



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson - Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 October 2022
Subject:	Lincolnshire Reservoir - Consultation (Phase 1) on a proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire

Summary:

Anglian Water have commenced a (non-statutory) consultation on a proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire. This report is to provide an overview of the plans and consultation exercise in advance of a response being provided by Lincolnshire County Council.

Actions Required:

Members of Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are asked to debate and discuss;

- 1) The strategic need for future water supply and
- 2) If a new reservoir is constructed in Lincolnshire what are the issues the authority need to take on board and therefore what considerations, including the need for any additional facilities, do Anglian Water need to take into account as part of this Phase 1 consultation.

Focus on these key areas will assist officers in shaping a response on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council in advance of the consultation deadline of 21st December 2022

1. Background

Anglian Water recognise that The East of England is one of the driest and fastest-growing regions in the country and is home to many unique and precious landscapes that rely on water. This summer's drought and heat wave are just some of the kinds of extreme weather challenges that are becoming more common. As part of identifying the need to secure future water supply Anglian Water are consulting on a proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire, which will store more water, so it is available when needed and in doing so meet the challenges to supply, from population growth in our region and a changing

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

The proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire has been identified as a large-scale investment in new water resources that is needed, and which will play a critical role in securing water supply long into the future. Alongside meeting these challenges, the project presents significant social, economic, and environmental opportunities. The vision is to create a place where water, people and nature come together, creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

The proposed reservoir will be a strategic regional asset and due to its size and scale it qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Anglian Water therefore follow the process set out in the Planning Act 2008, which provides the framework for how NSIPs are developed and consented. Anglian Water will apply to the Planning Inspectorate, who act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for permission to build the reservoir. The permission is called a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Together with a panel of expert partners, Anglian Water have been undertaking a wide range of assessments to identify potential locations for the reservoir. That includes considering impacts on people and communities, the needs of the environment, landscape, existing water sources, engineering requirements, flood protection and many other factors. The work has also considered what opportunities the reservoir could create for local communities and the wider region.

A non-statutory consultation on the proposals for a new Lincolnshire reservoir commenced on 12 October. This consultation is the first in a multi-phase approach – at least two more consultations will follow, with the DCO planning application expected to be submitted towards the end of 2025.

The ongoing autumn 2022 consultation will run for ten weeks, concluding on 21 December. The consultation materials can be found online on the Anglian Water website at www.lincsreservoir.co.uk.

A proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire

When Anglian Water looked at where they might best build reservoirs across their broader region, they identified rivers in both Lincolnshire and the Fens areas as having enough water surplus in the winter. Providing two large new reservoirs, one in each area, would give sufficient water supply to enable resilience to future droughts, while protecting our most sensitive environments. Together, the two reservoirs will make the most of the available resources and provide water to local communities and businesses across their region, including in Lincolnshire.

A consultation on a Fens reservoir, which is being jointly led by Anglian Water and Cambridge Water, is running parallel to the consultation on the Lincolnshire reservoir proposals and will be following the same process. As neighbouring authority, Lincolnshire County Council will be consulted on these proposals, although as the proposed location is situated near Chatteris in Cambridgeshire there is no direct impact to the Lincolnshire County Council authority area. For information, further details on the Fens reservoir proposal can be found at www.fensreservoir.co.uk. This report will focus on the proposals in Lincolnshire.

The proposed location for the reservoir is southeast of Sleaford, near to Billingborough, Swaton, Scredington, and Helpringham. The area in question is shown in **Fig.1** below, with a more detailed plan attached to this report as **Appendix A**. The site selection process assessed the most suitable sites, and this location was found to be the most appropriate for building a new reservoir, and, on balance, performed best across a range of the key factors that were assessed. It also provides opportunities to deliver wider benefits to the regional economy and neighbouring communities

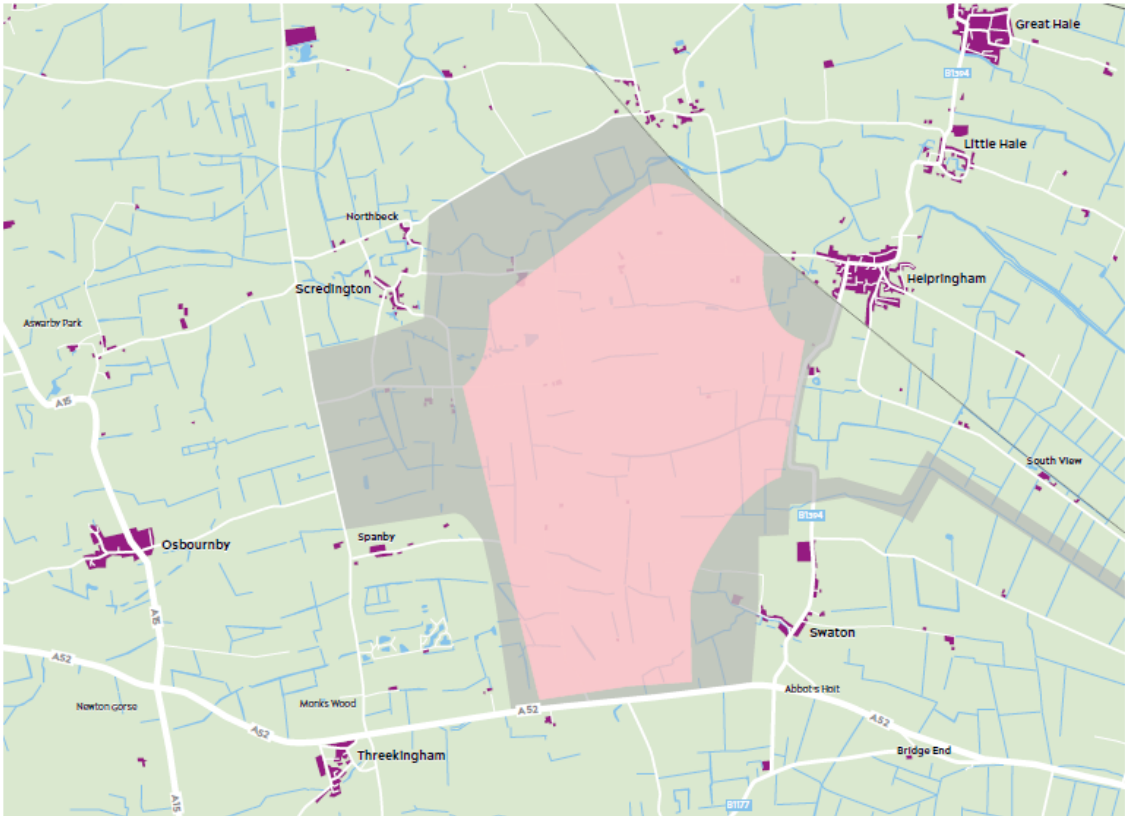


Figure 1. Location of proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire.

Anglian Water also identified an initial wider area of land that could be needed for supporting infrastructure and during construction (grey area on the consultation maps). This is also where Anglian Water could include wildlife and environmental areas, spaces for leisure and recreation, education facilities and others. These are the additional developments that would help ensure the reservoir brings social and environmental

benefits, alongside water supply. This area is only indicative at this stage and is subject to change following consultation, and as proposals are developed further.

The non-statutory consultation process

Anglian Water have published the following supporting documents for the consultation, which can be viewed online at www.lincsreservoir.co.uk or can be obtained by contacting the Anglian Water project team.

- Site selection report:
an explanation of the process Anglian Water have followed to identify a proposed site for the reservoir.
- Consultation brochure:
an overview of Anglian Waters proposals for the reservoir and how to take part in the consultation (**attached to this report as Appendix B**).
- Approach to consultation:
an outline of Anglian Waters plans for consultation.

In advance of this consultation Anglian Water have now reached a point where they have either met with, or spoken to, almost all landowners, and those living on the proposed site. They have also written to all councillors and parish councils in Lincolnshire, signposting them to the same information online.

As part of the current consultation process which commenced on 12th October, Anglian Water are writing to all addresses within a defined consultation zone. These fall within an area represented by three of Lincolnshire County Council’s ward councillors. Anglian Water will be asking for feedback on these main points:

- the area they have identified for the reservoir and its embankments
- the area they have identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction
- the early concept design for the reservoir, and the features people would like to be considered in the design

In addition to consultation materials being available online there will also be a number of consultation events and selected information points with hard copy documents available to view at reference locations in Lincolnshire. The locations of all events, reference and information points can be found on the website, but for ease of reference are summarised below.

Community events	Date	Time
Scredington Community Centre, 30 Church Ln, Scredington, NG34 0AG	Tuesday 1 November	11:30am – 3pm
Helpringham Memorial Hall, 6 George St, Helpringham, NG34 0RS	Monday 7 November	5pm – 8pm
Billingborough Village Hall, Chapel St, Billingborough, NG34 0QH	Friday 11 November	3:30pm – 7pm
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High St, Heckington, NG34 9RA	Saturday 12 November	10:30am – 4pm
Community webinars	Date	Time
Register to attend on our website: www.lincsreservoir.co.uk	Monday 31 October, Wednesday 16 November	6pm – 7pm

It is also possible to pick up information at the following community venues:

Scredington Community Centre	30 Church Ln, Scredington, NG34 0AG
Helpringham Memorial Hall	6 George St, Helpringham, NG34 0RS
Billingborough Village Hall	Chapel St, Billingborough, NG34 0QH
Heckington Village Hall	9-11 High St, Heckington, NG34 9RA
The Source Riverside Church	Riverside Church, Southgate, Sleaford, NG34 7RY
Sleaford Library	13 - 16 Market Place, Sleaford, NG34 7SR
Donington Library	25 High St, Donington, Spalding, PE11 4TA

This consultation exercise is an opportunity for Lincolnshire County Council, along with other stakeholders, communities, and landowners to shape plans for the reservoir. As part of this exercise Anglian Water are seeking local intelligence and knowledge with opportunities to improve and reduce impacts. It is seeking comments on early concept design with opportunities to create benefits as well as seeking feedback on ideas and options. The responses provided will help Anglian Water to further understand any potential impacts and opportunities from the project and will help inform the development of the proposals.

For reference the Consultation Feedback Form is attached to this report as **Appendix C**. The key questions contained in the feedback form are summarised below.

- *Do you have any comments about the pink area we have identified or the effects of us using it?*
- *Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?*
- *Do you have any comments about the grey area we have identified or the effects of us using it?*
- *Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?*
- *Is there anything else you think we should know about the areas we have identified?*
- *Do you have any comments on the early concept design at this stage?*
- *Do you have any additional feedback about our proposals that you have not included above?*
- *Do you have any comments on your experience of the consultation overall, or things we could have done differently?*

In addition, the feedback form also highlights some of the features that could potentially be included as proposals for the reservoir are developed, with a request to highlight preferences. These are:

- *Wildlife enhancements and conservation (such as for birds and other species)*
- *Recreational water sports (such as sailing, angling and windsurfing)*
- *Ecological enhancements (such as wetland areas and woodlands)*
- *Education facilities (such as nature trails, visitor centres)*
- *Social and recreational facilities (such as picnic areas, playgrounds)*
- *Landscape enhancements (such as tree planting)*
- *Green infrastructure (including cycle paths, electrical vehicle charging and renewable energy generation)*
- *Creating a recognised visitor destination for local people and tourists*
- *Local enterprise and economic opportunities*
- *Water for wider sector uses (such as agriculture and commercial use)*
- *Other (please provide details)*

Next steps

The feedback Anglian Water receive during this consultation will help to develop the project design and understand what people would like to see. It will be reviewed, recorded and carefully considered alongside further technical work as Anglian Water refine the proposals.

Anglian Water will be publishing a Phase One Non-Statutory Consultation Report that details the feedback received and how it has been considered. This will influence the ongoing development of the project.

This autumn 2022 consultation is the first phase in a multi-phase approach – at least two more consultations will follow. Anglian Water are required to undertake at least one round of consultation that complies with the relevant statutory requirements of the Planning Act 2008. Details of the consultation phases are set out in the table below.

Consultation Phase One	Consultation Phase Two	Consultation Phase Three
Consultation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area identified for the reservoir and its embankments (pink area on the map) • The area identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction. This is also where Anglian Water could include wildlife and environmental areas, spaces for leisure and recreation, education facilities and others (grey 	Consultation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed proposals for the reservoir and proposed mitigation and enhancement opportunities • Options for associated infrastructure, including transfers, and confirmation of the source of the water transfer • Anticipated impacts including short-term and temporary construction impacts (such as traffic 	Consultation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final proposals for the reservoir and associated infrastructure that are planned to be the subject of the application for development consent • Developed mitigations and enhancement plans • Preliminary Environmental Information

Consultation Phase One	Consultation Phase Two	Consultation Phase Three
area on the map). • Early concept design for the reservoir and the features you would like to be considered in the design of the reservoir as it's developed	routes) and long-term operational impacts (such as landscape and flood risk)	

2. Conclusion

Anglian Water are consulting on a proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire to meet the demand of future water supply. Opinion on potential wider benefits is also sought. Feedback received will help shape the project design and what people would like to see. Key points for consideration are linked to the following areas:

- the area they have identified for the reservoir and its embankments
- the area they have identified for supporting infrastructure and during construction, and
- the early concept design for the reservoir, and the features people would like to be considered in the design.

To aid officers in providing a response to the consultation on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council members are asked to debate and discuss:

- 1) The strategic need for future water supply, and
- 2) if a new reservoir is constructed in Lincolnshire what are the issues the authority needs to take on board and therefore what considerations, including the need for any additional facilities, do Anglian Water need to take into account as part of this Phase 1 consultation.

Focus on these key areas will assist officers in shaping a response on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council in advance of the consultation deadline of 21st December 2022. More information on this non-statutory consultation, including all supporting documentation can be found by visiting the Anglian Water website at www.lincsreservoir.co.uk.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

This is part of a public consultation being undertaken by Anglian Water for which Lincolnshire County Council will provide a response in its local authority role. There are no risks either financially or, at this stage, from outcomes resulting from this phase of the consultation exercise linked to the proposed new reservoir for Lincolnshire.

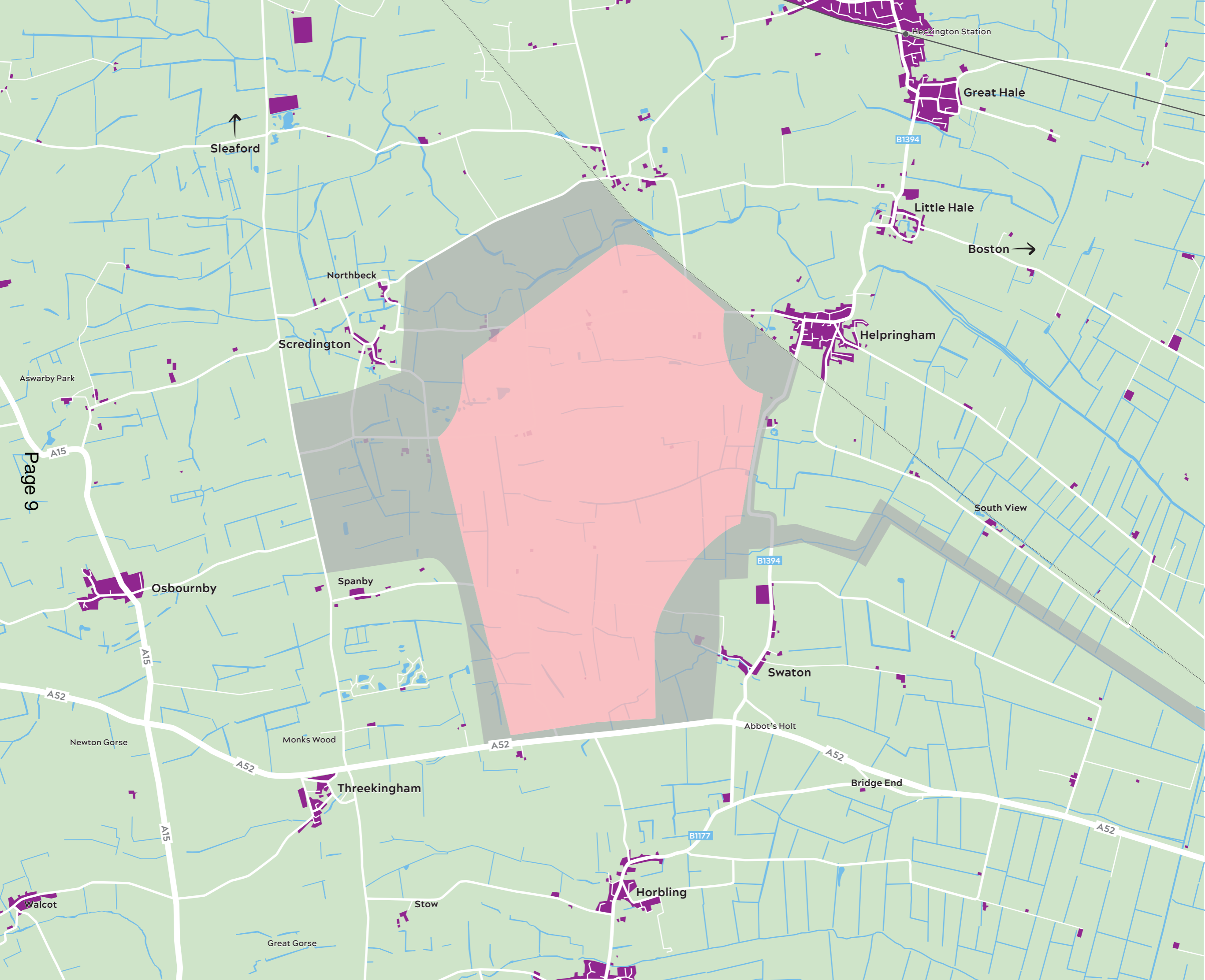
4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire reservoir proposed site detailed map - October 2022
Appendix B	Consultation brochure - Lincolnshire Reservoir phase one consultation
Appendix C	Consultation feedback form - Lincolnshire reservoir phase one consultation

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Matthew Harrison, Flood and Water Manager- Place, who can be contacted on 07771 837565 or matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Sleaford

Great Hale

B1394

Little Hale

Boston

Northbeck

Scredington

Helpringham

Aswarby Park

Page 9

A15

South View

B1394

Osbournby

Spanby

Swaton

A52

Abbot's Holt

Newton Gorse

Monks Wood

A52

A52

Bridge End

Threekingham

A52

B1177

Walcot

Horbling

Stow

Great Gorse

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A proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire

Phase one consultation brochure



October 2022

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Rutland Water, East Midlands

A message from our Water Resources Strategy Manager

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



Geoff Darch
Water Resources
Strategy Manager
Anglian Water

It’s why we handle water with such care for the seven million customers we serve.

That’s our duty – but our purpose goes even further. We are committed to bringing environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to ‘Love Every Drop’.

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

We are investing heavily today to help prepare for and meet tomorrow’s challenges.

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 in

new pipes that will 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 installing over one million smart meters in customer homes and are delivering a number of environmental programmes to protect our precious chalk streams and rivers.

The proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire – which will be around the size of Grafham Water near Huntingdon – will help to secure water supplies for the region, while protecting the environment from the effects of a changing climate.

We expect it to enable wider social, environmental and economic benefits too. Just like our existing reservoirs such as Rutland Water and Grafham Water, the new reservoir will be a valuable leisure destination. It could also support and conserve wildlife and biodiversity, and provide a variety of places for people to explore, learn and get closer to nature.

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

We look forward to receiving your feedback.”

About the project

Anglian Water's proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire will secure water supply to our customers for future generations.

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

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

Page 13 That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.

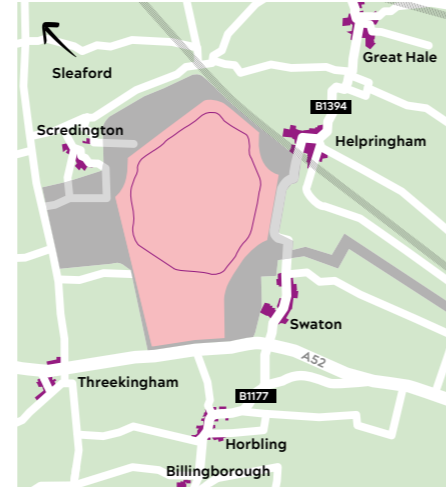
We've undertaken a detailed site selection study to identify

a proposed site for the reservoir. We've considered a wide range of factors as part of this study from people and communities, landscape and environment, engineering requirements, and many more.

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

The proposed site is south-east of Sleaford, about halfway between Grantham and Boston. During times of high rainfall, river flows from the nearby River Witham and River Trent would feed the reservoir with water.

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



Provide your views on our proposals

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

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

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

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



i Our consultation is open from 12 October 2022 until 21 December 2022. See page 25 for how to provide your feedback. We look forward to receiving your comments.

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



A 1/3 less rainfall than the UK average

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

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



175,000 new homes

in the next five years



20% population growth by 2050

We need more water for more people.

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



the natural environment

relies on rivers and groundwater

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

We need to protect and restore the environment.



Grafham Water, Huntingdonshire



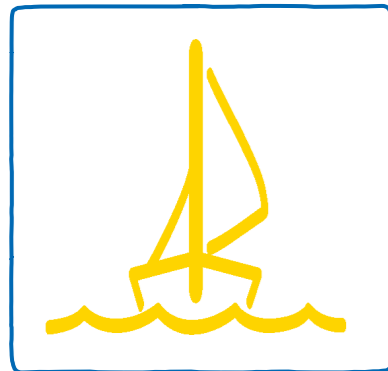
Rutland Water, East Midlands

Creating a new destination

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

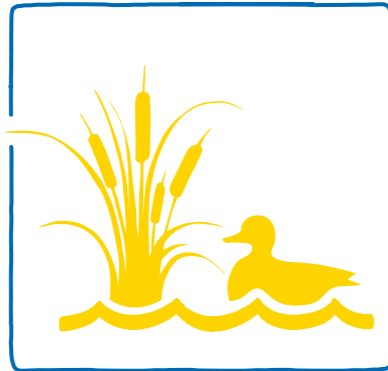
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Support a whole host of activities and facilities including:



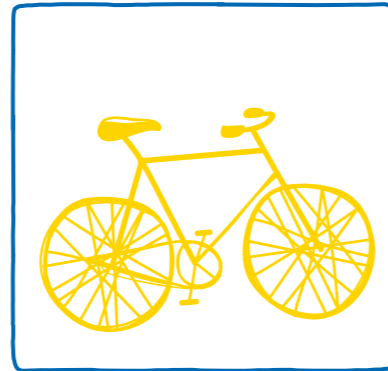
- beaches and nature parks
- water sports and fishing clubs
- business and community events
- cycling and walking trails

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



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

Welcome two million people every year:



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



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

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



Rutland Water, East Midlands

About Anglian Water

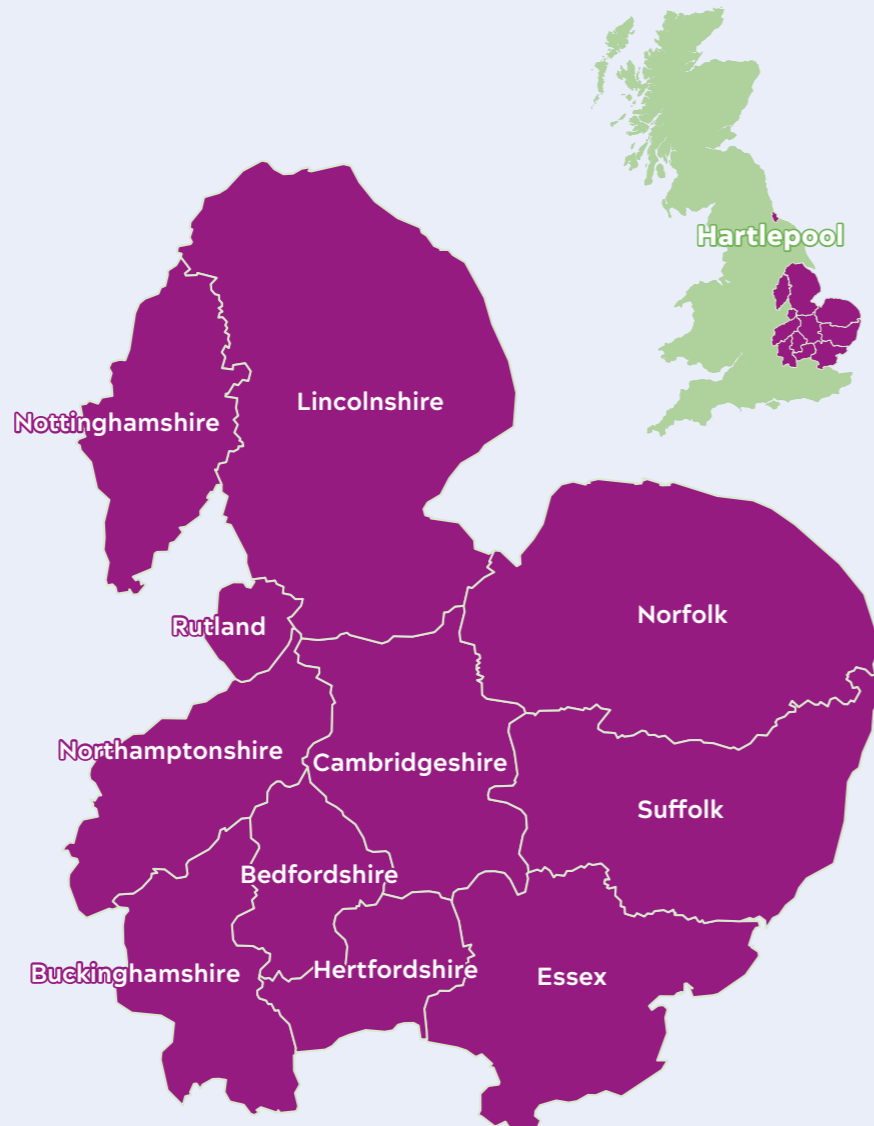
Anglian Water supplies water and wastewater services to almost seven million customers in the East of England and Hartlepool. We also employ around 5,000 people in the region.

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

Anglian Water is investing heavily today to help prepare for tomorrow. We continue to lead the water sector in tackling leakage, exceeding our regulatory targets in excess of 10 years running. Work is already underway on a half-billion-pound investment to lay hundreds of kilometres of new, interconnecting

pipes to bring water from the wettest areas in the north of Lincolnshire to the drier areas in the south and east of the region. We are also installing over one million smart meters in customer homes, and delivering a multitude of abstraction reduction programmes, protecting precious chalk streams and rivers.

The largest water and water recycling company in England by geographic area



Serving almost **7 million** customers across the East of England and Hartlepool

Planning for the future

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

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

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

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

Our existing plan – published in 2019 – sets out what we need to do from 2020 to 2045. It identified new reservoirs as a crucial solution to meet the growing demands on water supplies in the East of England.

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

RAPID assesses proposals for new large-scale, strategic investments to make sure water companies are progressing proposals that best meet their customers’ needs. This assessment is carried out when companies submit information about

their proposals at points in time called ‘gates’. There are five gates in total, and we are approaching gate two, which is in November 2022.

When we initially progressed proposals for the new reservoir, we developed them in partnership with Affinity Water, which provides water to almost four million customers in southern England. This was because early assessments suggested customers of both companies needed to be supplied from a new reservoir in Lincolnshire.

Since then, regionally based decision making processes have shown that it would be better for Affinity Water to take its water from alternative sources. The need for a reservoir in Lincolnshire for the East of England is still clear and is well represented in the regional plans.

That’s why Anglian Water will now continue to progress the project on behalf of Anglian Water customers. It’s a key part of our plans to invest today to help prepare for tomorrow.

Find out more
Our new plan setting out what we need to do from 2025 to 2050 will be published in draft in November 2022 for public consultation (a separate process from the consultation on the proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire). The proposal for the new reservoir in Lincolnshire will continue to be an important part our plans, and will feature in the WRMP. Find out more about our WRMP at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/water-resources-management-plan/>

Find out more
You can learn more about RAPID and the process to approve strategic infrastructure proposals here: www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/rapid/the-rapid-gated-process/



Why the reservoir is needed



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

Yet we face growing challenges to supply, from population growth in our region and a changing climate. To meet these challenges, we all have to play our part in balancing the needs of society, business, and the environment to enable a sustainable future.

We're already working on new strategic pipelines to move water

from wetter to drier parts of our region, installing smart meters in customers' homes, and driving down leakage.

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



A new reservoir in Lincolnshire

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

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

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

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

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

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



How we identified a location for the reservoir

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

The site selection process

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

Looking across a broad search area we identified a large number of

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

The site locations that performed best at each stage were taken forward

and assessed again, in more detail, against a range of criteria including those below.

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



The factors we assessed



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Working with stakeholders

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

“It's more important than ever that we work together to secure water for people and the environment. Over recent months, the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP) has played an important role in influencing the ongoing development of Anglian Water's Lincolnshire Reservoir option. I'd encourage people to find out more about the proposals and play your part in shaping the outcome.”

Darren Smith
Environment Agency, Officer
South Lincolnshire Water Partnership

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

We have engaged with:

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

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

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

Find out more

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

The proposed site area

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

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

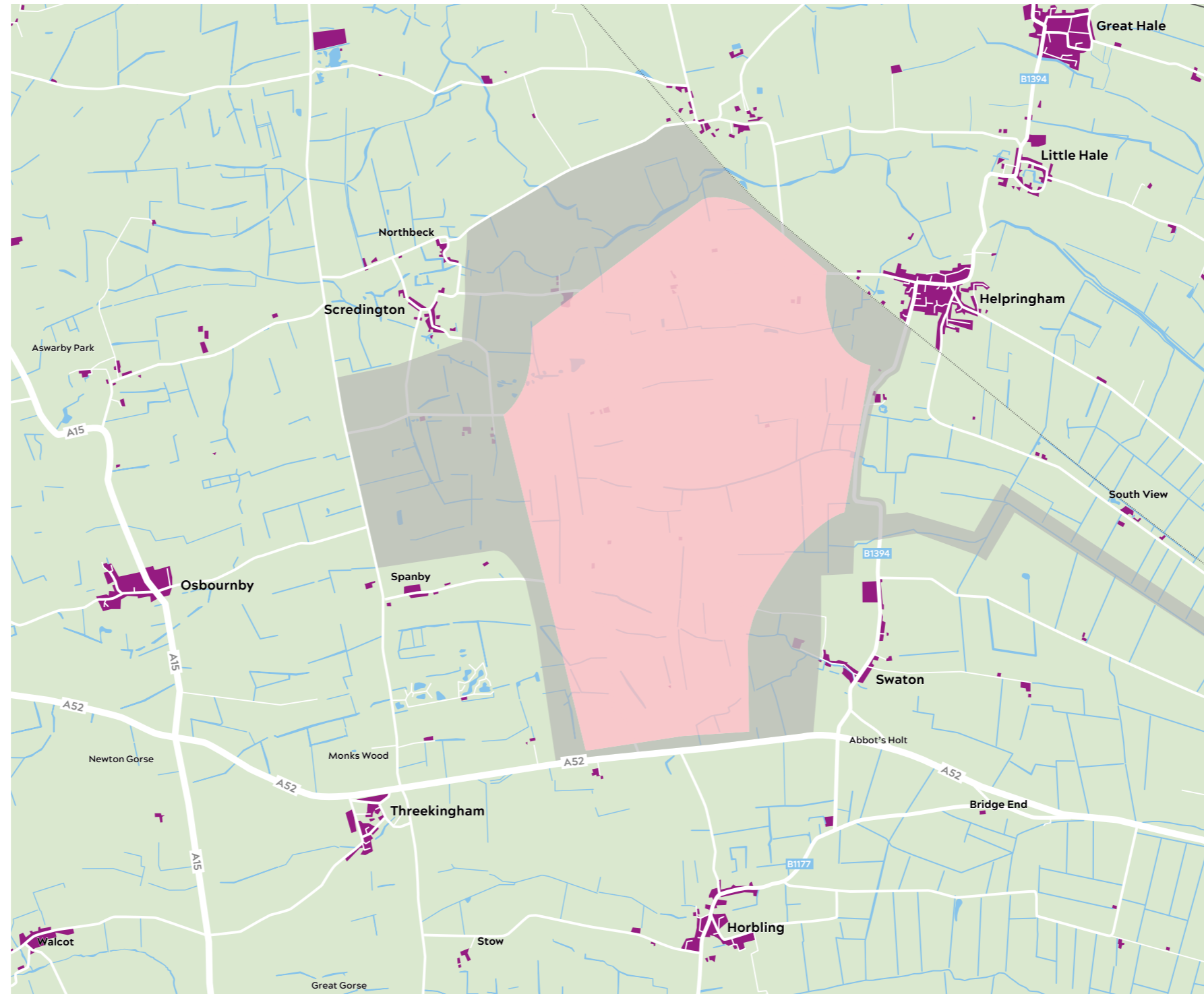
Building the reservoir and its connecting infrastructure

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

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

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

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



The proposed site area includes:

Pink area: area for the reservoir and its embankments.

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

Have your say

We'd like to hear your views on the areas we've identified for the reservoir and its embankments (pink) and the area of land around it that would support additional infrastructure and measures (grey). We welcome any local knowledge you may have that we should be aware of before we develop our proposals further. **See page 25 for how to provide feedback.**

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

Volume
55 million
cubic metres
(50 million usable volume)

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

500,000
homes
throughout the year

Water will come
from rivers
**Trent and
Witham**

Reservoir
needs to be in supply by
2040

What the reservoir could deliver

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

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

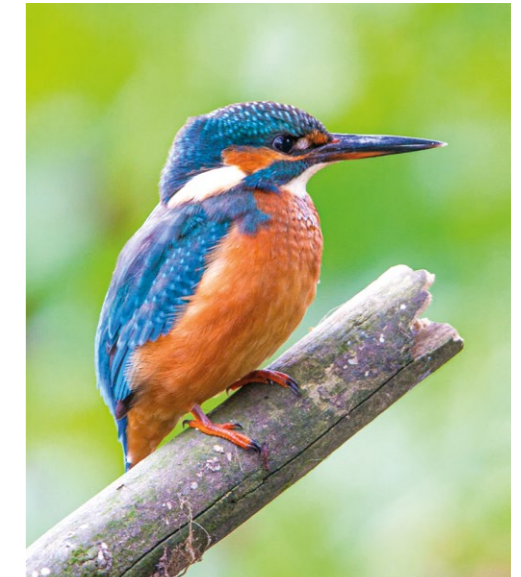
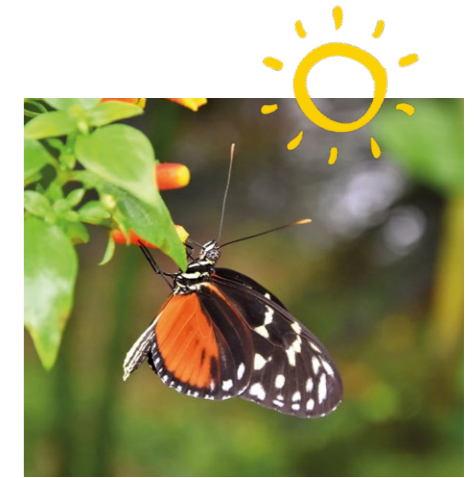
Alongside meeting the challenges of a changing climate and growing population, the project presents significant social and environmental opportunities. Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where water, people and nature come together.

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

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

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

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



Page 19



CLIMATE

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



PEOPLE

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



PLACE

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



VALUE

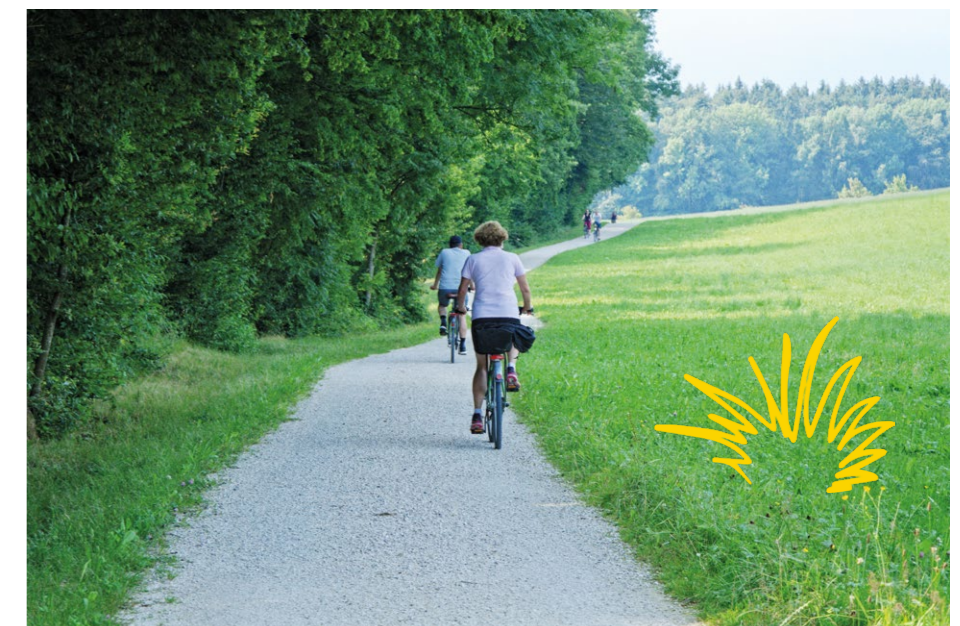
- ensuring the reservoir is delivered in a way that maximises benefits for the area
- exploring further possible benefits and looking at ways these could be supported or enabled
- making sure the project has a lasting and positive contribution to society



Have your say

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

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





Rutland Water, East Midlands

Help shape our proposals

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

Page 20

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

The embankment illustration gives an early indication of what the reservoir could look like. The outer faces of the embankments will be designed to reflect the character of the existing landscape. The height of the embankments would vary around the reservoir, ranging from 4 meters, to potentially up to 25 metres in places.

The embankment face will be designed to ensure there is a more organic line at its top, using vegetation and trees in surrounding

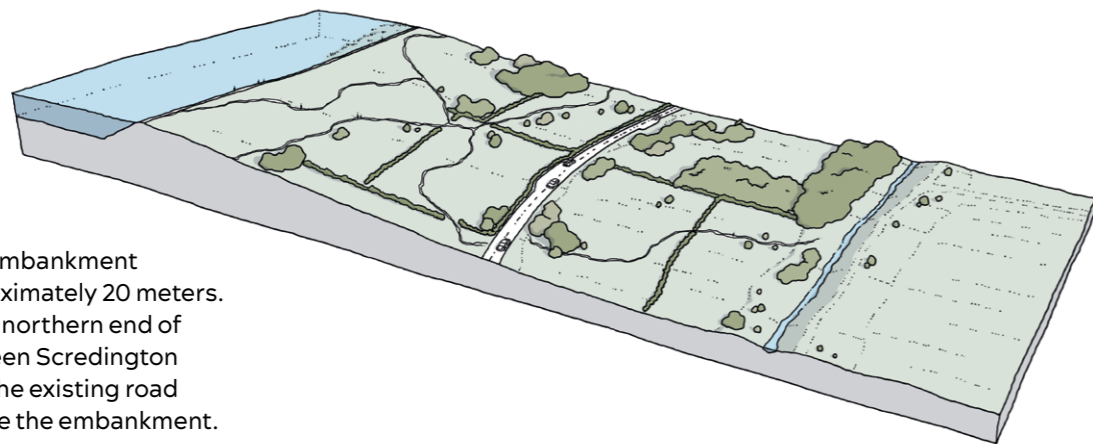
Have your say

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

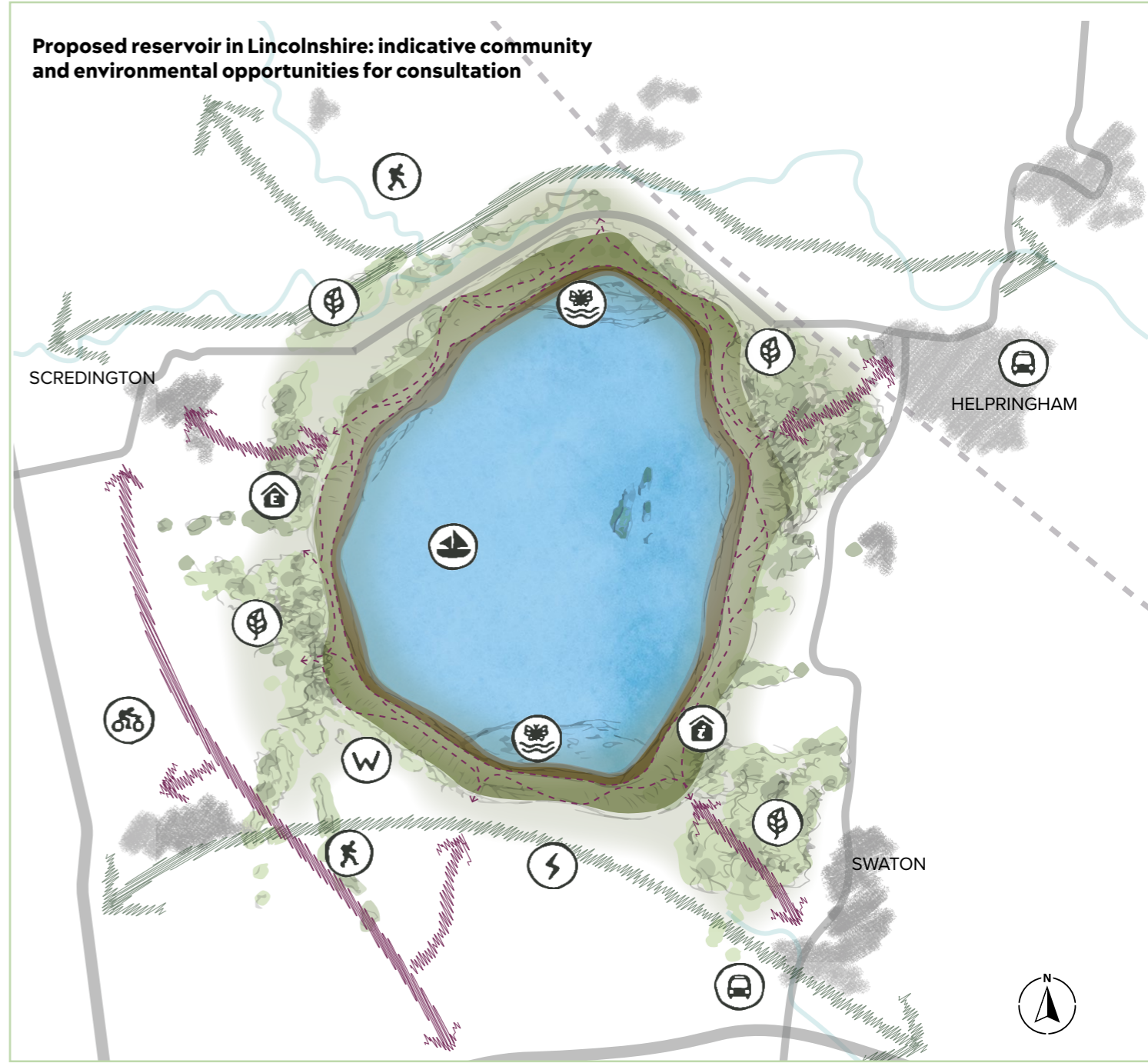
See page 25 for how to provide feedback.

areas to visually 'break up' the landscape to blend with the existing nature and character of the area. Where villages are close to the embankments, we will carefully consider views to and from the reservoir.

Any buildings required for the reservoir will also be thoughtfully designed so they integrate as effectively as possible into the existing landscape, using land form and planting.



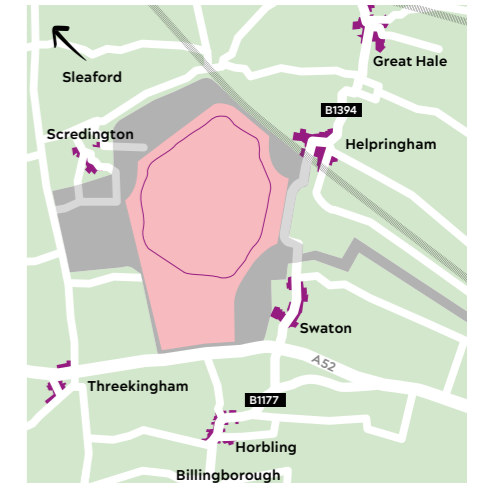
Example illustration of embankment showing height at approximately 20 meters. Location shown is at the northern end of the proposed site between Screddington and Helpringham, with the existing road diverted to run alongside the embankment.



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

Key:

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



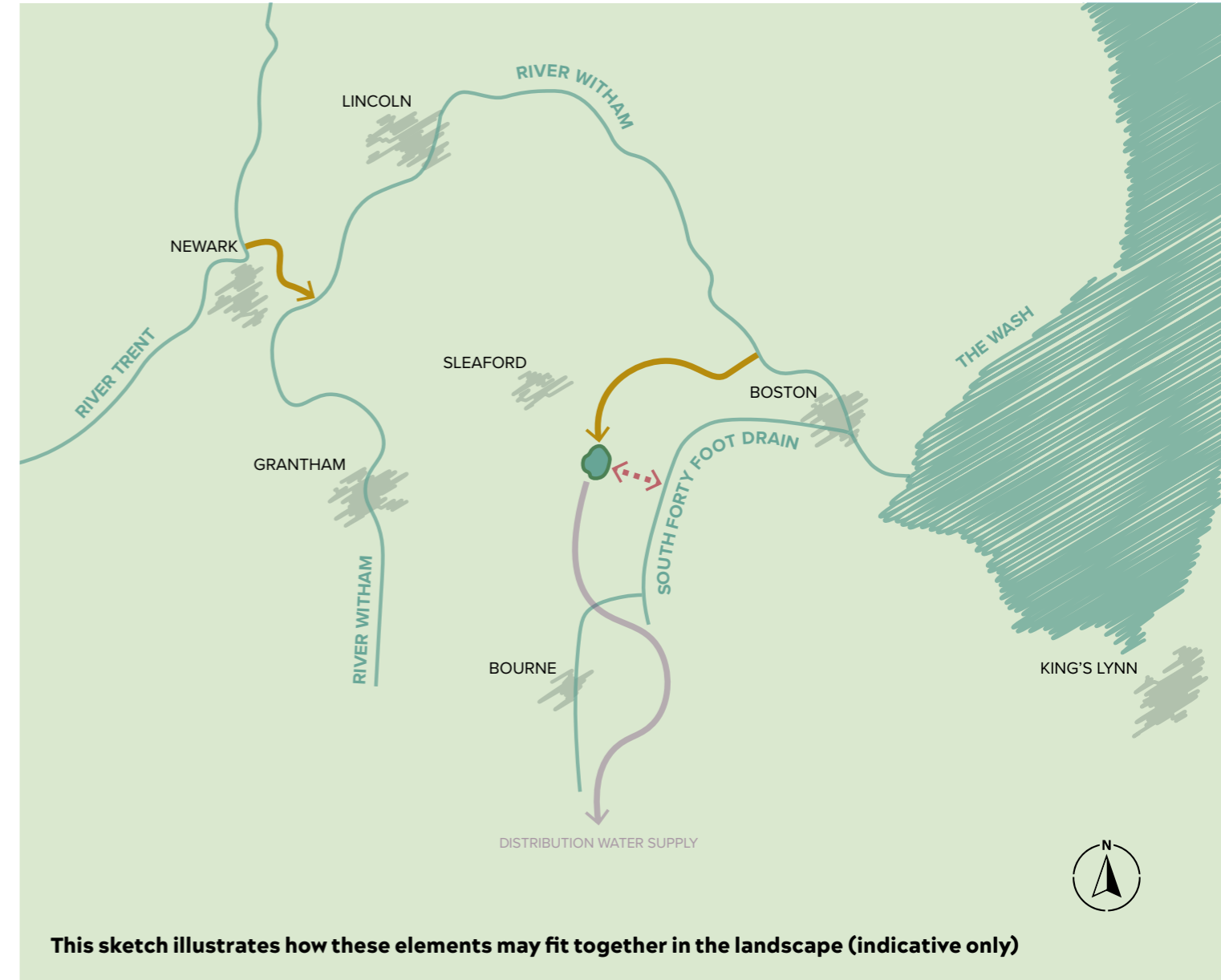
Getting water to and from the reservoir



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

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

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








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

Supporting infrastructure

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

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

- Key:**
-  Reservoir
 -  Watercourse
 -  Potable transfer
 -  Raw water transfer
 -  Potential connectivity



Wider opportunities

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

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

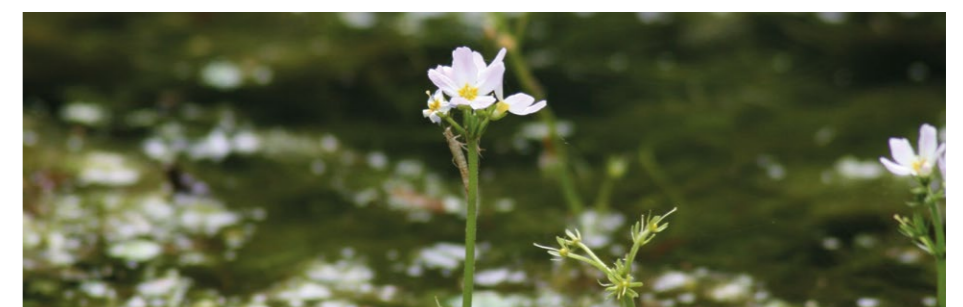
Potential wider plans and opportunities, might include:

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

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

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

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



What you can influence at this time

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

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

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



For this consultation we are asking for your feedback on:

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

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

This includes:

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

See page nine for details of our Water Resources Management Plan.



Help us deliver the best possible project

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



This consultation is open from 12 October until 21 December 2022

Have your say

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



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

Submitting your comments

You can submit feedback to us in several different ways:

- Using the project website: www.lincsreservoir.co.uk

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

- Sending an email to: info@lincsreservoir.co.uk

- Sending written feedback to us at our freepost address: Freepost Lincs Reservoir

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



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



Find out more

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

Community events	Date	Time
Scredington Community Centre, 30 Church Ln, Scredington, NG34 0AG	Tuesday 1 November	11:30am – 3pm
Helpringham Memorial Hall, 6 George St, Helpringham, NG34 0RS	Monday 7 November	5pm – 8pm
Billingborough Village Hall, Chapel St, Billingborough, NG34 0QH	Friday 11 November	3:30pm – 7pm
Heckington Village Hall, 9-11 High St, Heckington, NG34 9RA	Saturday 12 November	10:30am – 4pm
Community webinars	Date	Time
Register to attend on our website: www.lincsreservoir.co.uk	Monday 31 October, Wednesday 16 November	6pm – 7pm

You can pick-up information at community venues.

Scredington Community Centre	30 Church Ln, Scredington, NG34 0AG
Helpringham Memorial Hall	6 George St, Helpringham, NG34 0RS
Billingborough Village Hall	Chapel St, Billingborough, NG34 0QH
Heckington Village Hall	9-11 High St, Heckington, NG34 9RA
The Source Riverside Church	Riverside Church, Southgate, Sleaford, NG34 7RY
Sleaford Library	13 - 16 Market Place, Sleaford, NG34 7SR
Donington Library	25 High St, Donington, Spalding, PE11 4TA

Supporting documents

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

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

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

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



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

Sleaford Library, 13 - 16 Market Place, Sleaford, NG34 7SR

Donington Library, 25 High St, Donington, PE11 4TA

Ruskington Library, Station Rd, Ruskington, NG34 9DD

Heckington Library, Heckington, NG34 9RE

Timeline and what happens next

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

The planning application process

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

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

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

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

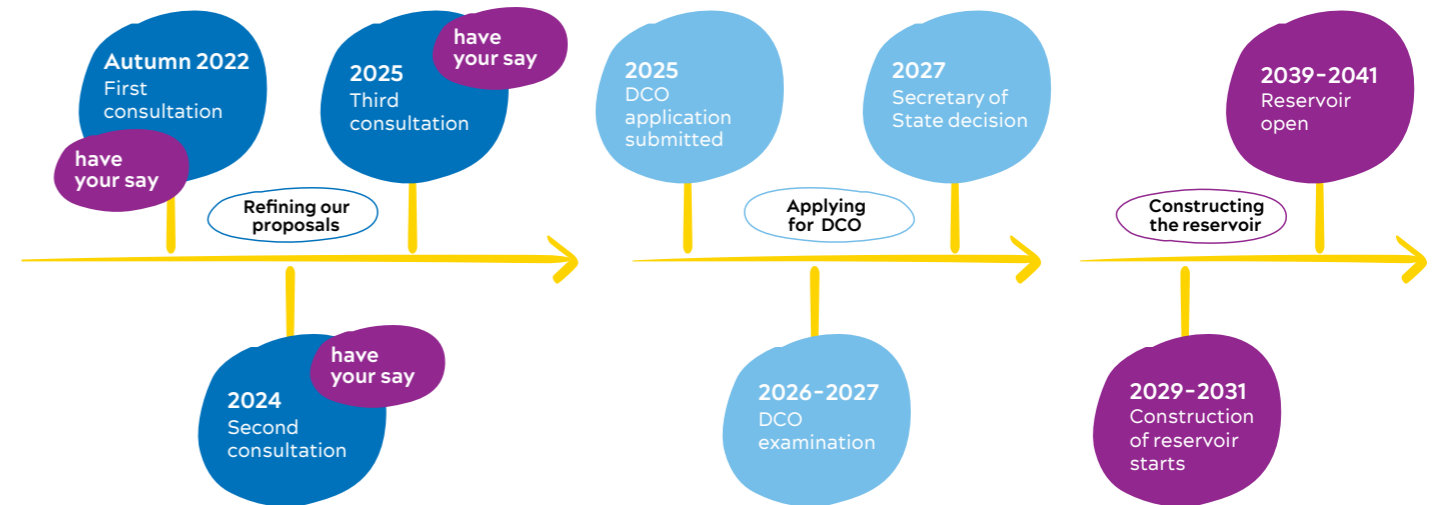
Local people and stakeholders have an important role in influencing how the reservoir is developed and designed. During this pre-application phase, we will be consulting with local

people, affected landowners and stakeholders to gather feedback to help shape our proposals before we submit the application for the DCO.

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

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

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



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



You can find out more about the DCO process here:

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

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

Get in touch with the project team by:



EMAIL

info@lincsreservoir.co.uk

WRITE

Freepost Lincs Reservoir



FREEPHONE

0800 915 2491

WEBSITE

www.lincsreservoir.co.uk



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Feedback Form

Thank you for taking part and providing feedback on our proposals for a new reservoir in Lincolnshire.

Our proposed location for the reservoir is south east of Sleaford, near to Billingborough, Swaton, Screddington, and Helpringham.

Our site selection process assessed the most suitable sites and this location was found to be the most appropriate for building a new reservoir, and, on balance, performed best across a range of the key factors we assessed. It also provides opportunities to deliver wider benefits to the regional economy and neighbouring communities. The map, as shown on page 15 of the consultation brochure, shows a pink area for the reservoir and its embankments.

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

Information about our proposals is in our consultation brochure and on our project website: www.lincsreservoir.co.uk

Your local knowledge is very valuable to us and we welcome any feedback you have on our proposals. It will help us to further understand any potential impacts and opportunities from the project, and will help inform the development of our proposals. Please provide as much detail as you can.

Please provide your comments by 23:59 on Wednesday 21 December 2022

You can submit your feedback by:

- Interactive map and feedback form on our website
- Posting your comments or this completed feedback form to **Freepost Lincolnshire Reservoir**
- Emailing your feedback to info@lincsreservoir.co.uk
- You can also talk to our team on **0800 915 2491**

About you*

Title: Name:

Age group (please tick): under 25 25-40 41-60 over 60

Address:

Postcode:

Email address:

*Please be assured that sharing the above personal information with us is voluntary, but will help us to better understand the feedback we receive

Would you like to be included in updates about the project? (please tick): Yes No

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? (please tick): Yes No

If so, which organisation:

Do you own, lease, occupy or have an interest in land within the area we are proposing for the reservoir? (please tick): Yes No

If yes, have you been contacted by us about your land interest? (please tick): Yes No

If you have not been contacted by us, please provide the details of this land, including address if different to the above so we can contact you.

Which of the following best describes you in relation to the proposed location of the reservoir? (tick all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I'm a local resident | <input type="radio"/> I'm a visitor to the area | <input type="radio"/> I'm a member of an interest group |
| <input type="radio"/> I'm a local business owner | <input type="radio"/> I'm a student/studying | <input type="radio"/> I'm travelling through on way to another destination |
| <input type="radio"/> I'm employed locally | <input type="radio"/> I'm a future resident | <input type="radio"/> Other – please specify |
| <input type="radio"/> I'm a commuter to the area | <input type="radio"/> I'm an elected representative | |

The proposed site area

In the consultation materials, we show an area we have identified for the reservoir and its embankments (pink area on the consultation maps). We also explain why we consider it's the best performing location. We have undertaken a wide range of assessments to date and will be continuing to assess and understand impacts and opportunities as our proposals develop.

1. Do you have any comments about the pink area we have identified or the effects of us using it?

2. Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?

In the consultation materials, we show an initial area we could need for the reservoir's supporting infrastructure, and during construction (grey area on the consultation maps). This is also where we could include wildlife and environmental areas, spaces for leisure and recreation, education facilities and others.

3. Do you have any comments about the grey area we have identified or the effects of us using it?

4. Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?

5. Is there anything else you think we should know about the areas we have identified?

What the reservoir could deliver

6. As part of this consultation we have provided a very early concept design for the reservoir to help stimulate thought and discussion. This will be developed further as the project progresses taking into account your feedback, so we are keen to understand your initial views. Do you have any comments on the early concept design at this stage?

7. Below are some of the features we could potentially include as we develop the proposals for the reservoir.
Are there any you have a preference for? (tick all that apply):

- Wildlife enhancements and conservation (such as for birds and other species)**
- Ecological enhancements (such as wetland areas and woodlands)**
- Recreational water sports (such as sailing, angling and windsurfing)**
- Education facilities (such as nature trails, visitor centres)**
- Social and recreational facilities (such as picnic areas, playgrounds)**
- Landscape enhancements (such as tree planting)**
- Green infrastructure (including cycle paths, electrical vehicle charging and renewable energy generation)**
- Creating a recognised visitor destination for local people and tourists**
- Local enterprise and economic opportunities**
- Water for wider sector uses (such as agriculture and commercial use)**
- Other (please provide details)**

Other comments

8. Do you have any additional feedback about our proposals that you have not included above?

About the consultation

9. How did you hear about the consultation?

- Received information to my postal address
- Social media
- Online advertising or search
- Local media news story or advertising
- Posters or information points in the area

- Notified by someone else
- Other (please provide details)

10. Did you find the consultation materials informative in helping to provide feedback on our proposals?

11. Do you have any comments on your experience of the consultation overall, or things we could have done differently?

Thank you for completing this form.

We'll look carefully at all of the feedback we receive and use it to review our work to date, and to inform how we develop the project.

If you have any questions about this form, our consultation, or the project, please contact us:



EMAIL

info@lincsreservoir.co.uk

FREEPOST ADDRESS

Freepost Lincolnshire Reservoir



FREEPHONE NUMBER

0800 915 2491

WEBSITE

www.lincsreservoir.co.uk

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- **Consultation brochure:**
an overview of our proposals for the reservoir and how to take part in the consultation
- **Approach to consultation:**
an outline of our plans for consultation



Anglian Water will manage your personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection regulations.
From more information please see our privacy notice: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/legal/privacy-notice/>