

Community Liaison Group

Fens Reservoir

15th July 2024



Welcome

Project team members

- Karen
- Greg
- Liam
- Matt
- Clare
- Stuart
- Jo
- Grant
- Ruth
- Martha
- Kieron
- Laura

Agenda

Agenda	
Welcome from project team and Introduction of the Chair (5 mins)	Karen
Welcome from Chair (5 mins)	David
Review of previous meeting actions (5 mins)	David
Project update (10 mins)	Karen /Jo
Overview of the associated water infrastructure (phase 2 consultation) (15 mins)	Martha
Interactive feedback on reservoir design (phase 2 consultation) (1 hr)	Clare /Stuart
How to get involved in consultation (5 mins)	Greg
Chair's closing remarks (5 mins)	David



Introduction of the chair

At the last CLG, David Connor was appointed Chair



Duties of the chair

- Chair each meeting
- Commitment of up to eight hours per quarter
- Review and agree minutes taken by Anglian Water
- Review and comment on CLG agenda and presentation slides produced by Anglian Water prior to each CLG meeting
- Forward any relevant attendee questions
- Maintain a familiarity with project developments
- Abide by the Terms of Reference
- Commit to a two-to-three year term, with a minimum term of one year

Actions from previous CLG

Actions

- Anglian Water to share Health Impact Assessment questions and collate additional feedback received through the inbox or via phone.
- Anglian Water to share slides and minutes with attendees
- Anglian Water to organise the next meeting
- Attendees to continue to share relevant information with their organisations and gather feedback as representatives.

Project update



Project update

We have launched our second phase of consultation. In preparation for this next phase of consultation we have:



Engaged with affected **landowners**, through letters, 121 meetings and drop-in sessions



Engaged with Local **Authorities** and gathered feedback on our approach to consultation



Updated our **voluntary Residential Property Support Scheme**



Created an **event program** to allow community members to get involved and learn about our proposals.



Published a suite of information on our website about our emerging proposals for the main reservoir site and associated infrastructure

Project update

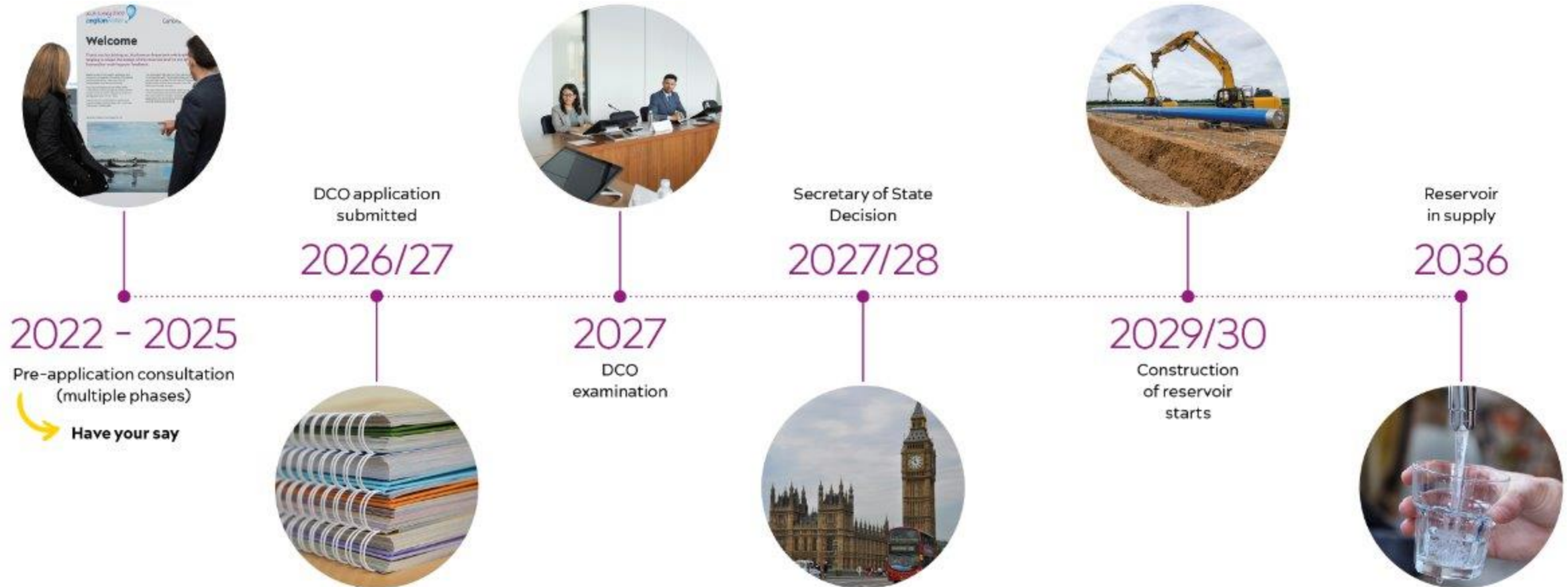
Emerging design for the main reservoir site

Areas of land in the vicinity of the main reservoir site

Associated water infrastructure

Supporting information

Project update



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

Questions



Overview of our associated water infrastructure proposals at phase 2 consultation



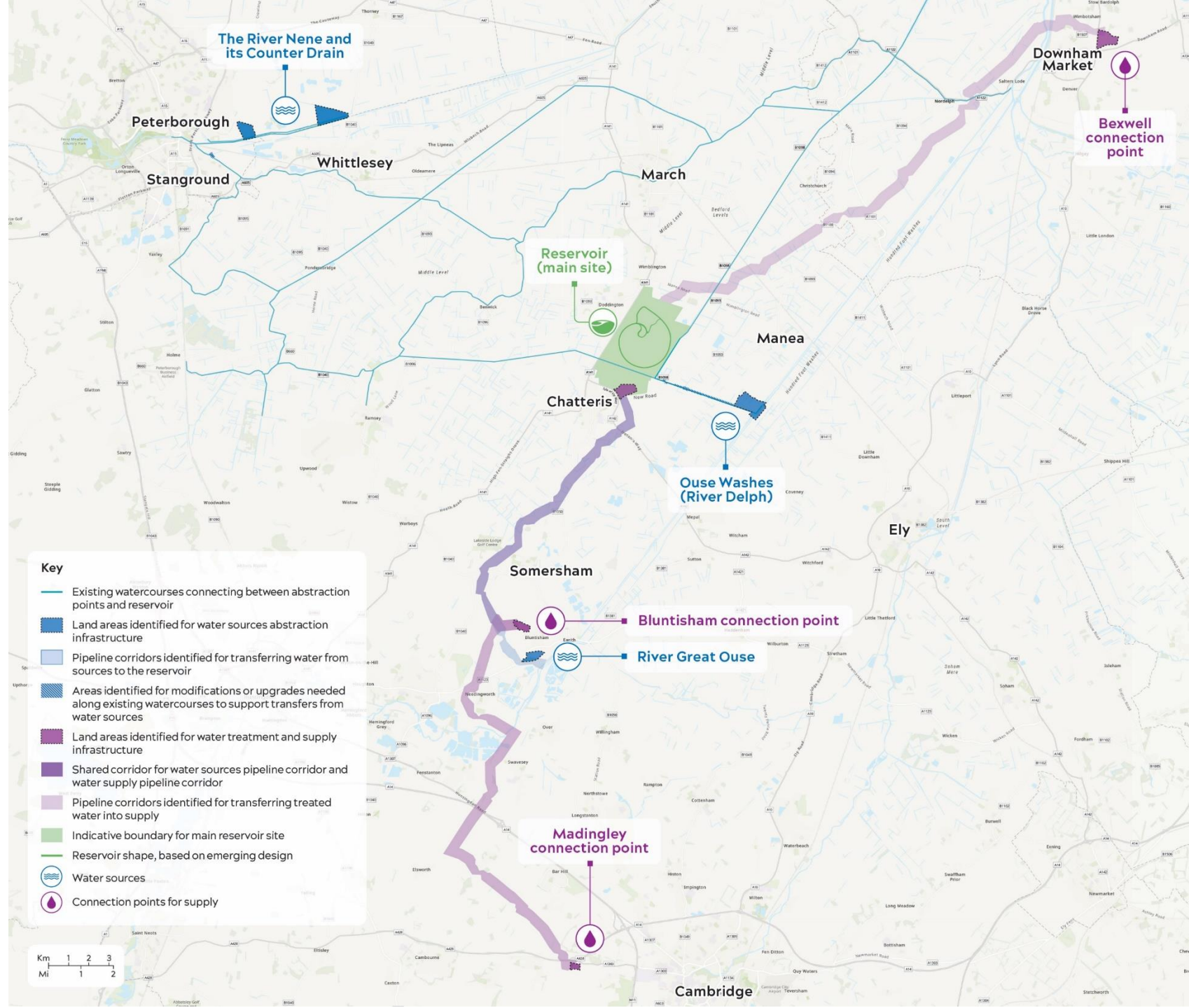
Fens Reservoir Preferred Option Overview



Getting water to and from the Fens reservoir

- **Water sources infrastructure** – drawing water from sources when it's available and transferring it to the reservoir
- **Water supply infrastructure** – treating the water stored at the reservoir and transferring it into our supply networks

View our proposals in more detail on our interactive map:
projectmap.fensreservoir.co.uk



Questions



Interactive feedback session - reservoir design



Our Vision for Fens Reservoir

Reclaiming Water for a New Future



Shaping the Future



People

The reservoir will celebrate the Cambridgeshire Fens for the local people who know this landscape so well. As a new focus for economic growth, it will help improve lifestyles and social prosperity, with exciting new opportunities for recreation and engagement with nature.

With new connections to nearby communities and links to existing routes in the wider area, this will be a place for people to enjoy nature, water and the surrounding countryside.

Reweaving the Tapestry

Nature

Flood storage and habitat creation areas around the reservoir could give a flavour of the historic landscape of marshes and waterways from before the Fens were drained.

These renewed habitats will aim to attract wildlife, adding to the richness of nature in the area.

Water

The Fens Reservoir will store water from local waterways, securing a resilient supply to meet the needs of future generations across Cambridgeshire and East Anglia.

It will reduce the pressure on aquifers and chalk streams and help these sensitive environments recover, while protecting water supplies for agriculture.

Rooted in tradition, blossoming with innovation



love every drop
anglianwater

Cambridge Water

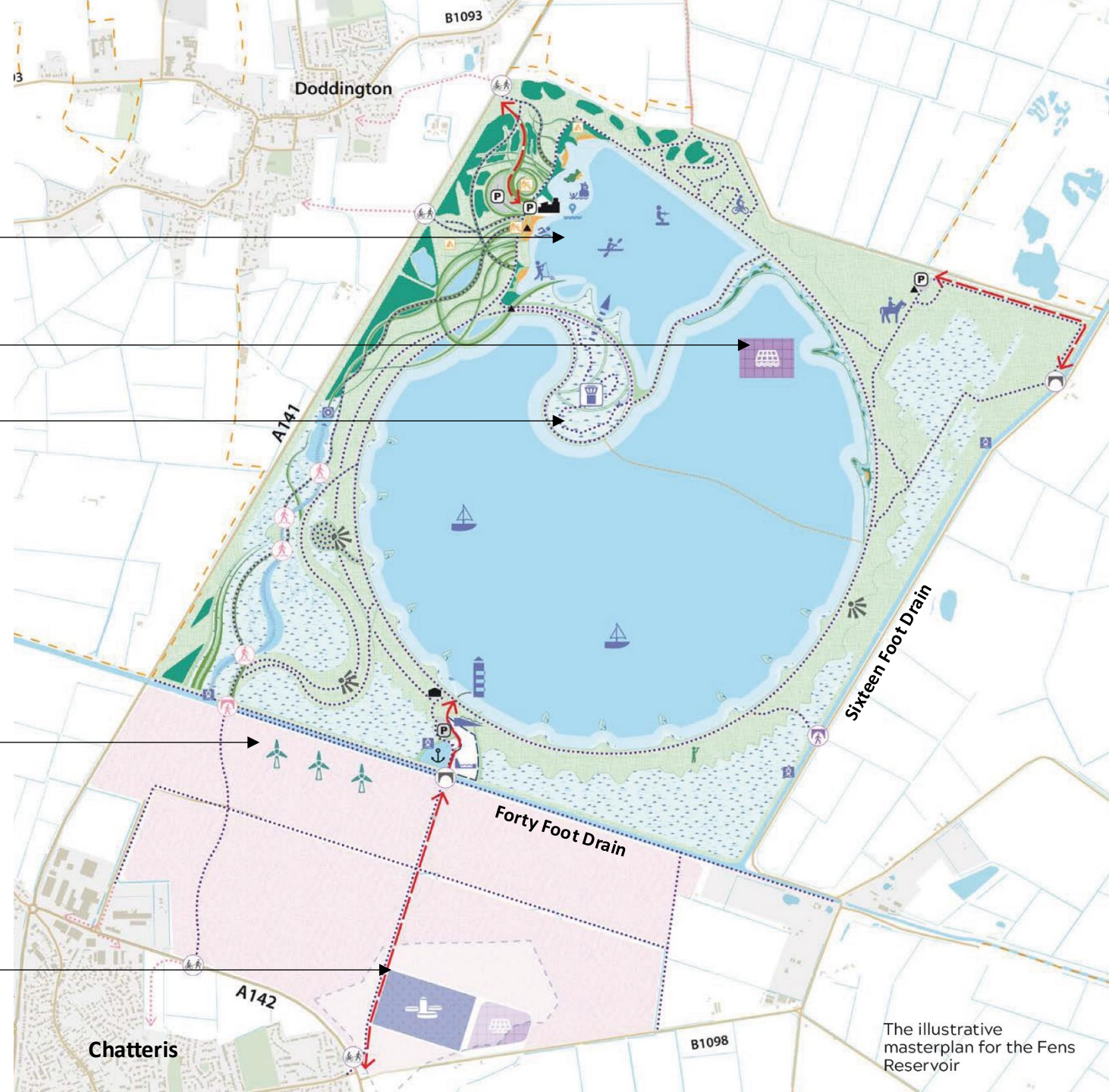
The emerging design



Illustrative emerging design

(key features labelled)

- Northern Lagoon and Main Recreation Hub
- Floating Solar (indicative location)
- Central Terrace
- Wind Turbines (Indicative location)
- Water Treatment Works and land based solar panels (Indicative location)

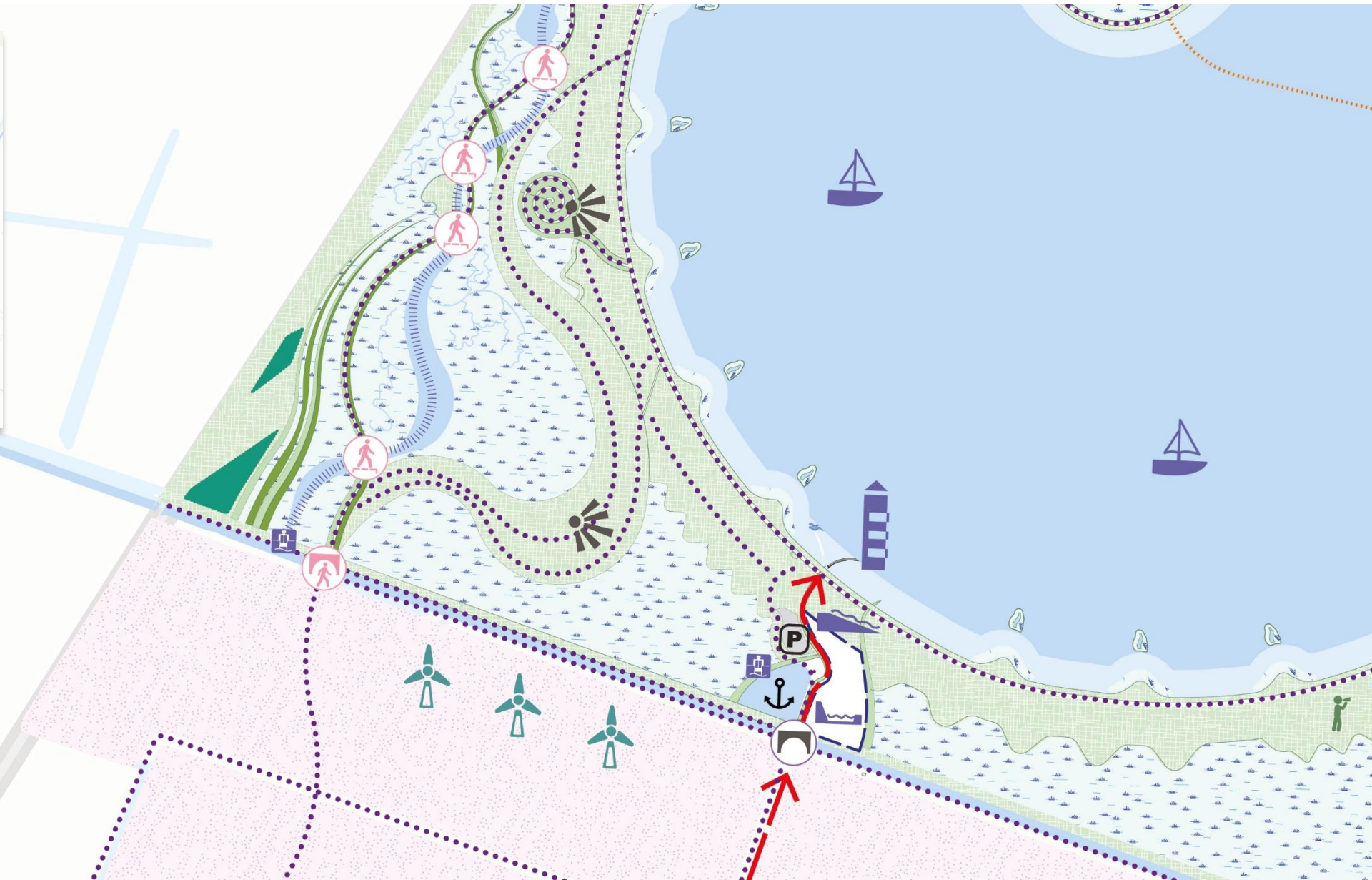


The illustrative masterplan for the Fens Reservoir

Component Areas

Lagoon and Central Terrace





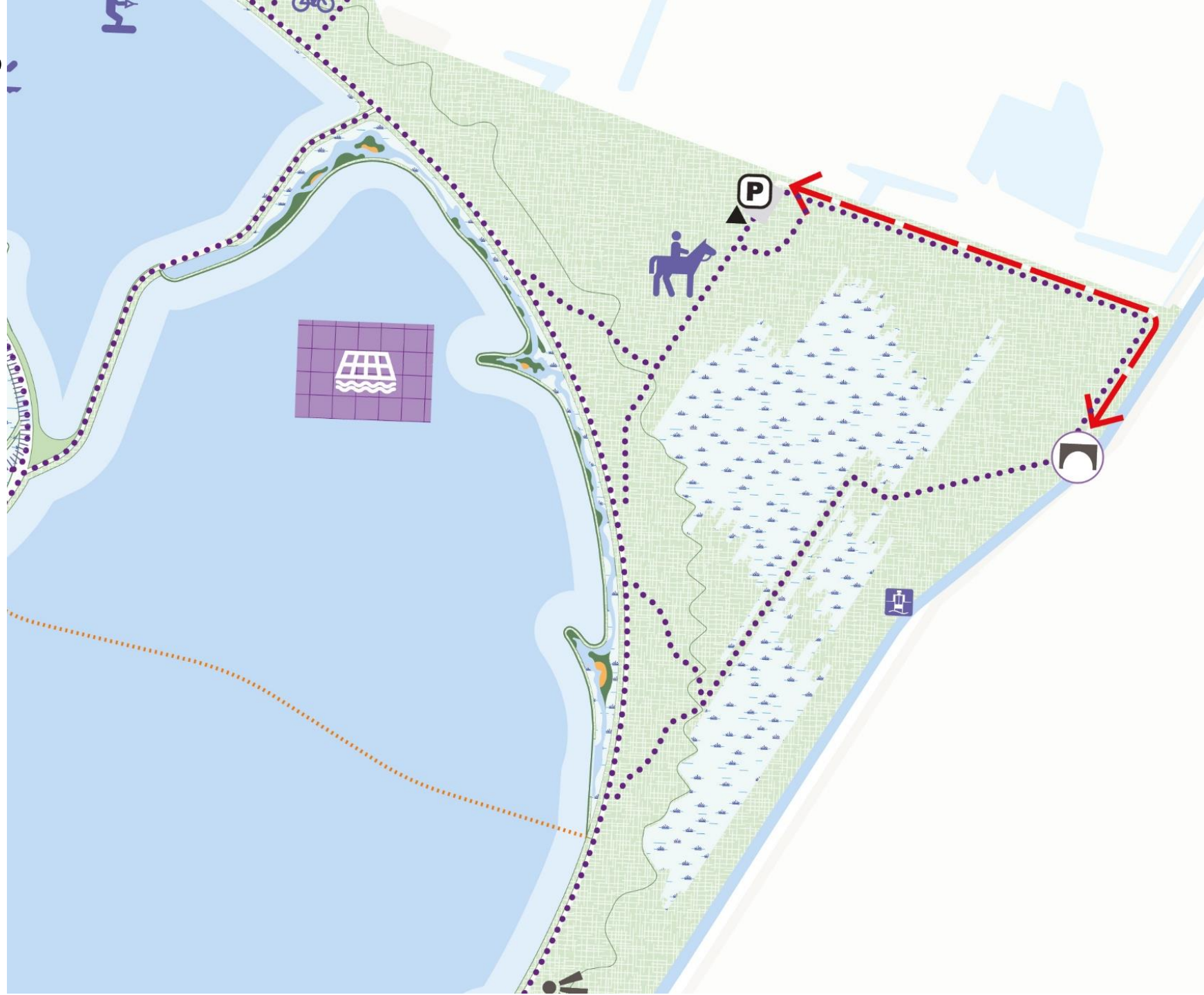
Component Areas

South East Quarter



Component Areas

North East Quarter



Illustrative Views

The view towards the eastern reservoir embankment at the junction of the Forty Foot and Sixteen Foot Drains.



Existing



Proposed

Illustrative photorealistic eye-level views (not verified photomontages).

The embankments are shown with a crest height of approximately 12.5m AOD / 12.5m above existing ground level

Planting illustrated within the views is shown at 15 years maturity.

Distance to Crest – 575m.



Illustrative Views

The view towards the northern reservoir embankment from the A141 near Doddington.



Existing



Proposed

Illustrative photorealistic eye-level views (not verified photomontages).

The embankments are shown with a crest height of approximately 12.5m AOD / 5m above existing ground level.

Planting illustrated within the views is shown at 15 years maturity.

Distance to Crest – 500m.



Illustrative Views

The view towards the southern reservoir embankment from the end of Drake Avenue, at the edge of Chatteris.



Existing



Proposed

Illustrative photorealistic eye-level views (not verified photomontages).

The embankments are shown with a crest height of approximately 12.5m AOD /12.5m above existing ground level.

Planting illustrated within the views is shown at 15 years maturity.

Distance to Crest – 1990m.



Our Indicative Design Principles



Indicative Design Principle 1:

A narrative landscape

The reservoir will be designed to celebrate the convergence of natural and man-made elements, drawing inspiration from the Fens' rich history of landscape-scale transformation and adaptation involving water. The reservoir, and the associated landscape works required to integrate it, will create a unique and complex landscape that helps to define this new era in water management; one where the Fens need to transform once again in response to the challenges of climate change.



Indicative Design Principle 2:

A destination where people enjoy water and nature

The reservoir will deliver the foundations for creating new multi-purpose and nature rich destination that will attract people from local communities and further afield. In doing so the reservoir would deliver opportunities to create many benefits for health and wellbeing, nature recovery, education and the local economy

These benefits could be achieved through a mix of passive and active recreational activity from inclusive and varied walking, cycling and horse-riding routes, to water-based recreation and facilities that maximise people's enjoyment of close physical and visual interaction with the water. Accessible areas will be designed so people can engage appropriately with nature whilst ensuring there is a balance between undisturbed and accessible areas to maintain ecosystem health and viability.

The landscape around the reservoir will be designed to add visual interest and provide moments of enclosure and shelter that counterpoint the predominant character of openness in the fenland landscape.



Indicative Design Principle 3:

A landmark

Take a distinctive and confident approach to the form and silhouette of the reservoir structures and earthworks so that they contribute to it becoming a new landmark in the region. Within the flat fenland landscape there is the potential for the new reservoir to be prominent in local views. It will provide new vantage points for long views across the fenland landscape, its dramatic skies and newly restored fenland habitats and to other regional landmarks on the horizon.

The design approach should be to celebrate the reservoir as a new intervention and point of wayfinding, rather than attempting to conceal it or prevent it from being a feature in the landscape.



Indicative Design Principle 4:

A focus for socio-economic growth

Consider opportunities in the design of the reservoir and location of its supporting infrastructure (such as access routes and essential mitigation), to support socio-economic opportunities for local communities. The core offer for recreation should provide a platform upon which others can build to provide additional amenity and local benefits.



Indicative Design Principle 5:

Wetland first

Where required, consider the opportunities and wider environmental benefits of creating wetland habitat, which was the defining habitat of the historic fenland landscape. Adapt the existing channel features to establish a unique perched wetland landscape around the reservoir with a network of marshes and waterways that supports a high diversity of fenland species and a resilient network of wetland habitat types whilst creating new carbon sinks and storing more water within the landscape.

Consider the capacity of wetland to deliver beneficial environmental and socio-economic outcomes as alternatives to engineered / carbon intensive solutions, as encouraged by planning policy and best practice. This could include exploring the use of innovative natural processes, such as infiltration beds, to improve quality of the water within the reservoir and as part of the water transfer and treatment process and using wetland to reduce carbon emissions, while increasing storage of both carbon and water and, potentially, mitigating flooding.



Indicative Design Principle 6:

Connecting nearby communities

The reservoir would seek to enhance connectivity between the neighbouring communities such as Chatteris, Doddington, Wimlington, Manea, Whittlesey, March and Wisbech, using the reservoir land as the conduit and as a destination in its own right, providing dedicated safe and attractive routes and crossings over busy roads and watercourses.

Where practicable, the reservoir design could promote active travel, including walking, cycling and horse riding, providing routes that connect into the wider Public Rights of Way network and align with local and regional Green Infrastructure strategies. Where necessary, improvements to existing highways would be considered to create safe environments for users.



Indicative Design Principle 7:

Moving the earth

Work with the subtle level differences in the existing landscape, landform, soils and geology to be efficient in the amount of earthmoving required in the construction of the reservoir. Make beneficial use of the material excavated within and close to the site to reduce the carbon footprint of the earthworks and their impact on local communities as far as practicable.

Where it is necessary to move it, carefully handle any peat found on the site to limit its release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

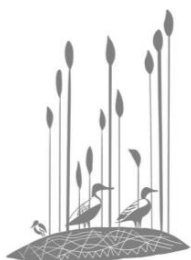


Indicative Design Principle 8:

Contribute to a restored Fenland landscape

Create habitats that contribute and connect to the wider and growing network of restored habitats in the locality. Design and locate areas of required habitat creation to most effectively support local ecological networks. Create a rich and varied mosaic of the required habitats identified through the EIA both within and surrounding the reservoir. This may include wetland, grassland, woodland and scrub.

Connect the new habitat created by the reservoir into the evolving network of nature restoration projects that are connected by the Forty Foot and Sixteen Foot Drains. Carefully design the reservoir embankments on both inner and outer faces, and wetland habitat within and outwith the reservoir, to optimise their connection with habitat corridors along these adjacent watercourses.



Indicative Design Principle 9:

Consistent and resilient access to the water

Designate areas within the reservoir that maintain, until the most persistent drought conditions, a consistent water level, promoting inclusive recreational access to the water and favourable conditions for the establishment of marginal and wetland habitat.

The creation of dedicated lagoons within the reservoir where water levels can be maintained will help facilitate access to the water via features such as beaches, jetties and pontoons and will also allow a range of wetland habitats to become established. From an earthworks and materials perspective, the optimal areas for creating weirs and lagoons to hold water are those associated with the higher ground, located in the north-west corner of the Fens Reservoir site.



Indicative Design Principle 10:

Well planned and seamlessly integrated operational infrastructure

Design and deliver integrated proposals that allow safe and secure access to these facilities for both operational staff and, where appropriate, the public. Where practicable features should have dual use and celebrate the civic importance of the reservoir infrastructure. Maximise opportunities to use operational features to promote recreation and create intriguing places that also tell the story of how essential water management is and how it is delivered.



Indicative Design Principle 11:

Decarbonised in operation

Design the reservoir to be constructed and operated to not just meet legislative and planning policy requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also support Anglian Water's and Cambridge Water's objective to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The reservoirs and associated infrastructure would be designed to maximise efficient siting, positioning and use of materials, including maximising reuse of soil arisings on site.

Wherever practicable, opportunities would be explored to apply innovative new low-energy and nature-based processes and to use renewable energy generation infrastructure as sensitively as possible.

Interactive Session

Some Questions you may want to consider...



The design principles and vision: Whilst the emerging design may change, the principles and vision which underpin it will be carried through all subsequent stages of design development and construction. Are these appropriate? Has anything important been missed? How could they be improved?



Look and feel: The emerging layout has been designed deliberately to be different – to be fun and a distinctive landmark in the Fens and attract people to the area. However, there are other approaches that could also work well. How do you think the reservoir should look and feel?



Visitor Hub Location: The location of the visitor hub is an important consideration and is influenced by a range of factors. The emerging design locates it in the north-west corner of the site to take advantage of the higher land there and to give better access to the water. Is it in the right place? If not, where would be better and why?



Local access to the site: The emerging design includes ideas for possible routes that could connect communities to the new parkland around the reservoir. Are these in the right place? Do you have any other ideas about how access could be provided? What would the most convenient routes be?



The range of facilities: The emerging design for the reservoir shows a range of different recreational facilities, to provide a draw for people from across the region. Is the type and scale of facilities proposed right?

How to get involved



Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS		
LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Bluntisham Village Hall, PE28 3LR	Monday 10 June	10am-3pm
Swavesey Community Pavilion, CB24 4RN	Tuesday 11 June	2pm-7pm
Coton Village Hall, CB23 7PL	Wednesday 12 June	2pm-7pm
The Skoulding Suite, March, PE15 9JF	Thursday 13 June	10am-3pm
Wimblington Parish Hall, PE15 0QT	Friday 14 June	2pm-7pm
Doddington Village Hall, PE15 0TG	Saturday 15 June	11am-4pm
King Edward Centre, Chatteris, PE16 6NG	Monday 17 June	11am-4pm
Manea Village Hall, PE15 0JN	Tuesday 18 June	2pm-7pm
The Norfolk Venue, Peterborough, PE1 2NP	Monday 8 July	2pm-7pm
The Bricstan Hall, Chatteris, PE16 6BE	Wednesday 10 July	12pm-5pm
Denver Village Hall, Downham Market, PE38 0DY	Saturday 13 July	11am-4pm

We're also holding two webinars so that people can learn more and ask questions. If you'd like to attend a webinar, please register by visiting www.fensreservoir.co.uk where you'll find instructions on the homepage.

COMMUNITY WEBINARS	DATE	TIME
Register to attend on our website: www.fensreservoir.co.uk	Monday 10 June	6pm-7pm
Register to attend on our website: www.fensreservoir.co.uk	Tuesday 16 July	6pm-7pm

We also were at the Chatteris Show 22 June and March Library on 9 July.

Providing feedback

The phase two consultation is open until 9 August 2024

For this consultation we are asking for your feedback on:

- Our **emerging design** for the reservoir (main site). This shows 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 and 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**.

All feedback you share will be reviewed, recorded, and carefully considered as we develop our proposals.

You can submit feedback to us in several different ways:

- On our website using our online form: **www.fensreservoir.co.uk**
- Sending written feedback to us at our freepost address: **Freepost Fens Reservoir**
- Sending an email to: **info@fensreservoir.co.uk**

Chair's closing remarks

- Our next CLG meeting will take place in October
- A copy of the slides and a summary of today's meeting will be added to the project website www.fensreservoir.co.uk



Thank you!



Further project information:

- www.fensreservoir.co.uk
- Register for updates – www.fensreservoir.co.uk/stay-informed/register/

