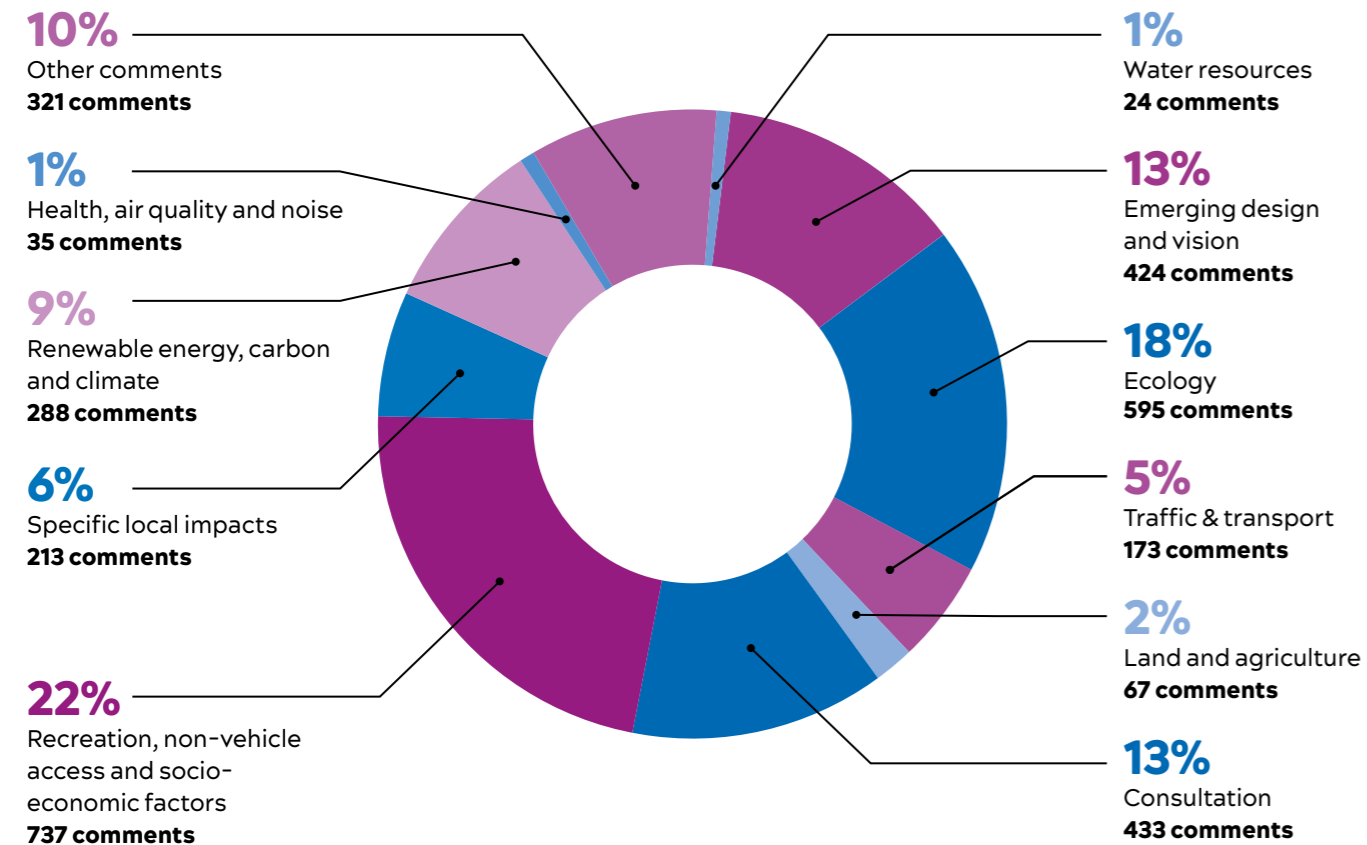
On our water sources infrastructure proposals and options, you asked

that we consider the impacts of taking water when river levels are high and low, and the impacts on local wildlife.

When it came to our water supply infrastructure proposals, people wanted us to consider the effects on wildlife, farmland and nearby communities as we develop more specific locations for pipelines and other infrastructure.

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



Potential impacts on local heritage



Potential impacts on local land and properties



Potential disruption and noise during the construction period



Being cautious with how water is being abstracted



The effects of the project on the Ouse Washes, Flag Fen, RSPB Ouse Fen, Stanground Lock and Bluntisham

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



Location, screening and potential impacts of the water treatment works



Construction timing and impact on local areas and traffic



Thinking carefully about how installing pipelines will impact existing flood risk



Impact on local land and home owners



Interaction with the green belt and existing nature reserves



The effects of water sources infrastructure on Swavesey and Bluntisham

What people told us

Since our consultation closed, we've been analysing your feedback to better understand your concerns and assess 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	<p>Some people are very supportive of our proposed design, commenting that they feel it is visually appealing and could bring positive impacts to the local community through the recreation and socio-economic benefits it could offer. Others also expressed support for the vision and principles behind the design.</p> <p>Some people also made suggestions regarding the design, including the recreational aspects and ways to further enhance the ecological benefits. These are described in more detail below.</p> <p>Others are concerned about the design of the reservoir, particularly the height of the embankments, commenting that they feel the design does not fit within the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>It's great that people are enthusiastic about our emerging design.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We know that some people are concerned about the prominence of the reservoir set against the Fens landscape. As the design continues to evolve, we will look for opportunities to make our impact on the landscape as positive as possible. All comments will form part of this process.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Recreational areas and opportunities	<p>Some expressed support for the potential opportunities for recreational areas, commenting that they could benefit the local area and provide an economic boost. 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.</p> <p>Others were particularly enthusiastic about the potential opportunities for water-based recreational activities, such as boating, fishing and swimming, in the reservoir design.</p> <p>Some feedback included suggestions for safe, accessible routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including separate routes for these activities. Others commented that any recreational activities should not come at the expense of existing wildlife.</p>	<p>We're pleased to hear that some people are supportive of our proposed recreational opportunities and recreational areas.</p> <p>We're also grateful for all the suggestions received and we'll be looking at these as we develop our plans further.</p> <p>We understand that some people feel that recreational activities should not be at the expense of wildlife. Our aim is to provide space for both nature and people. As such, wildlife will continue to be a priority as we further develop our design for the reservoir. This includes quieter wildlife areas with limited public access.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment we're undertaking as part of this project will also help us to make informed choices that promote sustainable development and protect the environment. More information can be found in our fact sheet.</p>
Accessing the reservoir	<p>Some people are supportive of the proposed access routes to the reservoir. People's comments included support for the proposals for bridleways, cycle paths and footpaths. Some also said that there should be good quality walking routes to the reservoir from local areas, such as Chatteris.</p> <p>Others commented on the importance of good on-site parking. It's important to people that we help minimise the potential of people parking in the local villages, which it was felt could cause disruption and also potentially lead to visitors dangerously crossing the A141 to access the reservoir. Some also mentioned the need for disability-friendly walkways to the reservoir.</p> <p>People's feedback referred to the need for safe access to the reservoir for all visitors. Some people commented that non-vehicle access, such as cycling and walking, from Chatteris to the reservoir should be included in the design.</p>	<p>It's great to hear that our access proposals are proceeding along the right lines. The community's feedback will help us develop these further.</p> <p>We also understand that people want us to think carefully about parking provisions at the reservoir, as they are concerned that visitors may park in local villages — negatively impacting residents. We will consider this feedback as we develop our parking proposals further, and will provide more information on traffic and transport in a future phase of consultation.</p> <p>Safety will remain our top 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, or equestrians. In particular, we understand that the A141 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.</p> <p>We will ensure that safety is a key consideration in how we develop all access routes to the reservoir site, taking into account feedback on how local roads are used.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Environmental opportunities and impacts	<p>Some people are supportive of the proposals for potential environmental areas and wildlife habitats, such as wetland habitats. People agreed that wetland habitats should be kept separate from recreational activities.</p> <p>Others are concerned about the potential negative impacts of the reservoir on existing wildlife habitats and wetlands. Some feedback expressed concerns about potential effects on local wildlife, including Fenland species, such as the bittern and crane, commenting that any effects on wildlife should be kept as low as possible.</p>	<p>It's great that some people are supportive of our proposals for environmental areas and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>As per our design principles, we are committed to creating a place where people can enjoy water and nature, where wetlands come first and where we can work towards creating a restored Fenland landscape.</p> <p>We recognise that some people are concerned about the potential effects on wildlife as a result of creating the reservoir. Biodiversity is very important to us, and there are many things we are doing to help protect local biodiversity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are continuing our 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.
Impact on local traffic	<p>People raised concerns about the potential for visitors to the reservoir to create increased local traffic. In particular, people said that the A141 is considered dangerous, and that this should be considered carefully as we develop our plans for traffic. Some also commented that the A142, near to the proposed reservoir, is a dangerous road to cross and asked about this in our plans.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>As we look to develop our proposals further, safety will remain a high priority. We know that we need to carefully consider safe traffic access to the reservoir, especially when accessing it from fast local roads.</p> <p>Our ongoing work with key stakeholders, including: local planning and highways 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.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Renewable energy opportunities	<p>Some expressed support for renewable energy sources in our proposals and said that wind turbines are a modern and sustainable renewable source, which could be beneficial for the area.</p> <p>Others are concerned about the potential height of wind turbines, which they said could have visual impacts for the surrounding area, and also be a risk to birds.</p> <p>Some people consider solar energy to be a more favourable option, compared to wind turbines.</p> <p>People also said that we should look to achieve carbon neutrality for the reservoir while making sure that any renewable energy infrastructure doesn't impact local wildlife.</p>	<p>Anglian Water, as a purpose led business and one of the largest energy users in the East of England, recognises its responsibility to act ethically in the face of the climate crisis we face today. As such, we are committed to being an operationally carbon neutral business by 2030, and are exploring opportunities to use renewable energy at the reservoir. Some people have expressed their support for this.</p> <p>We understand that some people are concerned about the potential visual impacts of wind turbines. Our proposals for renewables are early stage possibilities and open to change based on people's comments and further technical studies. We will provide more information on this at a future stage of consultation.</p> <p>Once our plans for renewables have been developed further, all likely significant effects will be evaluated as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment we're undertaking and will help inform our future renewable proposals.</p>
Effects on the local area	<p>Some expressed support for the potential socio-economic benefits that the reservoir project could provide in the Fens. People commented that the reservoir could bring local benefits, such as tourism, which could create more jobs for local people.</p> <p>Other people said that the Cambridgeshire Fens has a strong reputation for producing food, and are concerned about the potential impacts of the reservoir on this. People want us to consider maintaining agricultural land, as much as possible. Some also expressed concern regarding the impact the project may be having on land and property owners' mental health. People want us to consider our proposals and the support we provide to land and home owners.</p> <p>Some are concerned about the potential removal of the RSPCA centre, commenting that the centre is an important part of the community.</p>	<p>We believe that the proposed reservoir can be a space for wildlife and recreation, while also creating new jobs during construction and providing long-term opportunities for businesses and tourism to thrive during operation. It's great to hear that some people felt this was reflected in our proposals.</p> <p>However, we understand that others are concerned about the agricultural impacts of the proposed reservoir, especially given the Fenlands' importance as a food producing area.</p> <p>When we were considering locations for the reservoir, the quality of agricultural land and potential impacts were considered in the site selection process, as part of the assessment criteria. 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.</p> <p>We are looking to minimise impacts of the project upon the agricultural industry and are liaising with local farmers and agricultural 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.</p> <p>We understand that our proposals will affect landowners, homeowners, and nearby communities, and are committed to working with these individuals and groups as the project develops.</p> <p>We are in close communication with affected home and landowners and are committed to working with them to mitigate potential impacts where possible.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Community feedback on this issue will continue to be considered as the project develops.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Construction	<p>Some people asked for more information about how we're going to build the reservoir, including more detail on exactly when and where the construction activity will take place.</p> <p>Others are concerned about the potential impacts of construction, particularly construction traffic, on the local area.</p> <p>This includes concerns about noise, dust and disruption, as well as the effects of construction traffic on the roads surrounding the reservoir.</p>	<p>We know that some people are concerned about the potential impacts of constructing the reservoir, and we presented our early thinking on this during our phase two consultation.</p> <p>In this 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 significance impacts that could result from construction activity, and possible mitigation measures.</p> <p>Our engineers will also be developing plans to support road infrastructure that could be affected by our proposals, where this is needed. We will provide an update on these plans at future stages of consultation. We'll also be working closely with the Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to seek their input. This work will help us provide the detail that people want to see, at a future consultation.</p>
Other comments	<p>Some raised concerns about whether the reservoir would impact local flood risk. People asked us to consider this as we develop our proposals and requested more information on flood risk management in the future.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. 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, particularly the Middle Level Commissioners.</p>

Water sources infrastructure

The areas we've identified for the water sources infrastructure needed to transfer water from sources to the reservoir. This includes equipment to take in water flows, pump the water and, where needed, treatment facilities to remove impurities and manage water quality.

This 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. Our proposals will continue to develop based on further assessments and feedback received.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Water sources	<p>In their feedback people made suggestions about how we should manage the transfer of water from the sources to the reservoir.</p> <p>Some people commented that it is important to ensure that changes in the amount of sediment built up at the River Nene are monitored. Others raised concerns about potential impacts the reservoir could have on the sediment regime in the River Nene and River Great Ouse, particularly in the tidal reaches of these rivers.</p> <p>People also had comments on the use of the Ouse Washes as a source of water. They raised the importance of carefully managing water levels at the Ouse Washes, saying that it is important that the project avoids the potential for flood risk, and protects ecology.</p>	<p>The project is still at an early stage, especially our water sources infrastructure proposals, and the community's feedback will be very valuable to us as we develop our proposals further.</p> <p>We will assess all likely significant effects caused by changes in amount of sediment built up at the River Nene as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and will look to mitigate these where possible.</p> <p>The potential effects of the scheme on the RSPB Ouse Fen and Ouse Washes will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment we're carrying out.</p> <p>Habitat and other ecological surveys will be undertaken from April 2025 at Ouse Fen to inform this work.</p>
Environment	<p>Some people have asked that the process of taking water from rivers should be managed carefully in order to minimise impacts on local nature.</p> <p>Others raised concerns about the impact our abstractions and infrastructure could have on the Nene Washes and on Stanground Wash, particularly asking that we consider any impact on water levels and sediment at these important environmental sites.</p> <p>People also asked that we consider any impacts we have on water levels in the Middle Level system.</p>	<p>To identify our proposed water sources infrastructure, we undertook a comprehensive option appraisal process. The process involved considering how the different options performed against a wide range of factors, including environmental criteria, and undertaking desk-based technical appraisals to consider alternative options.</p> <p>As we develop our water sources infrastructure proposals we will consider all feedback alongside further technical assessments we're undertaking, and input from key stakeholders, including the Middle Level Commissioners.</p> <p>All likely significant effects on nature will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The findings of our EIA work will be consulted on as part of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report and presented in an Environmental Statement which will accompany our application for development consent.</p> <p>Through these processes we will investigate the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed project, together with how we plan to mitigate these impacts.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Local impacts	<p>People raised concerns regarding the potential disruption to landowners that may be caused by the water sources infrastructure. Some comments were related to individual properties and land. Comments included concerns over the potential impact on agricultural land and operations caused by the construction of infrastructure. Some of these concerns were about how the water sources infrastructure would impact Bluntisham, with some people asking for clarification regarding the size and details of the proposed infrastructure.</p>	<p>We have been working with landowners 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.</p> <p>In our second phase of consultation we identified the preferred locations for the infrastructure we'd need to build if we need to use available water from the River Great Ouse. This includes an area of land south of Bluntisham within which we'd need to build abstraction infrastructure including a pumping station, river intake and treatment equipment to remove any impurities from the water, if needed. In this next stage of developing our proposals, we will be undertaking further technical and environmental assessments to help us identify whether we need to use water from the River Great Ouse (instead of the Ouse Washes), and if so, refine our proposals further.</p> <p>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.</p>
Construction	<p>Some people requested clarification on construction timings and more detailed information on the exact location of pipelines.</p>	<p>We are undertaking detailed surveys and technical studies to progress our thinking. This work will help us provide the detail — such as timings and methodology for construction — that people want to see, at a future consultation.</p> <p>People's feedback, alongside further technical assessments will also help us to refine the pipeline corridors and consider specific pipeline routes. We will provide more specific information on the location of the proposed pipelines in a future phase of consultation.</p>



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 main reservoir site, and the underground pipelines

needed to transfer the treated water to Anglian Water and Cambridge Water connection points for supply to our customers. It also includes the areas we've identified for new service reservoirs near to existing

connection points to help us get the water into the supply network.

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	<p>Some people are supportive of our proposals for the water treatment works, commenting that they feel the proposals are sensible.</p> <p>Others raised concerns about what the water treatment works will look like and exactly where it would be located. In particular, some people feel that it could have an adverse impact on the landscape of the local area.</p>	<p>In our second phase of consultation we presented an area in which the water treatment works could be located.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Environment and water levels	<p>Some people noted the need to minimise potential impacts of the infrastructure on existing nature reserves, such as Fen Drayton Lakes, Swavesey Meadows County Wildlife sites and Middle Fen, as well as on local wildlife, such as wintering swans. People pointed out that the pipeline corridor to Madingley crosses the River Ouse and goes across Fen Drayton Lakes, potentially impacting wildlife in these areas.</p> <p>People also expressed concerns about potential flood risks associated with watercourses in the Fens.</p>	<p>At our second phase of consultation we presented our water supply 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 routes. A key part of this process will be constraint mapping local issues. The concerns raised in the feedback we received will be considered as part of this process and where possible we will avoid valuable environmental areas.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Local impacts	<p>Some people expressed specific concerns relating to how the water supply infrastructure would affect their land, properties and business.</p> <p>Some of these concerns were about how the water supply infrastructure would impact Bluntisham, with some asking for clarification regarding the size and details of the proposed infrastructure.</p>	<p>We are committed to working with homeowners, landowners and nearby communities as we develop our proposals further, to help maximise opportunities and minimise impacts.</p> <p>The findings from our Environmental Impact Assessment will help us to do this, alongside all the feedback we received.</p> <p>In our second phase of consultation we identified an area of land near Bluntisham within which a service reservoir could be located, to help supply water from the reservoir to Cambridge Water customers via an existing connection point in Bluntisham. The proposed land area we've identified is closer to this existing infrastructure than any of the other options we considered and avoids impacts on a nearby wildlife site.</p> <p>In this next phase of the project, we will be progressing the design of the associated water infrastructure with consideration to all the feedback we received.</p>
Construction	<p>Some people expressed concerns that the water supply infrastructure is very close to the RSPB Fen Drayton nature reserve, and suggested that construction should be timed so that it minimises the impact on local wildlife, such as wintering swans.</p>	<p>We understand that some people are concerned about the impact of water supply infrastructure on wildlife and existing nature reserves.</p> <p>In this next stage of the project we will be undertaking detailed surveys and technical studies to progress our thinking on construction — namely the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA will help us to identify and assess impacts, on nature and local wildlife, that could result from construction activity, and possible mitigation measures.</p>

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 to people.

It also includes what people thought about the consultation itself.

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
Project costs and funding	<p>Some people sought assurance that the project would be sufficiently funded so that opportunities could be delivered and any potential impacts appropriately managed.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In the delivery and operational phase (when the reservoir is built and used, subject to achieving development consent) of the proposed Fens Reservoir, funding is expected to be 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 operating under a project licence arrangement with Ofwat.</p> <p>The IP will build and finance the reservoir and its associated water infrastructure, in accordance with the planning consent, and provide the ongoing supply of treated water to Anglian Water and Cambridge Water, who will then continue to distribute it to customers.</p> <p>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 achieve the best possible value for money outcome for customers.</p> <p>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.</p>

Topic	What people told us	What we're doing
The consultation process, events and materials	<p>Some people liked the consultation materials, stating that the information shared was informative and clear. People also said they found the events well organised and the project team in attendance helpful. The large scale maps provided at the events people told us were particularly useful. Others commented that they appreciated the opportunity to have their comments considered as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>Some also suggested that consultation materials could be designed more clearly for members of the public to understand. While others felt that the consultation materials lacked detail, commenting that this affected their ability to provide feedback. Others said they found it difficult to navigate the online materials, particularly the interactive map.</p> <p>Others are sceptical of the consultation process, questioning whether their views will be listened to. Some people were also unhappy with the timing of consultation events, requesting that more be held outside working hours in the future.</p>	<p>The community's feedback is very valuable to us, so it's great to hear that some people liked our consultation materials and events and appreciated the opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>Some people said the consultation materials were too detailed while others suggested they were not detailed enough.</p> <p>Because we know that people will seek varying levels of information, we created and published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>We understand that some users did not find our online maps easy to understand and that others felt more events should have been held outside work hours. We will look for ways to make our online maps easier to find and use in our next phase of consultation.</p> <p>In our next phase of consultation we will also seek to have more events outside of working hours, to allow more working people to attend.</p> <p>In terms of demonstrating how we have listened to feedback, in addition to this document, our planning application will describe, in detail, all the feedback we've received from each stage of consultation and exactly how we've considered it.</p>



What comes next

Your feedback is crucial to developing our proposals further.

Next steps

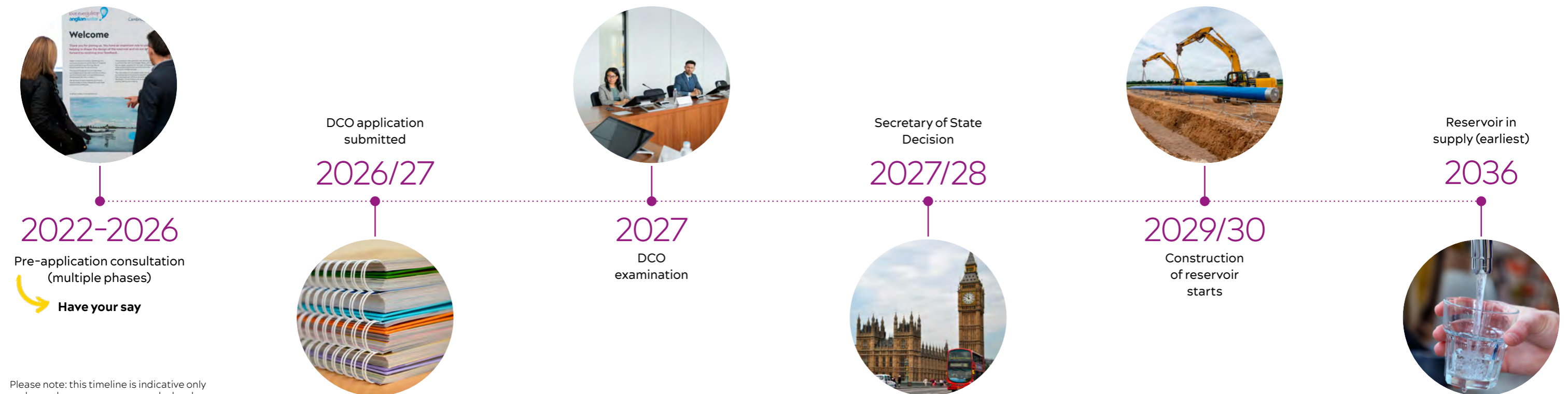
Our summer 2024 consultation was the second phase in a multi-phase consultation approach. Local communities, stakeholders and landowners have a crucial role to play in helping to shape our proposals and this will continue as we progress our plans for this vital new water resource.

It's clear people want us to think carefully about, and provide more information on, specific areas including construction impacts, and traffic and transport.

These are important issues for us too and will be key considerations as we carry out the next stages of our work to develop the proposals further.

People will have further opportunities to have their say before we submit our application. We are intending to hold an additional phase of non-statutory consultation later this year, where we will provide more detailed information on areas important to you, prior to our statutory consultation.

The development timeline



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

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. Once 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.

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](http://www.fensreservoir.co.uk).

Please get in touch with any questions:

- Email info@fensreservoir.co.uk
- Write **Freepost Fens Reservoir**
- Freephone **0800 915 2492**
- Website www.fensreservoir.co.uk

