

# A proposed reservoir in the Fens

Phase three consultation –  
main reservoir  
site proposals



October 2025



The images and illustrations in this document are indicative and aim to convey how the design might appear once it has matured over time. The proposed design remains subject to further development, informed by consultation feedback and ongoing assessments.

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## Our documents

We've published a series of documents outlining our updated proposals, including two brochures: one on the infrastructure we would need to get water to the reservoir and into supply, and another – this brochure – on the main reservoir site.

For details of these documents and the others available for this consultation, please see **page 50**.

# Securing water supplies for future generations and creating a place where people, nature and water come together



Providing enough  
**water**  
for around  
**250,000**  
**homes**  
every year



Reducing  
demands  
on existing water  
sources to help  
**protect** the  
environment



Securing a  
**reliable**  
**supply**  
ensuring water for  
future generations amid  
a changing climate



Anglian Water working in partnership with Cambridge Water is proposing a new reservoir in the Cambridgeshire Fens that will secure water supplies to meet the needs of future generations, while helping to protect our most precious environments. The new reservoir will supply enough water for up to a quarter of a million homes every year.

The reservoir will store water so it's on tap when we need it, meaning less water is taken from sensitive sources, helping us to protect and restore the environment.

The reservoir will help to ensure water supply 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.

Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where people, nature and water come together. That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational facilities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

The proposed reservoir is located between Chatteris and March, near to Doddington, Wimblington and Manea. Since selecting a site for the reservoir, we've been working hard to develop our proposals for its design, and for the infrastructure needed to get water to and from the reservoir.

#### Our phase three consultation includes:

- **updated proposals for the main reservoir site**, including illustrations showing how the reservoir could feature in the landscape and connect to nearby communities, and the features it could include for people and nature
- **proposals for the water sources and water supply infrastructure** we would need to transfer water from sources to the reservoir, treat it and supply it to Anglian Water and Cambridge Water customers (covered by our **associated water infrastructure brochure**)
- **how we could deliver the project** including our early thinking on the construction phase and transport options
- **our approach to the environment** including how we're assessing the project's potential impacts, what we've learned to date, and the steps we could take to limit any impacts both during construction and operation
- **early plans on providing power for the reservoir**, including our current proposals for renewable technology



#### Find out more

Scan the QR code to watch our film on why the reservoir is needed.



# Developing our phase three design proposals

Since our phase two consultation, we've been working hard to develop our design proposals taking into account the feedback we received. We've also been developing our engineering designs, undertaking surveys and working with key stakeholders to help further improve our plans for the reservoir. We know now more about how we could minimise potential impacts and make the most of the opportunities the project presents.



**Read more**  
Read our **Design Refinement Report** to learn more about how we've developed our updated proposals: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)

## Environment



### What you told us:

People told us that they supported the inclusion of environmental areas and wildlife habitats in our design, but some were concerned about the potential impacts on existing wildlife habitats, including Fenland species, such as the bittern and crane. People wanted us to consider any effects on wildlife carefully.

### What we're doing:

Our updated proposals for the reservoir have been shaped in consideration of local wildlife and include opportunities for habitat creation and species-specific habitat enhancements.

As part of our phase three design proposals, we've created a zone dedicated to wildlife. To find out more about our proposals in this area see pages 26-29.

We're progressing our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 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 development consent order pre-application phase and will help us make design decisions informed by what we need to do to avoid or reduce impacts.

## Safe access



### What you told us:

People were keen to see our proposals for how all users, including motorists, walkers, cyclists and horse riders would access the reservoir and emphasised the importance of safe access from the local villages.

### What we're doing:

We've developed our thinking for active travel routes across the site and are continuing to consider opportunities for walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users, and horse riders as we develop our plans. We've also worked with the local authority and our Community Liaison Group to discuss our proposals for how the reservoir could be accessed on foot – including the potential for new footbridge at the A141 and active travel links with Chatteris, Wimblington and Doddington.

As part of our updated design proposals, we've included a secondary visitor hub in the south of the main reservoir site, along with a network of active travel routes through the wetland south of the Forty Foot Drain – thoughtfully connecting the Chatteris community to the reservoir. To read more about our proposals in this area please see pages 18-23.

## Construction, traffic and transport



### What you told us:

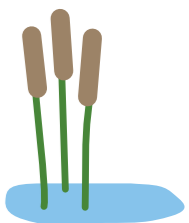
People wanted to know more about how we could construct the reservoir, and what impacts construction could potentially have on the local area – including impacts on local traffic and roads.

### What we're doing:

Since our last phase of consultation we've developed a plan for how we could construct the reservoir, considering local communities, the environment and our carbon footprint. To find out more about how we think we could construct the reservoir please see pages 32-39.

We've also been developing our traffic and transport plans, which have been informed by technical studies and our work with the local highways authority and other key stakeholders. You can read more about this on pages 40-43.

## Visual impacts and landscaping



### What you told us:

Some people had concerns about the proposed embankment heights and how the reservoir would feature in the surrounding landscape.

### What we're doing:

We've carried out more work to explore how the embankments could be landscaped and how the reservoir could feature sensitively in the largely flat landscape. We've considered the existing variations in height across the area – such as Doddington being more elevated than Chatteris – and what options these provide to integrate the embankments. Drawing inspiration from both the existing and historic landscape character, we've aimed to make a bold statement by proposing to sculpt the land in a way that would be visually striking, yet sensitive to surrounding communities. As the landscape matures, trees and other planting would help soften views, blending the reservoir into the wider landscape while also creating new habitats for wildlife. Cues for the site have also been drawn from local archaeological and historical features. We've created new visualisations (which can be seen on pages 12-29), to give people a better idea of what our design proposals could look like from surrounding areas.

## Water treatment works



### What you told us:

People wanted to know more about what the water treatment works would look like and exactly where it could be located.

### What we're doing:

Since our phase two consultation, we've been working on developing the design for the new water treatment works. We now have a much clearer picture of what the site could look like – including how much land we'd need, where buildings might be placed, how we could access the site, and how we could screen it from view. We're also exploring ways to make the screening work for nature, with opportunities to support local wildlife and enhance the surrounding environment. You can read more about our proposals for the water treatment works on pages 24-25.

## Recreation and opportunity



### What you told us:

People were enthusiastic about the recreational opportunities the reservoir could offer, commenting that they could benefit the local area and provide an economic boost. Although some also commented that recreational activities should not come at the expense of existing wildlife.

### What we're doing:

Our current proposals include three main zones for the reservoir, each offering different experiences to make sure both people and nature can benefit. We've also considered opportunities for range of facilities, such as cafés, and active opportunities – including walking, horse riding, cycling paths and water sports – that are accessible from the communities nearest each part of the site. Pages 10-11 outline each of the proposed areas and their potential uses.

# Our vision for the reservoir

Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where people, nature and water come together.



Celebrating  
**nature**  
with over  
**500** hectares  
of **wetland** and  
**open space**



An exciting  
destination  
that could  
draw up to



**400,000**  
**visitors**  
every year

**Access for**  
**everyone**



by foot, bike or  
horse with around  
**35km** of **active**  
**travel routes**

across the site



*What you could experience at the Recreational Hub visitor centre.  
For illustrative purposes only.*

# Our phase three design proposals

The design of the main reservoir site has been carefully developed to showcase how the reservoir could become a destination and an exciting new landmark – centred around water, inspired by its surroundings, and deeply rooted in its natural setting.

Our phase three design includes proposals for water-based recreation and a range of on-land recreational activities, including varied walking, cycling and horse riding routes. It also includes ideas that would provide views across the water, and opportunities to get close to water and nature. Our proposals feature a varied network of green spaces for people to enjoy and for nature to thrive, including proposals for wetland, woodland and grassed areas.

We've thought carefully about how people could move around the site and have included opportunities for this in our phase three design proposals, with a series of active travel loops and connections that would guide visitors around and through the different areas of the reservoir.

The visualisations and imagery included in this brochure are an artistic impression of what our phase three indicative design could look like approximately 15 years after completion with mature landscaping.

While our proposals include various ideas and opportunities, there's still some way to go in developing our plans.

We need to complete surveys and environmental assessments, continue our work to develop engineering and safety requirements and take on board the feedback from stakeholders and communities.

Further work is required to develop the phase three indicative concept design to a level of design appropriate to support an application for development consent (see page 48).

This means our proposals for the reservoir will continue to evolve in the coming development phases.

We will continue to share our proposals through consultation so communities and stakeholders can see how they're developing.

**Key**

**Indicative locations for primary infrastructure (operational reservoir)**

- Upstream transfer (open channel)
- Water discharge point into reservoir
- Outlet tower
- Scour tower
- Outlet valve test pond
- Spillway
- Water treatment works
- Operation and maintenance facilities
- Outlet valve test pond
- Pumping station
- Water control structures

**Indicative landscape elements**

- Woodland
- Wetland
- Grassland
- Community orchard
- Agricultural reinstatement
- Proposed Grassland with trees placed responding to landform
- Land potentially required for environmental mitigation and/or enhancement
- Public realm associated with hub buildings
- Open water area
- Floating wetland
- Landform
- Native hedgerow with trees

**Indicative opportunities for recreation**

- Buoy line – demarcating extent of recreation
- Visitor centre
- Secondary recreational facility
- Tertiary recreational facility
- Beach
- Public art
- Sailing
- Play
- Point of access to the water
- Viewing area during construction works
- Viewpoint
- Fishing
- Bird Hide
- Paddle sport

**Renewable energy**

- Location for retained wind turbine
- Maximum extent of ground mounted solar panels (note that floating solar is being explored as an alternative or in-combination).

**Indicative access elements**

- Potential shared path (and inspection, maintenance and operation access)
- Existing Public Right of Way
- Potential vehicular access route
- Potential pedestrian path
- Proposed road crossing for walking, cycling and horse riding
- Proposed road bridges for walking, cycling and horse riding
- Existing waterway bridges for walking, cycling and horse riding
- Proposed all user bridge
- Proposed boardwalk crossing
- Proposed parking

Other renewable energy technologies are being considered. Further work will be undertaken to identify preferred technologies, scale and locations.

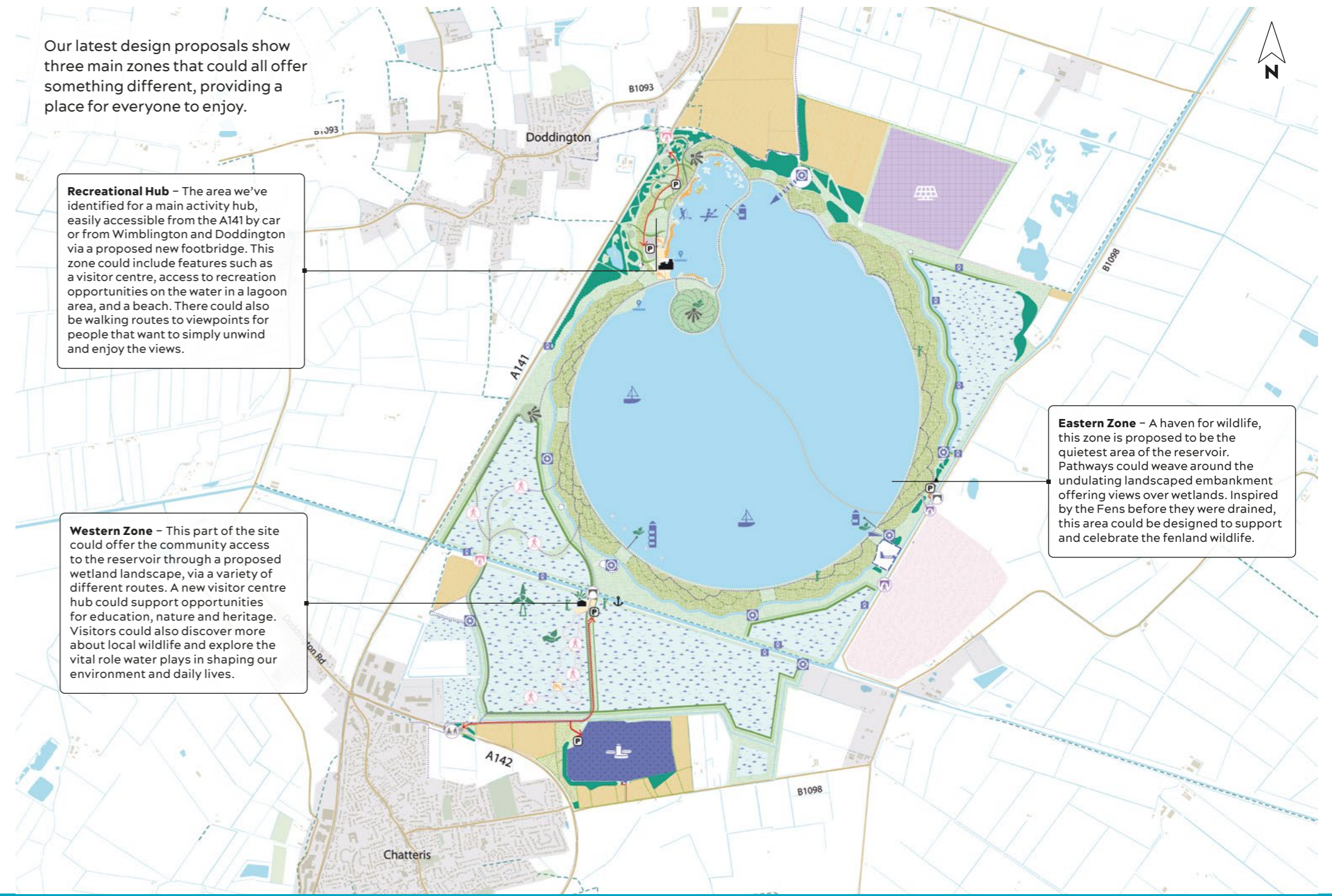
The location and alignment of the routes shown are indicative at this stage and further work will be undertaken to define and refine these.

Our latest design proposals show three main zones that could all offer something different, providing a place for everyone to enjoy.

**Recreational Hub** – The area we've identified for a main activity hub, easily accessible from the A141 by car or from Wimblington and Doddington via a proposed new footbridge. This zone could include features such as a visitor centre, access to recreation opportunities on the water in a lagoon area, and a beach. There could also be walking routes to viewpoints for people that want to simply unwind and enjoy the views.

**Western Zone** – This part of the site could offer the community access to the reservoir through a proposed wetland landscape, via a variety of different routes. A new visitor centre hub could support opportunities for education, nature and heritage. Visitors could also discover more about local wildlife and explore the vital role water plays in shaping our environment and daily lives.

**Eastern Zone** – A haven for wildlife, this zone is proposed to be the quietest area of the reservoir. Pathways could weave around the undulating landscaped embankment offering views over wetlands. Inspired by the Fens before they were drained, this area could be designed to support and celebrate the fenland wildlife.



# Recreational Hub: our proposals for the north west area of the site

Accessible from the A141, and from Wimblington and Doddington, in our current design proposals this zone serves as the main access to the reservoir. With a focus on recreation and leisure opportunities, our design includes features for people to enjoy, and spaces for relaxing and experiencing the water.

The idea with this zone is to offer an exciting starting point for a visitor's experience – inviting people to explore and connect with the water and its surroundings. We're exploring the idea of creating a hill – formed using excess materials from the reservoir's construction – rising up to 18 meters above the embankment crest at the centre of the reservoir. This feature could offer sweeping views across the reservoir and surrounding landscape. A lagoon in this zone could also provide consistent water levels – enabling water sports.

## Recreational Hub visitor centre

We think the visitor centre could be an exciting focal point of activity including recreational, leisure and educational opportunities.

We're developing designs for the visitor centre, including the crescent shaped design shown which would complement the curved shape of the reservoir and create welcoming spaces for users. Here, people could gather over food and drink while enjoying views over the water.

We're exploring how the building could help people of all ages get closer to the water and enjoy it to the fullest. The building could support activity on the reservoir through facilities such as changing rooms, showers, storage and equipment hire. There could also be flexible spaces for indoor activity and play for year round use.



Viewpoint location plan.

**Tell us what you think**

We're keen to hear your views on the visitor centre and opportunities for recreation in this part of the site. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.



What you could experience at the Recreational Hub visitor centre. For illustrative purposes only.

# Recreational Hub: access

The Recreational Hub has the opportunity to become an exciting destination, drawing visitors from both the local area and wider region. We're committed to providing safe, sustainable access for nearby communities, and have thought carefully about how people could access the site.

## Access by vehicle

Based on our work to date, we know that visitors travelling by car to the reservoir are most likely to use the A141, and that it's the most suitable route for the main access to the reservoir. To ensure steady and safe traffic flows, we're proposing a new roundabout here (please see pages 32-42 of this brochure for more information on our approach to construction and access to the main reservoir site) that would lead to parking areas, close to the visitor centre, on the western edge of the reservoir. Around 80 percent of the parking provision we've included in our design proposal is located here.


## Walking, cycling and horse riding access

We're committed to supporting active travel and safe access by foot, bike or horse. We've included plans for a footbridge on the A141 to connect Wimblington and Doddington to the Recreational Hub. We still need to develop a design for this in more detail but we're keen to make sure it serves as a meaningful link between new and existing places.

We need to do more work to further develop our plans and ensure we've optimised the opportunities available through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process to connect the reservoir site to nearby places. This includes further discussion with the highways authority, more modelling of travel patterns, and assessing the environmental impacts of increased visitors to the area. Your feedback on our latest thinking will help inform this work too.

**Tell us what you think**

We're keen to hear your insights and experiences of the roads and active travel options in the area, and how they would fit with our proposed access arrangements. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.




# Recreational Hub: inspired by the local area

We've thought carefully about how this part of the reservoir could sit sensitively within the surrounding landscape, and how it might look from Wimblington and Doddington.

The Recreational Hub is located at the edge of the Wimblington and Doddington – Fen Isle – where existing ground levels are higher. This means that the embankment height in the northwest corner would be lower than at other points in relation to the existing ground level.

We're exploring ways to sculpt the reservoir's embankments to create a more varied and visually appealing landscape. This approach could also provide the soil depth needed for potential tree planting, helping to soften the appearance of the embankments and blend them into the surrounding environment.

In the Fens, trees are generally found on areas of higher ground. For example, this area – on the eastern edge of Doddington and Wimblington – was historically used as woodland and a deer park. Reflecting this historic landscape feature, the proposed design could include areas of woodland planting in this area.

Trees in this area could create a sheltered setting for the facilities that could be provided here. It could also screen this area from the road and surrounding communities.

The higher ground means the embankments are lower here. Combined with the consistent water level in the lagoon, this makes this area best for accessible and inclusive access to the water.



Viewpoint location plan.

**i** **Managing visual impacts**  
To learn more about how we're assessing visual impacts and the ways we propose to mitigate these impacts, read our **Supporting Environmental Information Report: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)**

**Have your say**  
Tell us what you think about our approach to landscaping, by completing our **feedback form**.




Aerial view from the north of the reservoir looking south over the Recreational Hub, with the A141 running parallel to the main reservoir site. For illustrative purposes only.

# Western Zone: our proposals in the south western part of the site, near Chatteris

In this part of the site our design proposals include access to the southern edge of the reservoir and on to the main hub from Chatteris. Designed with both visitors and the local community in mind, this part of the site could be a place for learning, exploration, and connection – with nature and one another.

Here we would bring the experience of water closer to Chatteris via an extensive area of wetland south of the Forty Foot Drain. People could travel through the new wetland area using active travel loops and boardwalks, or potentially enjoy water-based activities, such as canoeing.

The wetland is an important part of our plans to provide biodiversity and space for nature to thrive. It could create a connection to the historic Fenland landscape from before it was drained, as well as supporting local wildlife, such as nesting birds.

We've included proposals for a new bridge over the Forty Foot Drain, for people to access the southern edge of the reservoir via a network of wetland and landforms. From here, people could also access other parts of the reservoir site.

## Western Zone visitor centre

Our phase three design proposals include a new, secondary visitor centre south of the Forty Foot Drain, to provide amenities for people arriving from Chatteris.

The visitor centre could be a great space to celebrate local cultural heritage, and for people to learn about water and how it has shaped lives and the environment in the Fens. It could include spaces for community groups to hire and unlock partnership opportunities for learning.

We're still developing the design for the visitor centre and are exploring concepts inspired by the ancient circular buildings at Must Farm, which are made of natural materials and built on stilts.

**We know people want to see the reservoir provide valuable amenities for Chatteris – this is why we're proposing a secondary visitor centre near the town to create a space that the local community could use.**



### Water treatment works

The proposed location for the water treatment works is to the north-east of Chatteris. To learn more about this facility, please see pages 24-25.



Viewpoint location plan.



### Have your say

We're keen to hear your views on the visitor centre and our approach to landscaping. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.



View from the western embankment looking north. For illustrative purposes only.

# Western Zone: access

Our plan is for the Western Zone to be easily and safely accessed by road and to encourage more sustainable forms of travel – especially for people arriving from the Chatteris area.

We've thought carefully about how people could access the site from the A142 to ensure that both local residents and visitors from further afield can enjoy this zone.

## Access by vehicle


We're proposing a new roundabout on the A142. From there, a new road would lead people through the wetland area to the visitors hub. We've made an allowance for parking in this part of the reservoir too, with dedicated accessible spaces to ensure everyone can enjoy the reservoir and its surroundings. This location includes around 15 percent of the reservoir site's parking provision.

## Walking, cycling and horse riding access

To open up connections with Chatteris for those travelling by foot, bike or horse, we're proposing a signalised crossing across the A142 and a series of pathways to connect the area north of Chatteris to the wetland zone. We are proposing two bridges across the Forty Foot Drain – one next to the secondary visitor centre and the other to the western edge of the new wetland – to ensure people can access the rest of the site and southern edge of the reservoir.

Lots of people told us in our phase two consultation that providing safe access from Chatteris for people travelling on foot, by bike or horse riding is very important to them. Extending the existing 40mph zone on the A142 to include the proposed crossing and roundabout could help do this, although this would need to be discussed and agreed with the local highway authority.

**Have your say**  
 We're keen to hear your views of the roads and active travel options in the area, and how they would fit with our proposed access arrangements. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.




Please see page 10 for map key

# Western Zone: inspired by the local area

We've carefully considered how we could create a meaningful connection between the main reservoir site and Chatteris, as well as how the area between the embankments and the edge of the site might look and feel.

We're proposing a large area of wetlands that people could explore and travel through on their way to the reservoir – or simply enjoy as a destination in its own right. These wetlands would support habitats for local wildlife and also potentially provide space to store peat excavated during construction.

### Managing peat

Based on our assessments and understanding of the ground conditions, we anticipate there is a lot of peat sitting on top of the clay at the main reservoir site. Peatland is important for addressing climate change – it stores large amounts of carbon when it's wet, preventing this carbon from being released into the atmosphere.

We would like to avoid disturbing the peat at the main reservoir site as much as practical. Where we cannot avoid excavating the peat we'll aim to keep as much of it as we can on site. This would also help us to minimise the number of vehicle movements that might be needed to transport materials. To do this, we need to ensure any peatland can be kept wet, so we don't lose the carbon benefits. Wetland creation could be a key part of how we do this.



Viewpoint location plan.

**i** **Our approach to managing peat**  
Find out more about our approach to managing peat by reading our **Design Refinement Report:** [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)



Aerial view from Chatteris, showing the A142 running along the southern boundary of the main reservoir site, and the A141 at the site's western boundary. For illustrative purposes only.

# The water treatment works

The water treatment works would treat water from the reservoir so it's safe to drink and ready to supply to homes and businesses when it's needed.

From feedback to our phase two consultation, we know people are keen to understand what the water treatment works could look like, and what we'll do to reduce visual impacts.

We've now developed our proposals for this facility further. This includes considering the types of buildings we could need, how it would be operated and how much space could be needed. We've also considered how we could integrate this important facility into the surrounding landscape.

The water treatment works would be surrounded by landscaped areas and enclosed within fencing.

It could include:

- an office
- a laboratory
- storage and processing tanks
- pumping stations
- treatment buildings
- a service reservoir for treated water
- attenuation pond
- reed beds for filtration
- safety measures including fencing, lighting and surveillance
- access roads to the site and parking



A visual impression of the area between the Forty Foot Drain and the water treatment works, viewed from the reservoir crest looking toward the treatment facility. For illustrative purposes only.



Viewpoint location plan.

**i Find out more**

To see how the water treatment works would work with the wider associated water infrastructure, please see our **associated water infrastructure brochure**.

To learn more about the water treatment works and what it could include please see our **Design Refinement Report**.

Both can be found here: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)

**Have your say**

We're keen to hear your views on our proposals for the water treatment works. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.

We're still developing our plans, but currently we're considering locating the office on the northern edge of the site, overlooking the proposed new wetlands. The larger, more functional buildings could then be set further back within the site, making them less visible from the road. In the north, the proposed wetlands and the reservoir could act as a natural screen.

To help screen the site from view we're exploring opportunities for:

- gentle bunds, and tree and hedge planting along the southern and western edges of the site
- community orchards along the western edge with Chatteris – orchards once grew here, so this would reflect the area's heritage and could bring environmental benefits, as well as screening the site



Indicative plan, within the identified area, for the water treatment works.

**Key**

- 1 Operational buildings
- 2 Water storage
- 3 Admin building/ laboratory
- 4 Proposed species diverse grassland
- 5 Proposed community orchard
- 6 Proposed IDB main drain channel
- 7 Proposed wetland bund
- 8 Proposed wetland, please refer to main site masterplan
- 9 Reed beds for filtration
- 10 Attenuation pond
- 11 Existing hedge to be gapped-up/ broadened in consultation with adjacent landowner
- Proposed woodland planting
- Permeable access track
- Tree planting
- Solar panel
- Reinforced grass surfacing
- Inlet pipe line
- Indicative treated water
- Retained / reinstated agricultural land
- Security fence
- Proposed native hedgerow with trees
- New bridge
- Indicative project boundary

# Eastern Zone: our proposals in the east, closest to Manea

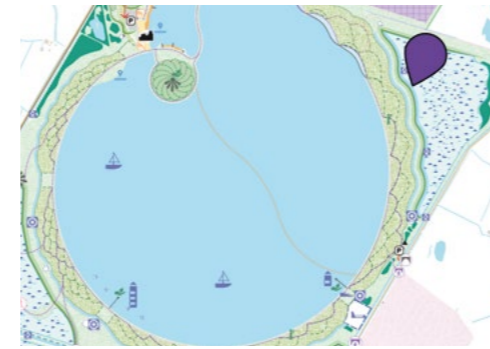
This area would provide access to the eastern side of the reservoir near Manea and could include a small visitors hub and parking provision. Nature would be at the heart of this area, offering visitors a chance to unwind and enjoy peaceful wetland landscapes.

We're proposing this area is dedicated to nature, creating a haven for fenland wildlife. The creation of a wetland area is a key part of our proposals in this area. Here away from busier areas of the reservoir, nature could flourish undisturbed while visitors view from a distance. A series of foot and cycle paths could weave through the landscaped embankments on the wetland edge, providing views over the tranquil habitat setting which would be reminiscent of pre-drained fenland.

The design for the visitor amenities in this area is still being developed, though it could include parking, a toilet block and potentially a pop-up café. These would be unobtrusive to fit in with this being a quieter area where nature is the focus.

This area is also near to some of the operational infrastructure for the reservoir, including where our proposals for powering the site using solar power could be located, and the water treatment works. Read **page 44** to find out more about our proposals for solar panels.

**We're committed to achieving at least 10 percent biodiversity net gain, leaving the environment in a better position than before constructing the reservoir. The Eastern Zone is a key part of our plans to balance the needs of nature while enabling people to enjoy the outdoors.**



Viewpoint location plan.

**Tell us what you think**

We want to hear your views on our proposals in this area including environmental features and wildlife habitats, and particularly our proposed use of wetland. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.



A visual impression from the eastern corner of the main reservoir site towards the reservoir embankment, over the proposed wetland area. For illustrative purposes only.

# Eastern Zone: access

The Eastern Zone could be a haven for nature right on the doorstep of the Manea community – a peaceful place to walk the dog, go for a cycle, or do some birdwatching in a beautiful wetland setting.

Our design proposal for the Eastern Zone is for it to be quieter than the other areas of the reservoir. We expect fewer visitors to this part of the site, due to the major A-road connections serving other zones and their greater recreational opportunities. However, we would want to provide a way for people to access this area, including residents of Manea.

Plans for how the Eastern Zone could be accessed are still being developed. From our work so far we think that a bridge from the B1098, across the Sixteen Foot Drain, could be an option – providing both vehicular and non-vehicular access.

This could lead to a small parking provision for around 5 percent of the total for the whole site – to make sure access by car is possible but not at the detriment of nature here.




Viewpoint location plan.



A visual impression of what the Eastern Area of the reservoir could look like. For illustrative purposes only.

**Have your say**  
 We're keen to hear your views of the roads and active travel options in the area, and how they would fit with our proposed access arrangements. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.




Please see page 10 for map key

# The engineering requirements

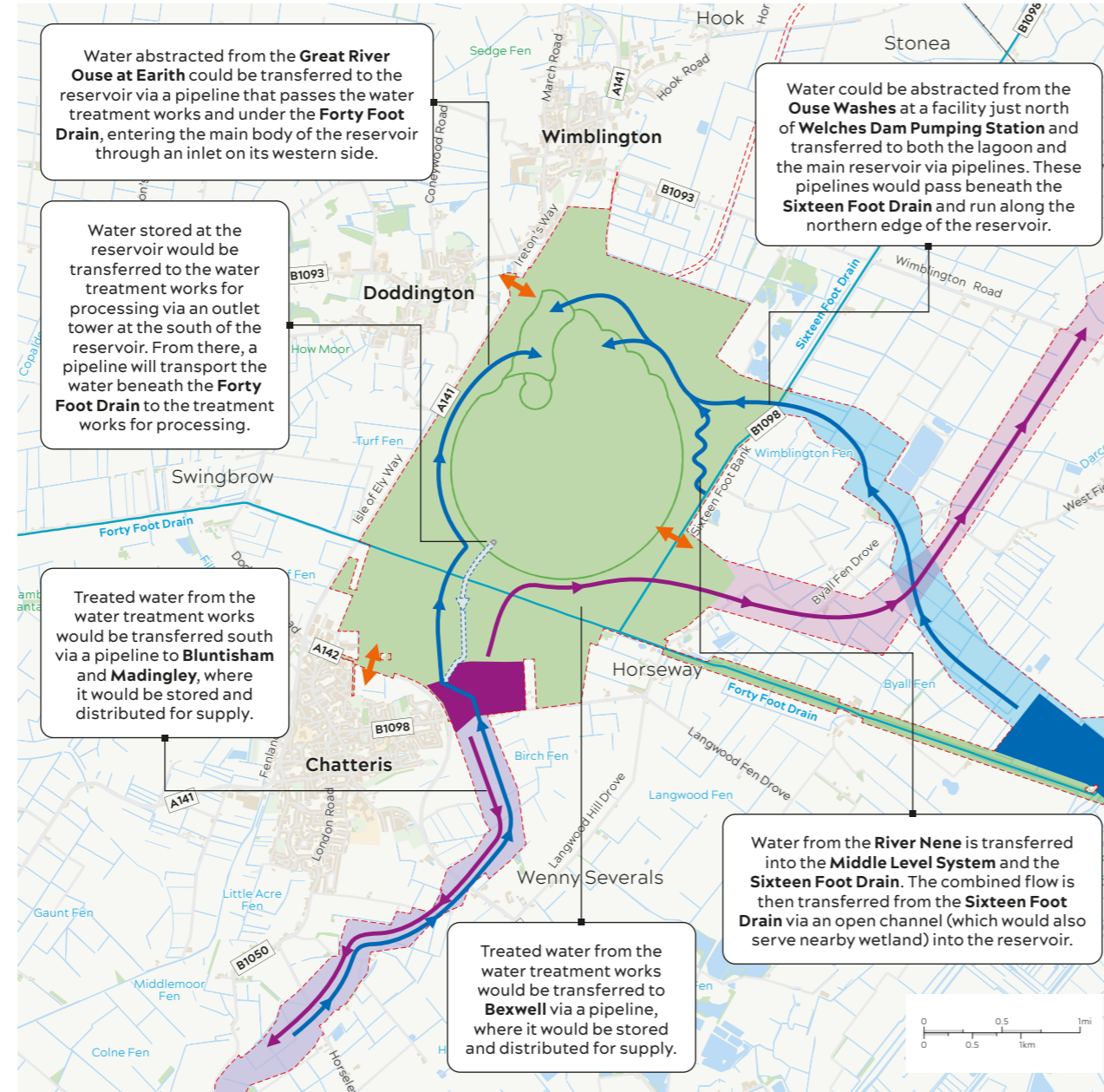
When designing the reservoir we must start by making sure it can fulfil its most important function – storing water for when we need it. This means carefully considering how water enters the reservoir, moves around it, and is drawn for treatment and supplied to customers, as well as the infrastructure required to support this.

Some of these elements have developed since our last consultation.

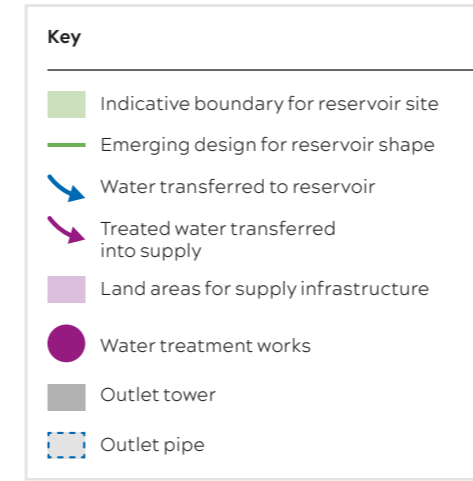
These updates include:

- **carefully coordinating the location of structures, underground pipelines and services** to make construction more efficient, reduce costs and avoid unnecessary overlaps and crossings
- **integrating engineering elements with design features**, such as soft landscaping, wetlands and recreational spaces
- **strategically placing water inlet and outlet structures** to support water circulation

The diagram opposite shows these operational elements and how they factor into the reservoir design. We have also been assessing the quality of water coming from our sources into the reservoir, and the type of treatment that would be required to treat this to drinking water standards. Some treatment processes we are exploring may need a waste pipeline and we are continuing our work to assess if this will be required. The nature and potential location of the pipeline are still being considered. We will share more details on this at a future phase of consultation.



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## Managing safety

We're designing the reservoir to the highest engineering and safety standards. This includes robust design, safety controls, and monitoring procedures that will be in place during construction and throughout the reservoir's lifetime.

The reservoir is non-impounding, meaning it is not directly connected to any watercourses and the entire perimeter is a constructed embankment. Water would be pumped in and out of the reservoir, meaning we have complete control over the water levels.

That means when water levels are high, we can stop pumping water into the reservoir and the channels which feed it.

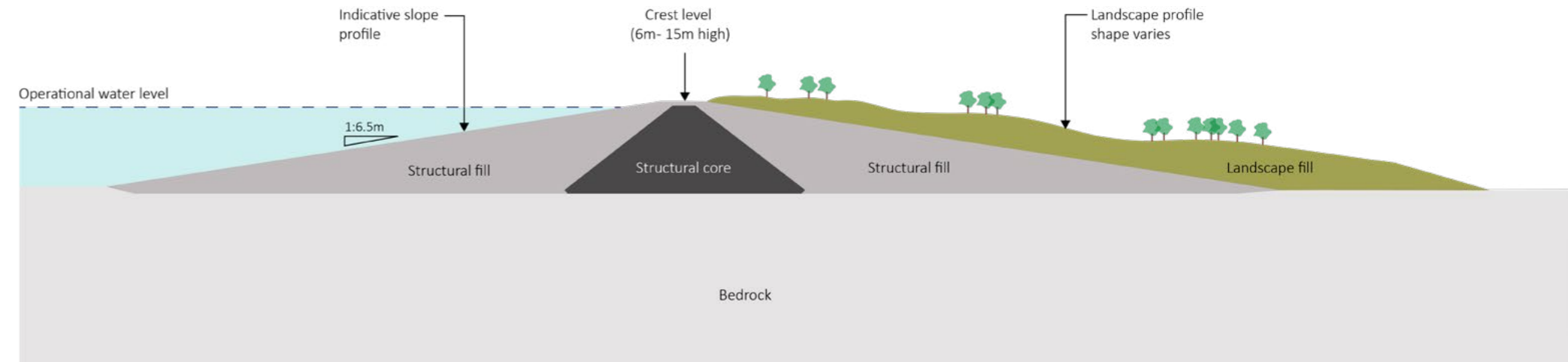
The water in the reservoir would be held by engineered embankments that are built to meet the strict safety standards required by the Reservoirs Act 1975.

All this means that we can be confident that the reservoir can be built to be safe for its whole lifecycle, with regular monitoring, testing and checks as part of the process.

As required by the Reservoirs Act 1975, we have to make sure water can be discharged from the reservoir quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. It's not something we ever expect to happen, but we must make sure there's a plan in place to manage this as part of safety legislation.

Our ongoing assessments show that we can safely discharge water into the Sixteen Foot Drain, from there it would be pumped away to sea via St German's pumping station.

The mechanism for discharging water will be tested every year using a contained pond – this water won't leave the site; it will be pumped back into the reservoir once the test is complete.



Cross-section showing embankment engineering profile.

# Delivering our proposals – our plans for construction

We are committed to delivering a new destination in Cambridgeshire where water, people and nature can come together. To get to this outcome, we're thinking carefully about how we will construct the reservoir. We want to do this in a way that keeps impacts from our work as low as possible.

We understand people have concerns about the potential impacts the project could create during construction, and have carried out more technical assessments, surveys, and engagement with specialist stakeholders to look at what building the reservoir would involve.

This includes:

- identifying opportunities and prioritising the re-use of excavated material on site wherever practicable, reducing the amount that needs to be brought in from outside to construct the reservoir

- looking at the existing transport network to see how it might accommodate construction traffic
- working out how and when we need to carry out certain construction activity, and the workforce involved
- considering how we will mitigate and manage the impacts on people, place and environment

Our plans for constructing the reservoir are still at an early stage and will continue to evolve based on technical assessments, stakeholder input and your feedback.

## Our approach to construction

We're committed to delivering the project in the best way we can. That commitment is guiding the creation of our construction strategy, which sets out how we'll approach constructing the reservoir – from managing working hours and coordinating suppliers, to unlocking and developing the local skills needed for construction.



### Find out more

Our **Supporting Environmental Information Report** has more information about the types of things we could do to manage construction and traffic impacts.

To find out more about our construction strategy please see our **Design Refinement Report**.

Both can be found here: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)



### Share your insights

Tell us if there's anything else we should know about or consider when progressing our construction plans by completing our **feedback form**.



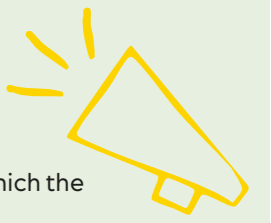
Here are some of the things we're considering in our approach to constructing the reservoir:

### Traffic impacts

- Re-using as much material from the site as we can, to minimise the export of materials and associated vehicle movements as far as practical.
- Developing a construction traffic management plan in collaboration with the local highway authorities to ensure we meet our commitments. This plan will include how we intend to monitor roads during construction and our agreed approach to repairing any damage caused by our construction vehicles.
- Assessing the need for modifications to local roads at several locations to enable the local road network to accommodate our construction vehicles.
- Minimising impacts during peak periods such as school drop offs and pick-ups.
- Seeking opportunities to reduce road traffic through importing material by rail.

### Community impacts

- Putting measures in place to control and reduce noise levels.
- Developing management plans to make sure we meet our commitments to managing noise, light and dust pollution, which the Environmental Impact Assessment will identify.
- Being a good neighbour by keeping the site and surrounding roads clean, tidy and secure.
- Keeping people informed in advance about construction activity and what it means for them, including any traffic management changes.
- In addition to statutory compensation and mitigation measures, we're also exploring the introduction of a discretionary compensation policy. This would apply to homeowners outside the project boundary who may still be affected by the project. The scheme could potentially offer noise insulation – such as double glazing – or other appropriate measures for impacted homeowners.



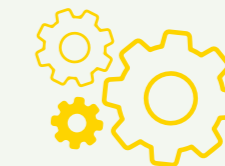
### Carbon and the environment

- Carrying out surveys to observe and record wildlife activity both prior to and throughout the project's construction so we can account for it properly in our plans.
- Reducing carbon emissions by using eco-friendly fuels where viable to power the plant.
- Achieving at least 10 percent biodiversity net gain.



### Socio-economic opportunities

- Identifying opportunities to use local suppliers and workers.
- Exploring opportunities for local hospitality businesses to accommodate workers – helping to support the local economy.
- Making sure our workforce doesn't put strain on local services by providing some accommodation on site if needed.
- Exploring ways to set up one or more of the visitor centres early on so it can be used for education and engagement during construction.



### Flood risks

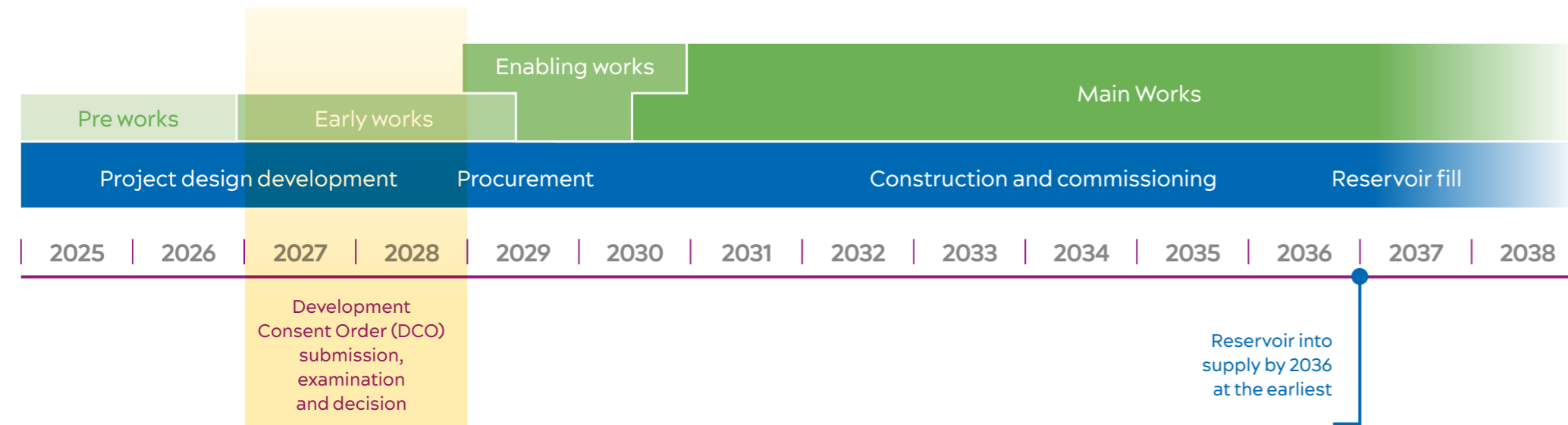
- Ensuring our proposals will not contribute to any increased risk to river flooding during either the construction or operational phases of the project.
- Carrying out ground and surface water flood surveys to help us map the movement of water and how our work might impact this.
- Putting in place drainage plans and monitoring systems for all phases of construction.



# Our timeline for construction

Our plans for how we will construct the reservoir have been shaped by your feedback, findings from our investigations and surveys, and our desire to minimise impacts on people, place, and the environment.

This timeline shows approximately how long each phase of the construction process could take.



## Pre-works

Preliminary investigations and surveys to help us develop our design proposals for the reservoir, prior to the project's DCO application submission.

These could include:

- ground investigation surveys
- ecological surveys
- topography surveys
- archaeological investigations

## Early works

Essential investigations and surveys to help us better understand the site before any construction begins.

These could include:

- ground investigation surveys
- soil surveys
- ecological surveys
- topography surveys
- archaeological investigations

We're also considering constructing a trial embankment using local clay to better understand how it performs. The results would help shape the final embankment design.

## Enabling works

The first steps we'd take – if the project is approved – to prepare the site for construction.

This would include:

- relocating and creating new mitigation habitats
- removing invasive, non-native plants
- continuing archaeological investigation of areas of interest discovered in early works / surveys
- diverting existing utility services
- installing new utility connections on site
- creating new access routes into site and making the highways improvements needed
- constructing on-site work compounds to support the construction of the reservoir and the water treatment works.

## Main construction works

Once the site is prepared, construction will begin on the reservoir itself, along with the water treatment works, pipelines, and other essential infrastructure needed for its operation.

First, we would establish a construction compound and main access routes into the site. To find out more about this, please see pages 36-37.

The embankments, which could be between 6-15 metres high, would be constructed using clay sourced directly from the reservoir site, along with imported sand and stone which would be used to create drainage layers.

The inner surface of the embankments would then be lined with imported rock to protect against erosion.

To access the clay we would need for the embankments, we'd create borrow pits – areas we'd dig out to access the clay and store it for use elsewhere – within the reservoir footprint. Since the clay is often located beneath layers of unsuitable soil, this would be stockpiled for future landscaping around the reservoir.

During this phase, we would also construct the on-site infrastructure needed to operate the reservoir, including the water treatment works.



### Read more

You can read more about the work we're planning to do to test our approach to constructing the embankments in our **trial** [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents).



# Construction working areas and access to the site

To help construct and maintain the reservoir, we would need to set up a main works compound, and a secondary compound for construction of the water treatment works.

We've thought carefully about where the main compound could be located, based on how construction vehicles and workers could access the site and the best place for constructing some of the storage and welfare facilities needed.

We're proposing the main compound is located to the north side of the reservoir, just east of the lagoon area. The compound may include facilities for worker welfare, on-site accommodation, parking, and secure storage for materials. It will also serve as the main access point for workers entering the reservoir site.

Smaller satellite compounds may also be needed in other areas of the main reservoir site to facilitate effective working. The potential locations for these are still being developed.

## Accessing the site during construction

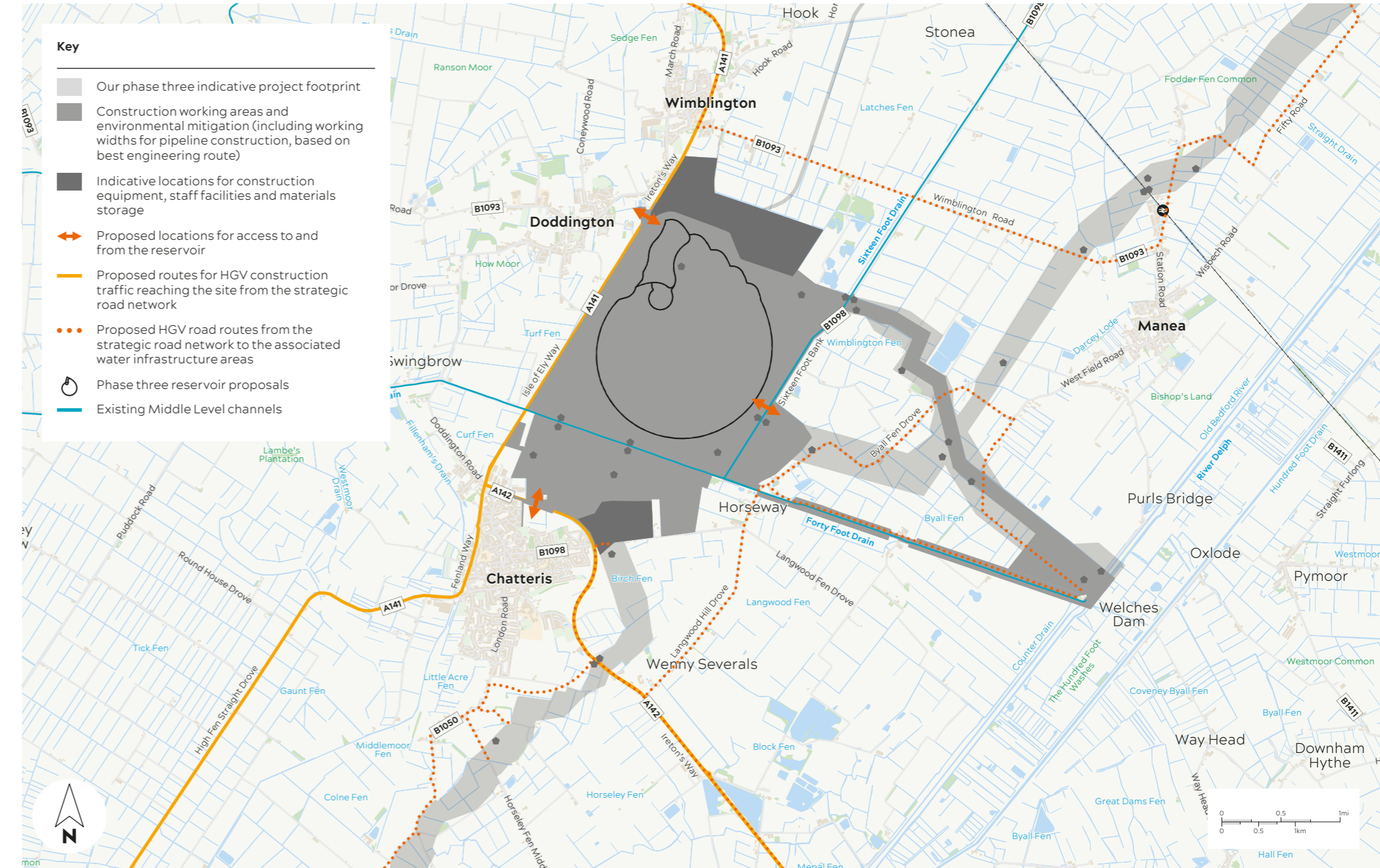
To ensure safe and efficient access for workers and materials, we would utilise a network of access routes, prioritising the use of the A-roads nearest the site.

These routes would initially support construction but could later be adapted for visitor access.

- Primary access would be from the A141, serving the construction compound
- Secondary access and access to the water treatment works would be from the A142, providing entry to the southern part of the main reservoir site. This junction would serve both the construction phase and ongoing operation of the reservoir. This access route would be built early on to help minimise disruption
- While the main routes are being built, smaller, temporary access routes to the north or the east may be used so we can still access the site

**i** To learn more about how we've developed our plans for how we could construct the reservoir, please see our **Supporting Environmental Information Report: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)**

**“** **Tell us what you think**  
Tell us if there's anything else we should know about or consider when progressing our plans for a construction compound at the reservoir and how we could access the site during the construction period by completing our **feedback form**.

# Managing the workforce

We're keen to manage construction in a way that creates opportunities locally, without putting pressure on services and housing.

We're looking at how we can help ensure local businesses – that have the skills and services needed to construct the reservoir – have the opportunity, and are encouraged to bid for supplier contracts.

We know that delivering a project of this scale requires a significant workforce, which means we would need some workers from outside of the area.

We're developing our worker accommodation strategy, which includes exploring opportunities to work with local hospitality providers who could offer places to stay for workers who don't live nearby.

The number of people working on the site would change over time depending on the activities being carried out, but at the peak of construction activity – which will last around **five to six years** – we think we may need **up to 2000 workers**. We've allowed space for some temporary accommodation in the main compound to the north of the site and near the water treatment works to the south of the main reservoir site, if needed – though we need to look at the size and scale of this in more detail.



## Share your insights

Tell us if there's anything else we should know about or consider when progressing our plans for managing the construction workforce by completing our **feedback form**.



## Working hours

Different types of activity will need to be carried out at varying times. Core construction working hours will be developed based on conversations with local councils and stakeholders, and will be included in the project's application for consent. Working hours will typically be shorter in the winter when it gets dark early, and longer in the summer.

For some activities, we may need to work longer hours or run machinery continuously for short periods of time, for safety reasons. However, we expect these extended hours or continuous operations to be limited to discreet tasks and to not last for significant durations.

We will be setting out our plan for working hours in detail as part of our DCO application for the project. Local people will be kept informed throughout construction, through regular updates to communities, so they know what to expect and to help ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum.



# Transporting material to and from the site

Getting materials to and from the reservoir site is an important part of our plans. We're committed to exploring how we can minimise potential disruption for local communities and reduce carbon emissions where possible during construction.

While we would use as much material from the site as we can, we would still need to bring in equipment, stone for erosion protection and other material that can't be sourced locally. Some materials would also need to be taken off-site.

We've identified four possible road routes that use A roads, helping to keep heavy vehicles off smaller local roads:

- **Route 1** – west of March, following the A141 to the southwest corner of the site.
- **Route 2** – along the A141 from the southwest corner of the site, towards Huntingdon.
- **Route 3** – east along the A142 from the southwest corner of the site (north of Chatteris), south eastwards to just north of Newmarket.
- **Route 4** – the same path as route 3 at first but turning southwards at Ely along the A10.

We may not need to use all of these routes. Our preferred routes for transporting materials to and from the reservoir site will evolve as our construction plans progress.

## Managing traffic volumes

Construction traffic will include a mix of heavy good vehicles (HGVs), light vehicles (LVs) – cars and vans – and staff vehicles. We estimate that during the busiest construction years there could be an additional 1000–1400 vehicles (HGVs and LVs) per day on the routes identified. This would be a six to twelve percent daily increase in traffic flows on these roads.

We're also looking at other ways of moving materials coming from further away to the site – such as by rail. We estimate that using rail to transport materials could help reduce these movements by up to 350–400 HGVs per day. To learn more about the options we're exploring to reduce the number of road vehicles transporting materials to the main reservoir site, please see pages 42–43.

Further information on the expected volume of construction traffic along the proposed routes can be found in our **Design Refinement Report**.

We may need to make improvements to some roads, such as widening sections and reinforcing the surfaces to prepare them for heavier vehicles. The Traffic and Transport Assessment we're developing will help us identify where and what these improvements might be.

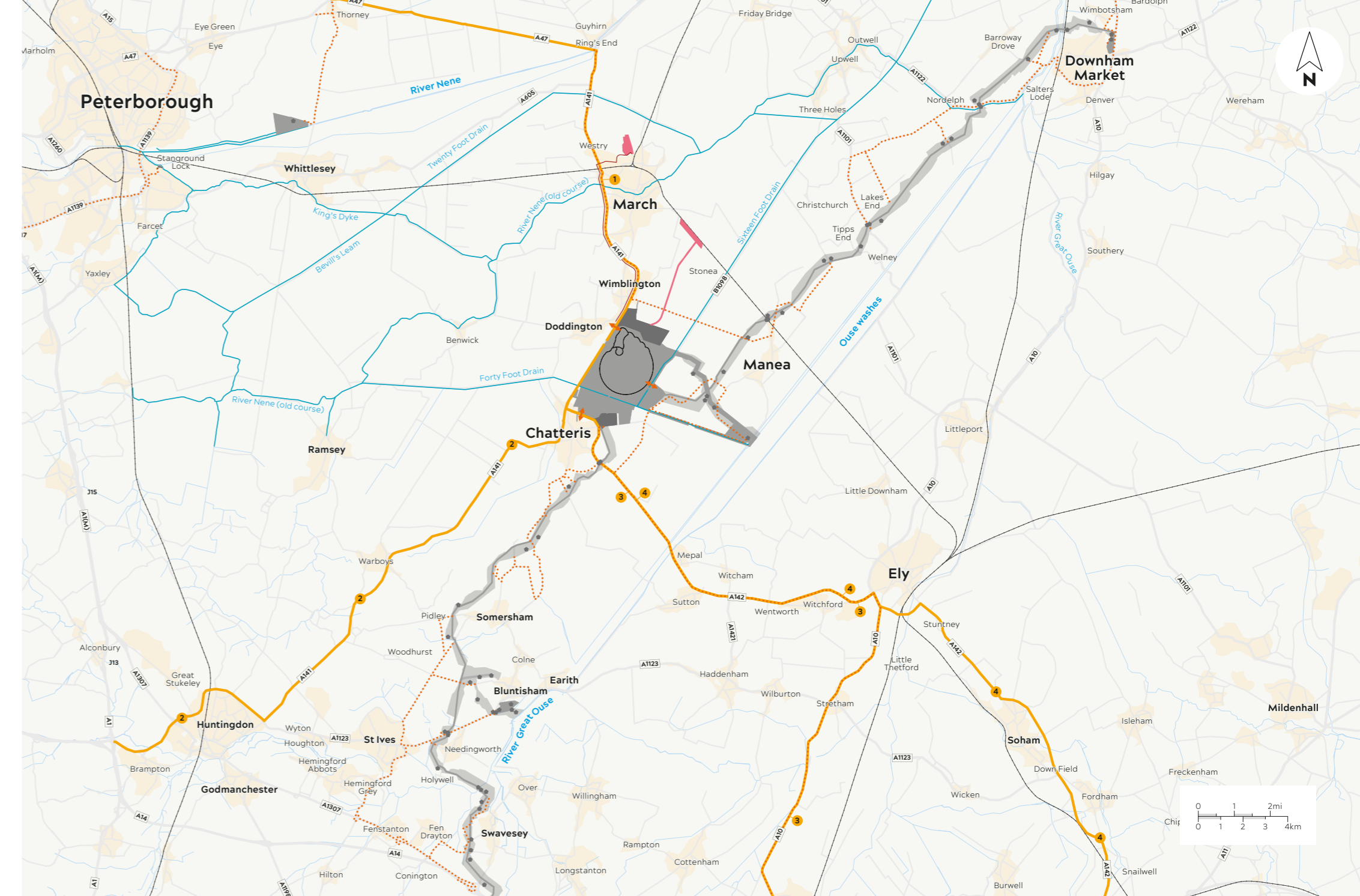
Our plans for getting materials to and from the reservoir will continue to develop as we complete more assessments and engagement with the highways authority. Your feedback will help inform our construction traffic management plans.

**Key**

- Our phase three indicative project footprint
- Construction working areas and environmental mitigation (including working widths for pipeline construction, based on best engineering route)
- Indicative locations for construction equipment, staff facilities and materials storage
- Proposed locations for access to and from the reservoir
- Options being considered for railway sidings and their associated routes to the main reservoir site (for movement of construction material)
- Proposed routes for HGV construction traffic reaching the site from the strategic road network
- Proposed HGV road routes from the strategic road network to the associated water infrastructure areas
- Phase three reservoir proposals
- Existing Middle Level channels

**Share your insights**

Tell us if there's anything else we should know about the roads and routes we've identified by completing our **feedback form**.

# Using freight and rail

We've also looked at other transport options for delivering materials near to the main reservoir site, such as boats, barges and railway freight. By limiting the distance materials travel by road, we could help avoid congestion and reduce carbon emissions – making the project more sustainable for everyone.

Our assessments show that local waterways aren't a feasible way of bringing materials to the site by barge, though it may be possible to use the port at King's Lynn to receive materials travelling by boat across the sea.

For rail, we've identified two options that would involve creating a railhead location where materials could be delivered by freight train and then transported to the site, via either the A141, or a new haul road that we would need to construct.

Both would provide connections to the national rail network, which links to ports and suppliers across the UK. Our early investigations show they could both handle the volume of materials needed.

We're actively working with Network Rail to assess the capacity and viability of the two rail options, and evaluating the potential impact of these options on local roads, and the project's costs and timings.

## Share your insights

Tell us what you think about the two railway options we've identified and whether there's anything else we should consider as part of our ongoing design development by completing our [feedback form](#).

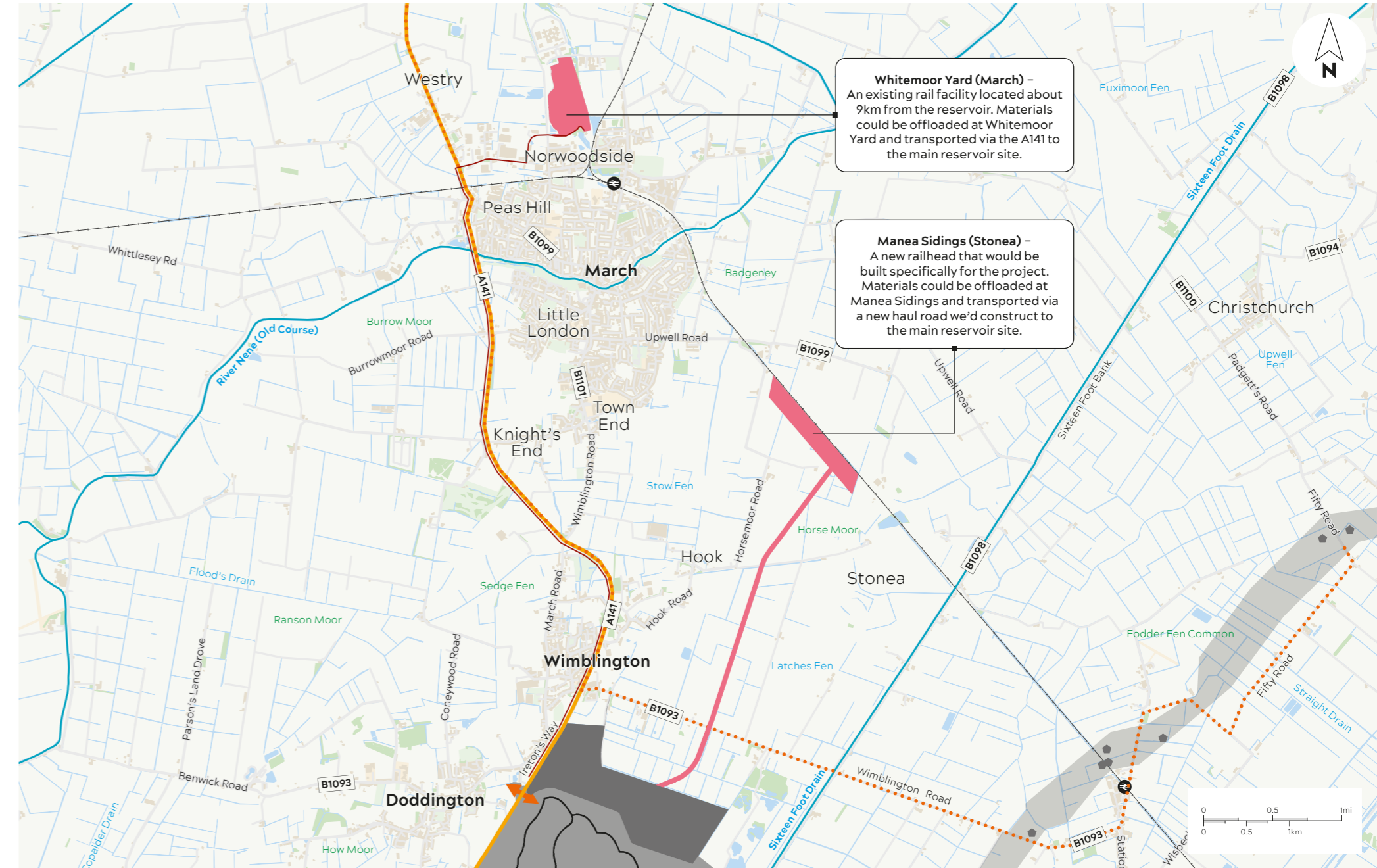


## Find out more

You can read more about the work we've done to identify the best routes and methods for transporting materials by reading our [Design Refinement Report: fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](#)

### Key

- Our phase three indicative project footprint
- Construction working areas and environmental mitigation (including working widths for pipeline construction, based on best engineering route)
- Indicative locations for construction equipment, staff facilities and materials storage
- Proposed locations for access to and from the reservoir
- Options being considered for railway sidings and their associated routes to the main reservoir site (for movement of construction material)
- Proposed routes for HGV construction traffic reaching the site from the strategic road network
- Proposed HGV road routes from the strategic road network to the associated water infrastructure areas
- Phase three reservoir proposals
- Existing Middle Level channels



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# Powering the reservoir

Anglian Water, as a purpose led business and one of the largest energy users in the East of England, is committed to being an operationally carbon neutral business by 2030. We're committed to the reservoir being operationally net-zero once open, and renewable energy on-site would help us achieve this.

Since our last consultation, we have developed our thinking on the type, and amount of energy we need to operate the reservoir sustainably and where it could be located. However, this work is still ongoing.

Having discounted using onsite wind power, we're proposing to use solar power as our main source of energy. We've identified that based on our current understanding of the project's power requirements, a total of 40 hectares of solar panels would provide the right amount of renewable energy.

We've identified an area in the Eastern Zone (as shown in purple on the plan opposite) where we could locate solar panels – away from recreational activity and communities – and near to our main construction compound.

In our visualisations, we show the land area we would need for the maximum amount of ground mounted solar panels.

We are also exploring whether some or all of the power requirement of the reservoir could be met using floating solar panels instead of ground-mounted solar. If floating solar becomes an option, we would propose these are located in the Eastern Zone, away from the busier areas of the reservoir. We need to do more work to understand the operational and environmental impacts of floating solar before we can confirm this option.

## Ensuring a reliable power supply long into the future

While we're pursuing a plan to use renewable energy to operate the reservoir, we need to make sure the supply of electricity is consistent throughout the year. To do that, we would need to connect the main reservoir site to the local electricity network, and we may also construct battery storage.

A new substation would be needed to connect to the local electricity network. We're working with the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to identify what's needed. The DNO would then progress plans for any network or capacity upgrades that may be needed to support the reservoir.

**i** **Find out more**  
You can find out more about why we're no longer progressing onsite wind power by reading our **Design Refinement Report: [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)**

**🗨️ Your feedback**  
We're keen to hear your views on our proposals to use renewable energy at the main reservoir site. Tell us what you think by completing our **feedback form**.



# Our phase three consultation

**Our phase three consultation is open from 15 October to 10 December 2025.**

**We're committed to working with local people as the project develops and want to hear all views on our emerging proposals.**

We welcome all comments on the project, but would love to hear from you specifically on:

- **our updated design proposal for the main reservoir site**, including how it features in the landscape and the features we've included for people and nature
- **our early proposals for moving materials to and from the site**, including the routes and methods we've identified
- **our plans for powering the reservoir** with renewable energy and the technologies we're exploring
- **our updated proposals for the associated water infrastructure** needed to transfer water to the reservoir from sources, treat the water and supply it to homes and businesses (please see our **associated water infrastructure brochure** to find out more)
- **your experience of our third phase of consultation**, including the documents we've shared on our updated proposals and any community consultation events you've attended



# Have your say

## Submitting your comments

You can submit feedback to us in several different ways:

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

Hard copies of our consultation materials and feedback forms will be available at our consultation events or upon request.

All the feedback you share goes through a vigorous feedback analysis process. We review, record and carefully consider every comment we receive. Your views directly inform and shape the project's evolving design.

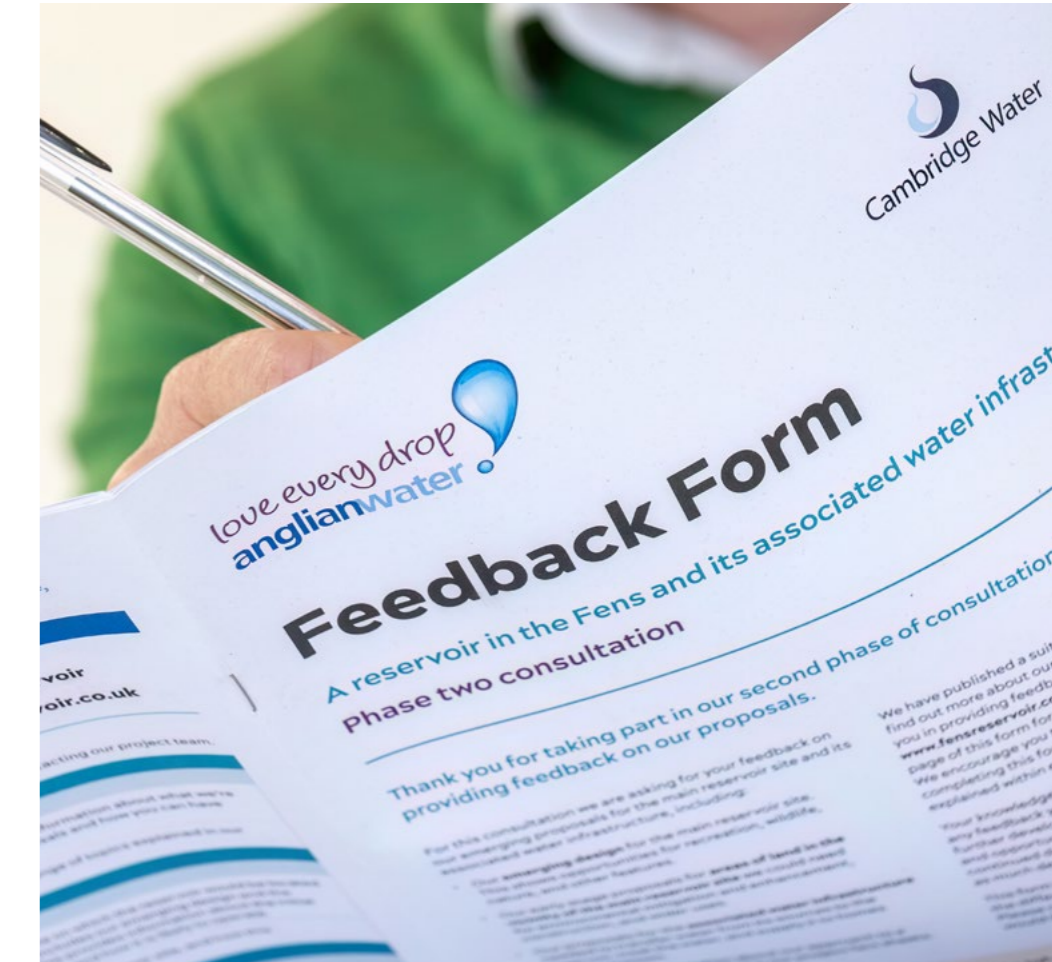


### Speak to the team

We're holding events in the local community where you can find out more about our proposals, meet the team and ask any questions you might have. Find the event schedule here:



**Please make sure you submit your feedback to us by 23:59 on 10 December.**



# What happens next

This is our third phase of consultation. Your comments will help us to develop our proposals further.

The proposed reservoir would be a strategic regional asset. Due to the scale and volume of water it can hold, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has confirmed the reservoir is a project of national significance and will therefore progress through the Development Consent Order planning process which is separate from the local authority planning process.

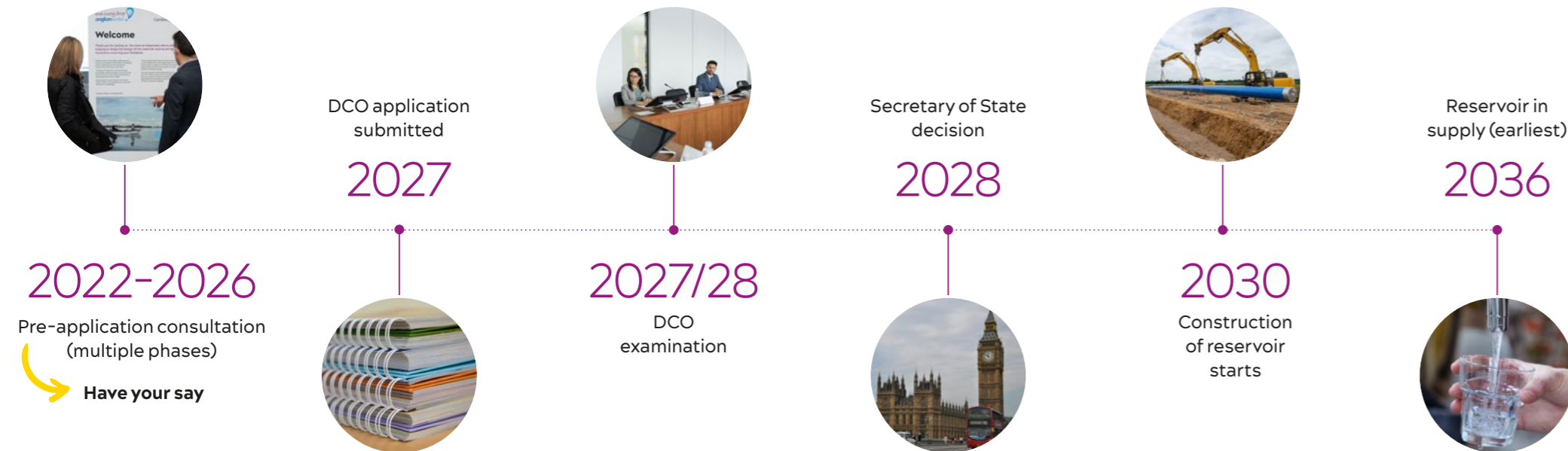
The government agency responsible for examining projects of national significance is the Planning Inspectorate. Once accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, a panel of inspectors will be appointed who will then examine the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether the project should be granted development consent.

It is the Secretary of State that makes the final decision.

The project is currently in its pre-application phase. In this phase, we're developing the project with the community and stakeholders and based on the findings of our own assessment and surveys.

**i** **Find out more**  
 You can read more about the development consent process and our approach to our third phase of consultation by reading the document: **phase three consultation – approach to community consultation.**  
[fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents)

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



# A guide to our consultation materials

We've published a series of documents and resources as part of our phase three consultation to help people understand our latest proposals.

INFORMATION BROCHURES	
<b>Phase three consultation – reservoir site proposals</b>	<b>This booklet</b> – Information on our phase three design proposals for the main reservoir site, including potential features and opportunities for recreation and the environment. This brochure also outlines the operation of the reservoir and our approach to managing traffic and transport, construction, and power and renewable energy.
<b>Phase three consultation – associated water infrastructure proposals</b>	Information on our proposals for the associated water infrastructure needed to transfer water to and from the reservoir and in to supply. This includes information on potential locations for the infrastructure, emerging design proposals and our approach to construction.
SUPPORTING TECHNICAL INFORMATION	
<b>Supporting Environmental Information Report</b>	This report explains what we already know about the environment in relation to our proposals and what we're doing to identify and assess any impacts as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. It also outlines the types of solutions we could implement to manage these impacts during construction and operation.
<b>Design Refinement Report</b>	This report explains in more technical detail the work we've done to develop our proposals between our last phase of consultation and now. It includes information about the decisions we've made as part of the design proposal journey for both the main reservoir site and associated water infrastructure.
<b>Phase three consultation – approach to community consultation</b>	This document sets out how we are carrying out our phase three consultation, including who we will consult, how we will publicise the consultation, how people will be able to take part and how feedback can be provided.

 **Access these documents**

Scan the QR code below with your phone's camera or visit our website at [fensreservoir.co.uk/documents](https://fensreservoir.co.uk/documents) to view these documents.



## Notes

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## Get in touch

You can contact the project team by:

 Email [info@fensreservoir.co.uk](mailto:info@fensreservoir.co.uk)

 Freephone **0800 915 2492**

 Write **Freepost Fens Reservoir**

 Website [fensreservoir.co.uk](http://fensreservoir.co.uk)