

A proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire

Approach to Community Consultation



March 2024



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1. Introduction

Anglian Water is consulting on proposals for two new strategic reservoirs for the East of England region. One reservoir is to be located in Lincolnshire , and the other in the Fens, for which we are working in partnership with Cambridge Water.

This document is about our proposals for the reservoir in Lincolnshire and how we are consulting communities and stakeholders so their feedback can help shape our plans.

Our phase one consultation took place in autumn 2022 and our phase two consultation will take place in spring 2024.

We will be gathering feedback from the public on our latest proposals during this next phase of consultation.

This document sets out the details of where, when, and how we are consulting the communities affected by our proposals. It also shares our phase two consultation plans with wider stakeholders.

It explains who we are and why we believe these reservoirs are required to meet the future demands for public water supply and our responsibilities to the environment.

About Anglian Water

Anglian Water supplies water and wastewater services to almost seven million customers in the East of England and Hartlepool. We employ around 5,000 people in the region. As a purpose-led business, we recognise we have a huge opportunity – and responsibility – to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities we serve. As one of the largest energy users in the East of England, we are also committed to becoming a net zero carbon business by 2030.

Anglian Water is investing heavily today to help prepare for tomorrow. We continue to lead the water sector in tackling leakage, exceeding our regulatory targets in excess of 10 years running.

Work is already underway on a half-billion-pound investment to lay hundreds of kilometres of new, interconnecting pipes to bring water from the wettest areas in the north of Lincolnshire to the drier areas in the south and east of the region. We are also installing over one million smart meters in customer homes, and delivering a multitude of abstraction reduction programmes, protecting precious chalk streams and rivers.



Rutland Water, East Midlands

2. The Project

Strategic context

Making sure we continue to have a reliable supply of water takes careful planning and coordination 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 across the country. 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 WRE regional plan identifies the need for new reservoirs as a key element of an overall package to ensure our region can continue to thrive.

Water companies then develop a **Water Resources Management**

Plan (WRMP) setting out their plans and investments – such as improving efficiency; managing demand; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources.

Anglian Water’s latest WRMP demonstrates how we will ensure a sustainable and secure supply of clean drinking water for our customers from 2025 to 2050, building on our previous WRMP. Our plan identifies new reservoirs as crucial investments we need to help to make to meet the growing demands on water supplies in the East of England.

Following a consultation on our latest WRMP (a separate process from the consultation on the proposed

reservoir in Lincolnshire) we have published a Statement of Response, alongside a revised draft of the plan itself. The draft WRMP plan is expected to be finalised later this year (2024). The proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire continues to be an important feature of our plan, helping to secure water supplies for the region amid the challenges of a changing climate, while protecting and restoring the environment.

Through all our work to develop the proposals, we’ve sought input from a range of stakeholders, alongside our own assessments. This has ensured our work has been informed by those responsible for the local area and the region’s environment, as well as our own teams.

We have engaged with:

- National bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England.
- The relevant local authorities 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 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.
- Local landowners and residents who are directly affected by the proposals.

- Members of the public during our last consultation in autumn 2022 alongside ongoing feedback.

This work has helped guide and inform the development of our proposals 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.

Since our phase one consultation, we have also provided community representatives with the opportunity to join a Community Liaison Group (CLG), as part of our continuing engagement.

The CLG involves representatives from a cross-section of the community who may have interests

in the project’s approach and proposals in their capacity as a community authority. This includes parish councils and elected representatives, local conservation and environment groups, local community organisations and networks including religious, youth and leisure groups.



A new reservoir in Lincolnshire

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

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

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

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

Creating a whole new water supply scheme

The project is not just the reservoir, but a wider water supply scheme. The reservoir will need to be connected to rivers to capture water when it is plentiful, and to the region’s water system for supply to homes and business. This means there is associated infrastructure that we need to build to operate the reservoir.

To build the reservoir itself, 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 at the proposed site is:

- A water treatment plant.
- Water pumping equipment and pipelines.

- Inlet/outlet facilities within the reservoir.
- Other equipment for operating and maintaining the reservoir.

We have undertaken a detailed multi-stage assessment of all the different ways that would make the reservoir work best as a whole new water supply system. Throughout this process we identified the best options and locations for all of the associated infrastructure we need to build.

This includes the infrastructure needed to:

- **Transport raw water from water sources to the reservoir** – including river intake structures, pumping stations and, where needed, invasive non-native species (INNS) treatment works. It also includes underground pipelines to transfer water to the reservoir, and possible routes to transfer water into the reservoir using open channel waterways.
- **Supply treated water from the reservoir to homes and businesses** – a water treatment works, underground pipelines to transfer the treated water to connection points in the local supply network and new service reservoirs at these connection points to make sure the water is supplied when it’s needed.
- **Lower the reservoir’s water level quickly in the unlikely event of an emergency** – a clear plan for discharging extra water to the sea as quickly as possible is required by reservoir safety legislation.

We are providing information on the proposed locations of this associated infrastructure as part of our phase two consultation.

Map to be added prior to consultation launch

Caption to go with map

About the project development and consenting process

In England, projects of a large enough size and scale are classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire falls within this category. This is due primarily to the size of the scheme.

The Planning Act 2008 sets out the threshold for what qualifies as an NSIP, as well as the process a project must follow to achieve development consent (the type of planning permission these NSIPs require).

This requires applicants to

develop proposals in detail, including thorough environmental assessments, prior to submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate (the government agency responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs). A key part of this pre-application process is consultation with communities and stakeholders so their feedback can help influence the proposals and identify opportunities to mitigate potential effects.

When the proposals are finalised

and an application submitted, the planning inspectors will examine the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Ultimately, it will be for the Secretary of State to decide whether the project should be given development consent.

Development consent would provide the necessary approvals to construct, operate and maintain the reservoir.



3. Consultation overview

Our aim is to gather feedback from the public on our latest proposals for a new reservoir in Lincolnshire and its associated infrastructure, and encourage input as the proposals take shape.

What we're consulting on



The consultation materials will present our latest proposals. Feedback from the phase one consultation has helped inform the design process.

Our phase two consultation proposals include a more detailed design for the reservoir itself – consisting of an emerging masterplan and design concept. They also include proposed locations and route corridor options for the infrastructure we need to operate the reservoir as a water supply scheme.

For our phase two consultation we are asking for feedback on:

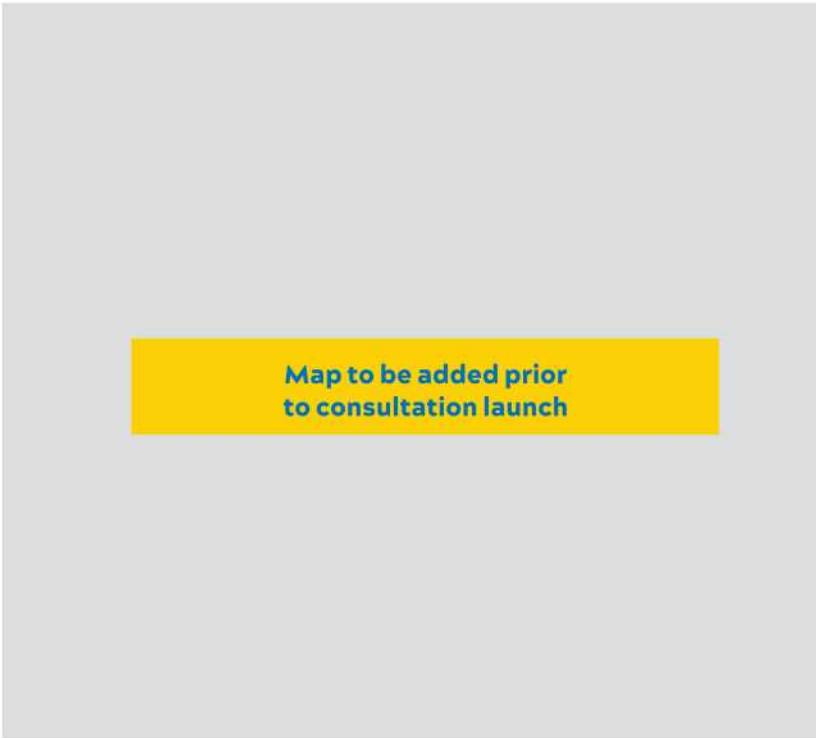
- **The emerging masterplan** we have developed for the proposed reservoir and its embankments. We have developed a preferred option for the site design based on the opportunities and constraints identified at the site, engagement with stakeholders, and feedback from our phase one consultation. The emerging masterplan includes the facilities we will need on site to operate the reservoir.
- **The preferred options and locations** for the associated infrastructure needed to operate the reservoir as a whole water supply scheme. This includes our proposals for transferring raw water from rivers to the reservoir, to then treat the water to make it drinkable, and to supply to homes and businesses.

Where we are consulting

We have identified a consultation zone based on the potential construction and operational effects of the proposed reservoir and its associated infrastructure. The focus of our consultation will be in this area, including community events and household mailings. We are consulting the communities in this consultation zone who:

- May be affected by lasting effects linked to the reservoir should it be constructed at the proposed site, such as land use or visual effects.
- May be affected by temporary effects resulting from construction, such as construction noise.
- Are most likely to benefit from the social and economic opportunities linked to the project.

To build wider awareness and encourage participation, we are also carrying out additional activities to reach a broader audience, including media advertising and other publicity.



Caption to go with map

8 WEEKS

FROM MAY TO JULY 2024

THIS IS OUR SECOND NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN A MULTI-PHASE APPROACH.

OUR FIRST PHASE OF NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION RAN FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022.



Who we are consulting

Our phase two non-statutory consultation will start in May 2024, and run for eight weeks.

This is our second phase of consultation in a multi-phase approach.

Consultees that will be included are:

Prescribed stakeholders and local authorities

Stakeholders defined as prescribed by the relevant planning regulations. This includes prescribed consultation bodies (such as the Environment Agency and Historic England), statutory undertakers (including owners of rail, gas and electrical infrastructure) and local planning authorities.

We have identified additional stakeholders who may be interested in our proposals because of their area of knowledge or specialism (for example, local historical societies and conservation groups).

Persons with an interest in land

People who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation.

We have been engaging with landowners, where they can be accurately identified, who are immediately affected by the area of our proposals.

We are committed to supporting those affected by our proposals as the project develops. One of the ways we plan to do this is through a residential property support scheme, which could offer support to homeowners who would need to sell their properties before the project has consent and acquisition of property commences.

The scheme will be launched at the same time as the phase two consultation and information will be made available about who can apply and the process they need to follow.

Local communities

Local communities affected by the proposals, including residents and businesses, groups and organisations who are considered part of these communities. These include:

- Communities in the consultation zone.
- Elected representatives of these communities (such as MPs and ward councillors).
- Representatives of people considered seldom heard within these communities.

We have sought advice from the local authorities on which representatives to include. Based on aspects of user experience of mobility, confidence and accessibility, the following characteristic groups have already been identified:

- Younger and older people.
- Those with physical disabilities or learning difficulties.
- Those who are time poor (such as those with young families or without typical working patterns).

4. How we are consulting

To encourage participation in the consultation and provide people with information, we will undertake a range of activities.

Anglian Water are committed to delivering consultations that anyone can take part in.

We have placed equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of our business planning and decision-making.



A digital-first approach

We are using a digital-first approach to sharing materials and encouraging feedback. This aims to provide broad reach and accessibility for all of those living and working in the areas where we are consulting. A digital-first approach allows people to engage at their own convenience, as well as being in line with current planning best practice. It also provides good opportunities to ensure activities are suitable for those with disabilities or who have health and mobility difficulties.

Using digital tools allows for a greater variety and quality of consultation materials, compared solely with printed documents.

However, some people are unable to engage digitally, or may prefer not to do so. To address this, the consultation remains accessible to those without digital access, through physical events and hard copy materials that provide people the opportunity to meet our teams and find out about our proposals. Our project freephone number is also available. Anyone wishing to contact the project team can leave a voicemail and we will call them back.

All physical events are planned to be accessible and inclusive to ensure there are no barriers to engaging with the project and that we engage with

as wide a demographic as possible. We are doing this through a variety of means such as ensuring our event venues are wheelchair accessible and have adequate parking, as well as having events across a range of times and days of the week in order to accommodate a wide range of working patterns.



Consultation materials

We have created a variety of materials for our phase two consultation.

Collectively these publicise the consultation and provide varying levels of detail about the proposals so people can choose the information relevant to their own interest.

We have created all materials with accessibility in mind, so they are easy to understand and make good use of images and diagrams to explain our work. The available materials are listed below.



CONSULTATION MATERIAL	DETAIL
Project website	Full details of the project proposals will be available on the project website, including all consultation materials and a digital feedback form and an interactive map.
Consultation postcard	A consultation postcard, with a high-level explanation of the project and clear signposts of how to find out more (including the website address, contact details for the project team and details of consultation events). The postcard will be sent to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone.
Consultation brochures	A set of brochures that explain the project background and our latest proposals, including more information on the potential benefits and impacts of the project, and how we have developed our latest design. They will also explain what we are consulting on, how people can take part and where more information can be found.
Option selection report	An explanation of all the associated infrastructure options and locations that the proposals include at this stage. This will explain the process we followed to identify the options included and the assessment criteria we used.
Masterplan design report	An explanation of the process we followed to create an emerging masterplan for the reservoir site, including more information about how this was developed.

Making materials available

All materials will be available on the consultation website, and people will be encouraged to view all materials online as a first course of action.

Hard copies of the community materials – including the consultation brochures and feedback form – will be available at the consultation events.

Requests for hardcopy and alternative format (e.g. large text) consultation materials, can be made by contacting the project team, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Technical reports and supporting information will be available online. Reference copies of reports will be

available to view at consultation events and at locations close to relevant areas of the proposed scheme.



Consultation events and webinars

We are holding a programme of events for members of the public to meet our team, ask questions, and find out about our proposals.

These events will be primarily held in person, to make sure people can access the consultation and more information in areas near them.

Event locations have been chosen to maximise accessibility for all those affected by the project. They are being held in central locations such as community halls in the towns and villages closest to the proposed site for the reservoir, and where associated infrastructure could be located.

A buildings accessibility checklist has been completed to ensure all venues chosen are accessible for all.

Events will be attended by representatives of Anglian Water. This will include a comprehensive range of subject specialists at each event, so that members of the public can ask questions on specific topics.

We are also holding a community webinar, to support our digital-first approach and allow the participation of those unable to come to in-person events, and broaden participation more widely.

All events and webinars are timed to maximise attendance, including a spread of weekdays, weekends and evenings. Please see our website for details of the consultation events and webinars.



5. Publicising the consultation

The consultation is being publicised using a range of tools to reach as wide an audience as possible, and to encourage participation in the consultation. The publicity is based around key milestones across the consultation period.



CONSULTATION POSTCARD

A consultation postcard (see above) will be sent to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone.

MEDIA RELATIONS

News releases will be issued to local and regional media to coincide with each milestone. A press release will be issued to mark the launch of the community consultation.

ONLINE MEDIA

Key dates and information will be publicised online via Anglian Water social media channels, news and project websites. We will work with local authorities and other regional partners to utilise any existing channels to increase participation, and encourage local groups to share details of our consultation through their own channels.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

Published advertisements will feature in local newspapers. These will include key dates, website details and information on how to get involved.

POSTERS

Posters will be issued to elected representatives and parish councils and to suitable community locations (such as libraries) with details of the consultation. We will request posters be displayed in the local area.

6. How to take part and how we will use feedback

How feedback can be provided

People and organisations can complete a response and/or provide separate comments through the following response channels. All response channels are free to use.



METHOD	DETAILS
Interactive feedback map	An interactive map of the project will feature on the website. This will include options to drop pins on the map or masterplan for adding location-specific comments.
Feedback form	We encourage individuals to fill in and submit the online feedback form on the website. Hard copies are also available on request and at events.
Email	Comments can be emailed to info@lincsreservoir.co.uk
Freepost	Post your response form or comments to the consultation freepost address: Freepost Lincolnshire Reservoir The freepost address is the only text needed on the envelope, no stamp is required.

Anglian Water cannot guarantee that responses submitted through methods other than those set out above will be included in our analysis and reporting.

The project freephone will be available for people to ask questions or request hard copy documents. We are not able to accept verbal comments (via the hotline or in events) as feedback submissions. Where this is required for accessibility reasons, we will manage these on a case-by-case basis.

The consultation will launch in May 2024, and will take place for eight weeks. All responses must be received by the deadline. Only under exceptional circumstances would we accept responses submitted after that date.

What we do with your feedback

We will review all of the feedback we receive and consider this alongside further technical work. We will present how we have developed our proposals, including how we have taken on board the feedback we received, as the project progresses.

This will include publishing a phase two non-statutory consultation report that summarises the feedback we have received and how we have considered it.

Data privacy


Anglian Water is committed to protecting the personal information we are given. We manage personal information in accordance with all applicable data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect in 2018. For more information about how Anglian Water and third parties working on our behalf collect and process your data, please see our full data privacy notice on our website, www.anglianwater.co.uk.

As part of the planning process, the Planning Inspectorate may request full copies of any feedback submitted to the project.

The Planning Inspectorate's data privacy notice is available on its website, <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

7. Contact us

Our team will be available throughout the consultation. Please get in touch with any questions.

EMAIL US
info@lincssreservoir.co.uk

WRITE TO US

Freepost
Lincolnshire Reservoir

CALL US

0800 915 2491

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.lincsreservoir.co.uk



