



A proposed reservoir in the Fens

Project briefing

7 October 2025



Agenda

Introduction and overview



Our phase three reservoir proposals

Constructing the associated water infrastructure

Constructing the reservoir

Environmental Impact Assessment

Our phase three associated water infrastructure proposals

Public consultation

Project team members

- Greg Phillimore – Stakeholder and consultation
- Gareth Thomas – Head of DCO delivery Fens
- Damien Thomas – Fens Relationship Lead
- Jeshika Moonsamy – Engineering Lead
- Wendy Bateman – Environment Lead
- Charles Crawford – Masterplanning Lead
- Rob Ramshaw – Traffic and Transport Lead
- Harry Ramsey – Planning team
- Alex McKenna – Construction Lead
- Ruth Ofield – Lands team
- Isabella Norman – Stakeholder and consultation

Disclaimer



The visualisations and imagery provided by Anglian Water are an artistic impression of what our phase three indicative design could look like approximately 15 years after completion with mature landscaping.

Further work is required to develop the phase three indicative design to a level appropriate to support an application for development consent.

Our ongoing assessments and consultation feedback will continue to inform our plans. Safety and security features required for the protection and safe operation of the reservoir and other assets will be applied in later design phases. The findings of the environmental impact assessment could also influence how the project is designed.

Our proposals for the reservoir and its associated water infrastructure will therefore continue to evolve in the coming years and the visualisations have the potential to change in line with this ongoing development.

Introduction and overview

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Why we need new reservoirs

The East of England is facing a growing set of challenges to supply.

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.

Reservoirs programme: Our purpose and vision



Our purpose

To bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to **love every drop**

Our vision for two new reservoirs

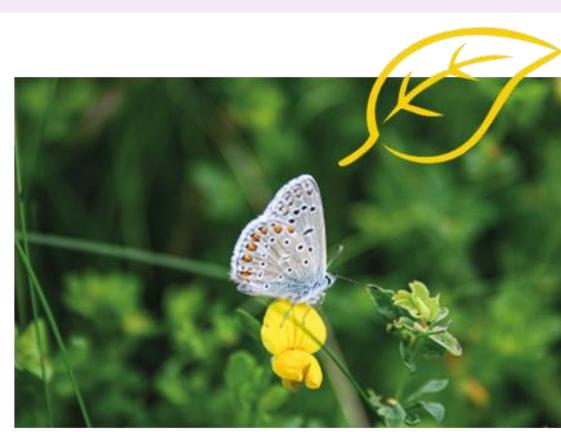
Securing water supply for future generations and **transforming our region** by creating **places for people, nature and water to come together**



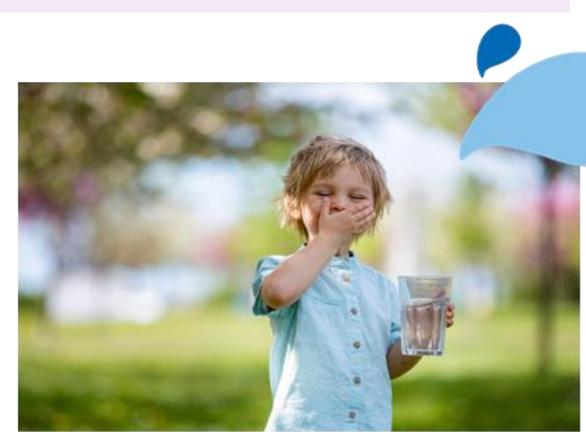
Place



People



Nature



Water

A new destination for Fenland

Creating a place where people, nature and water come together



Supporting a thriving region

Supporting
skills
development
and creating
new jobs



An exciting
destination
that could
draw up to
400,000
visitors
every year



This is a significant investment in England's water infrastructure and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver lasting benefits for people and nature in Cambridgeshire

Where we are



The development timeline



2022-2026

Pre-application consultation
(multiple phases)



Have your say

DCO application
submission

2027



2027/28

DCO
examination

Secretary of State
decision

2028



2030

Construction
of reservoir
starts

Reservoir in
supply (earliest)

2036



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

Our scheme

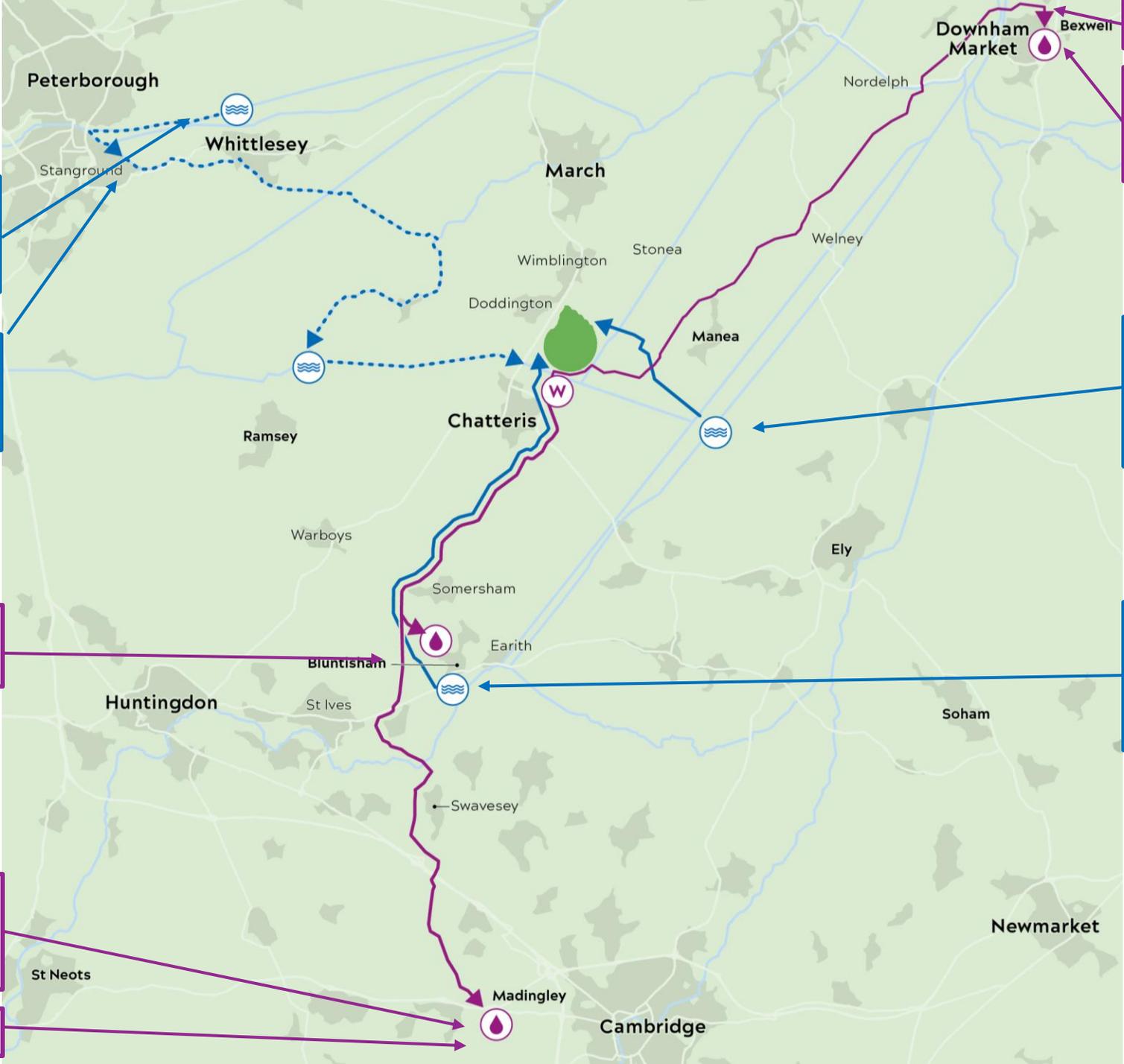
Counter Drain treatment and pumping station into River Nene.

River Nene bypass pipe around Stanground Lock into Middle Level system.

Connection point to Cambridge Water network.

Madingley service reservoir and connection point to Cambridge Water network.

Overflow pipe to watercourse.



Overflow pipe to watercourse.

Bexwell service reservoir and connection point to Anglian Water network.

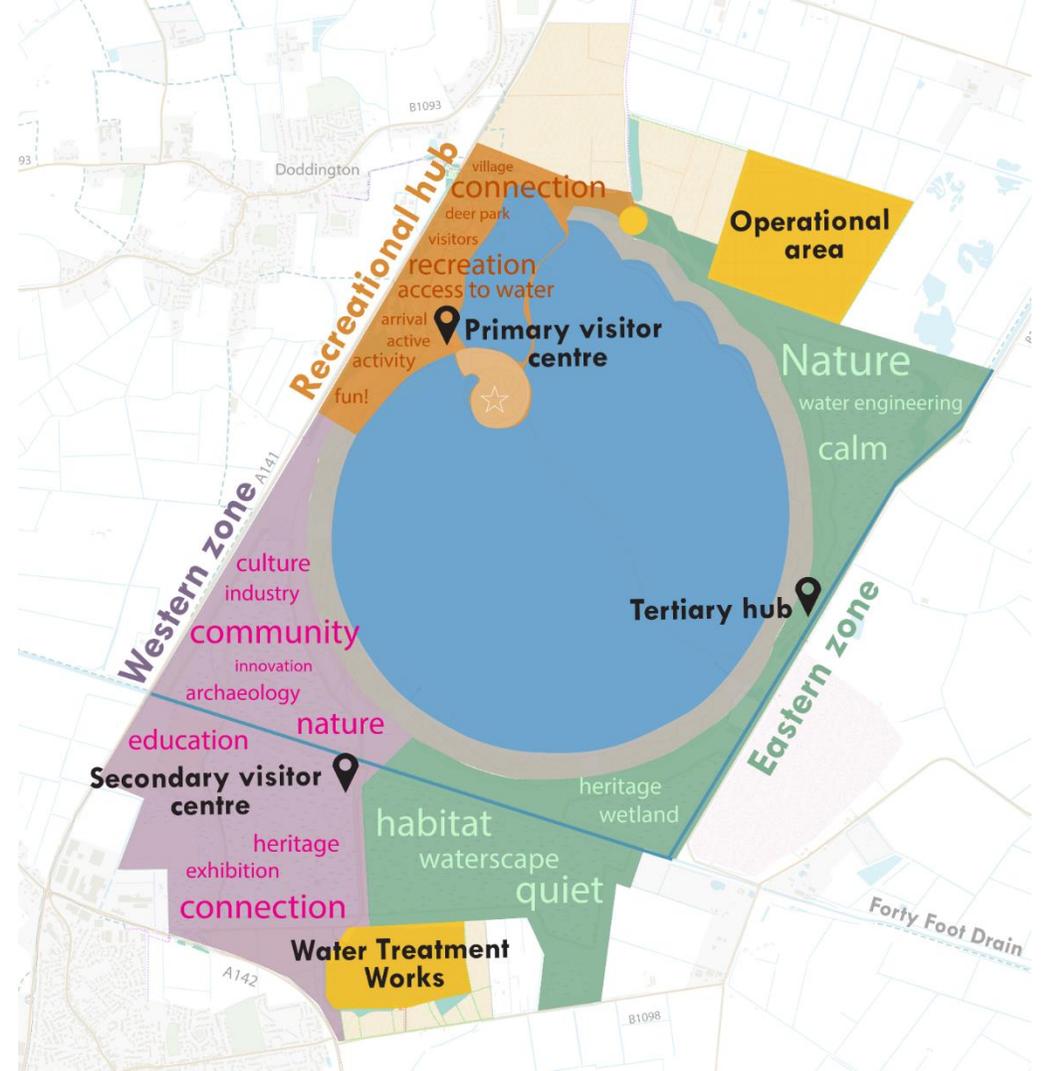
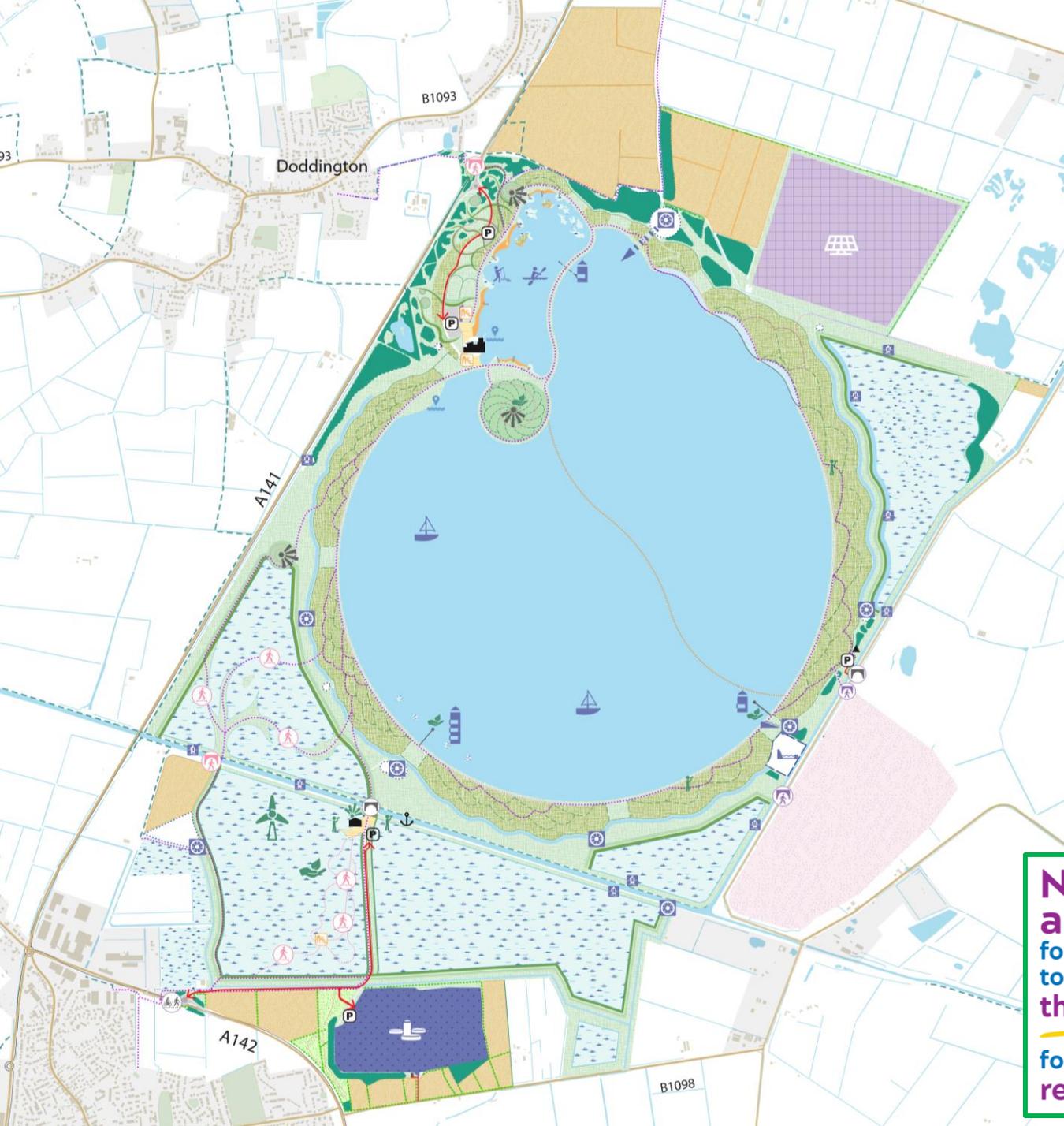
River intake, treatment and pumping station to draw water from Ouse Washes and pump to reservoir via pipeline.

River intake, treatment and pumping station to draw water from River Great Ouse and pump to reservoir via pipeline.



Our phase three reservoir proposals

A proposed reservoir in the Fens



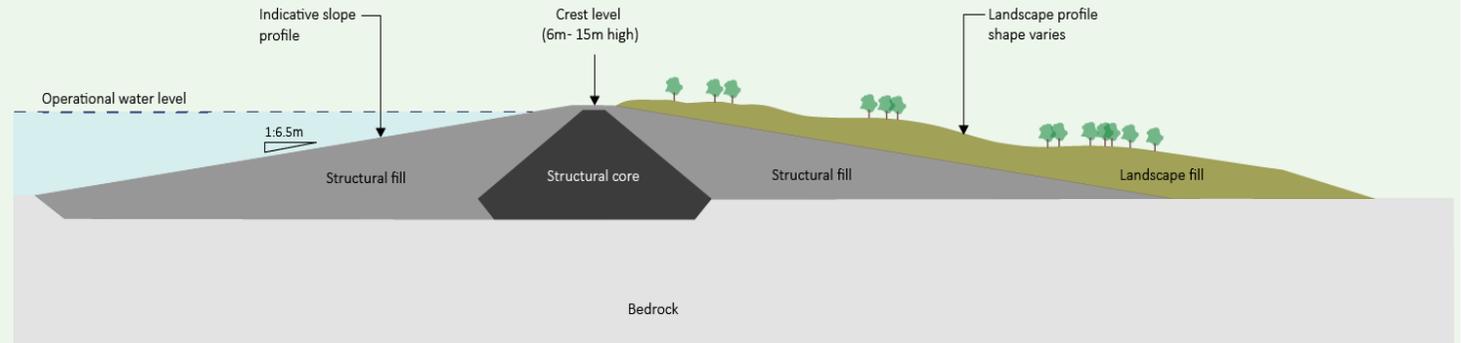
New amenities 
 for communities to use, with **three visitor hubs**
 for leisure and recreation

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

Access for everyone 
 by foot, bike or horse with around **35KM** of active travel routes
 across the site

Our phase three design proposals

Our phase three design proposals celebrate the unique character of the Fens. They show three zones that could offer something different, providing a place for everyone.



Recreational Hub

The main recreational hub featuring the main visitor centre and lagoon.



Eastern Zone

A haven for precious fenland wildlife with links to the east.



Western Zone

Opportunities to explore and enjoy nature with active travel routes, direct links to Chatteris, and a second visitor centre.

Recreational hub

North western area

The main access to the reservoir and focal point of where people and water could come together

Features and opportunities:

- Main visitor centre and access to amenity
- Main parking and visitor amenities
- Access via the A141
- Active travel links with Doddington and Wimblington (via a new footbridge)



Recreational hub: landscape integration

North western area



- Water-based recreation with an accessible lagoon of 28 hectares
- Beginning of walking routes and extensive views
- Higher ground and tree planting for more naturalised setting



Where this is

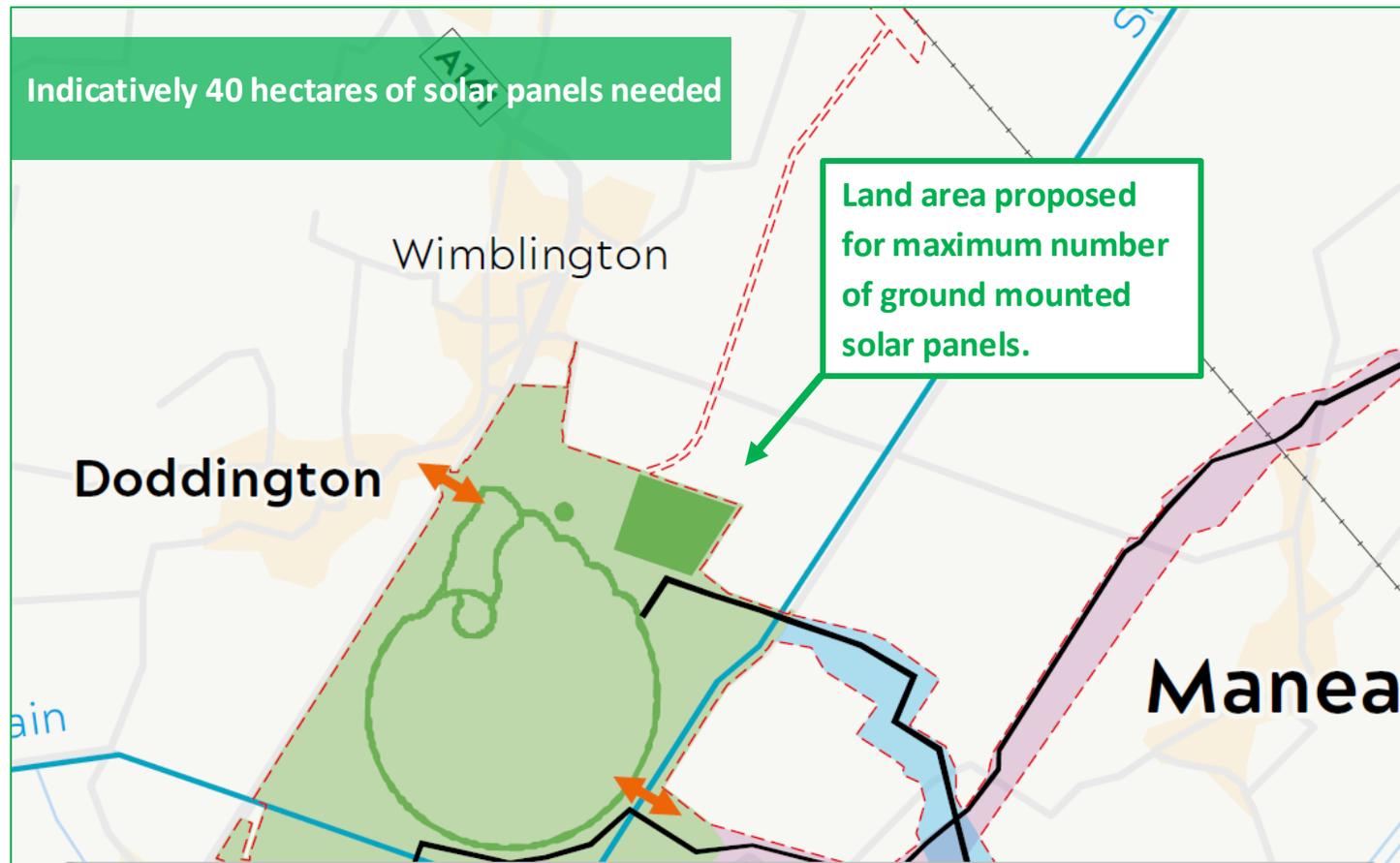


Eastern Zone: Renewables

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. This work is still ongoing.



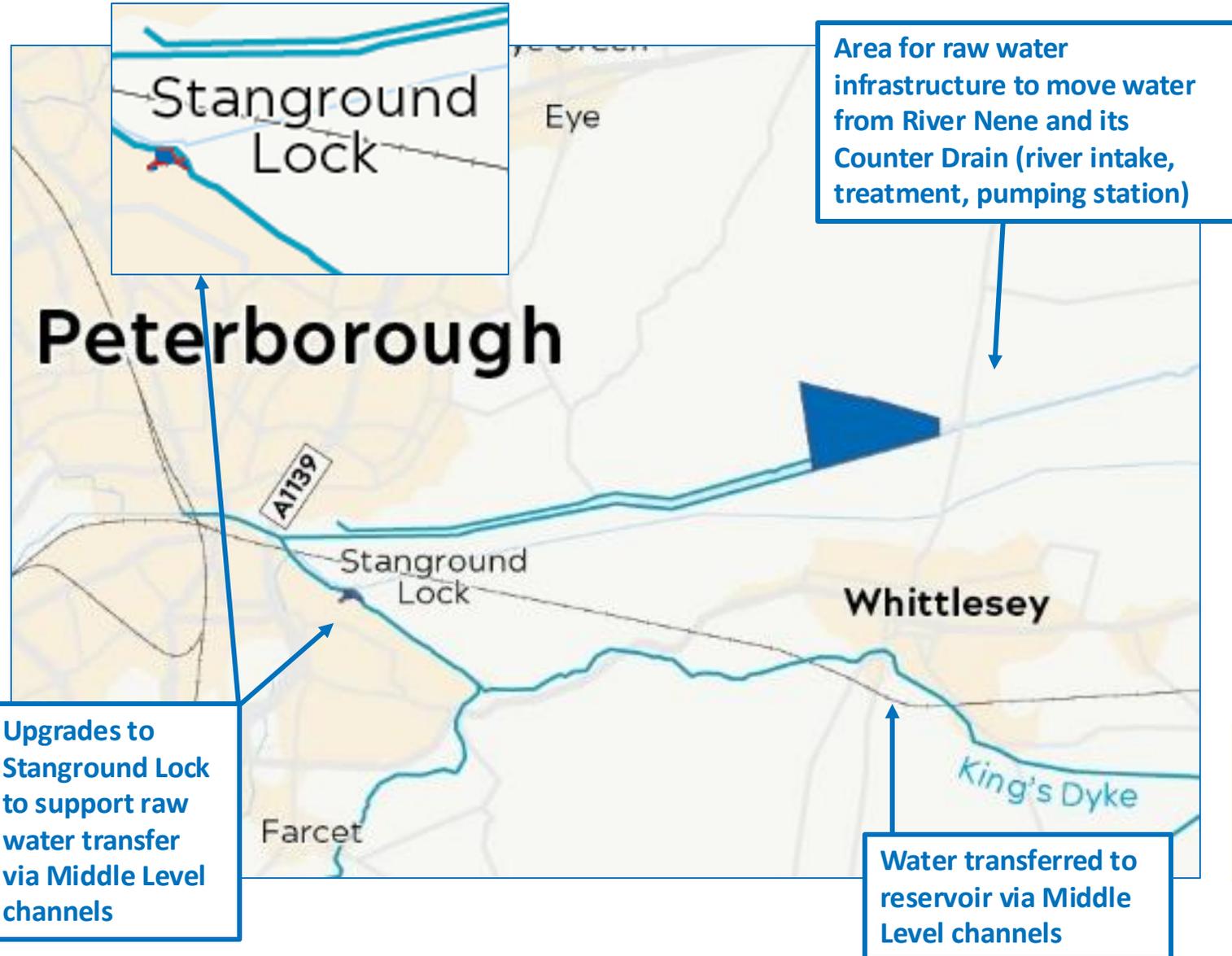
- Discounted wind following consideration of options and consultation feedback
- Proposed location away from recreational activity and communities - near main construction compound
- Work ongoing - exploring ground mounted solar, floating solar and battery storage



Our phase three associated water infrastructure proposals

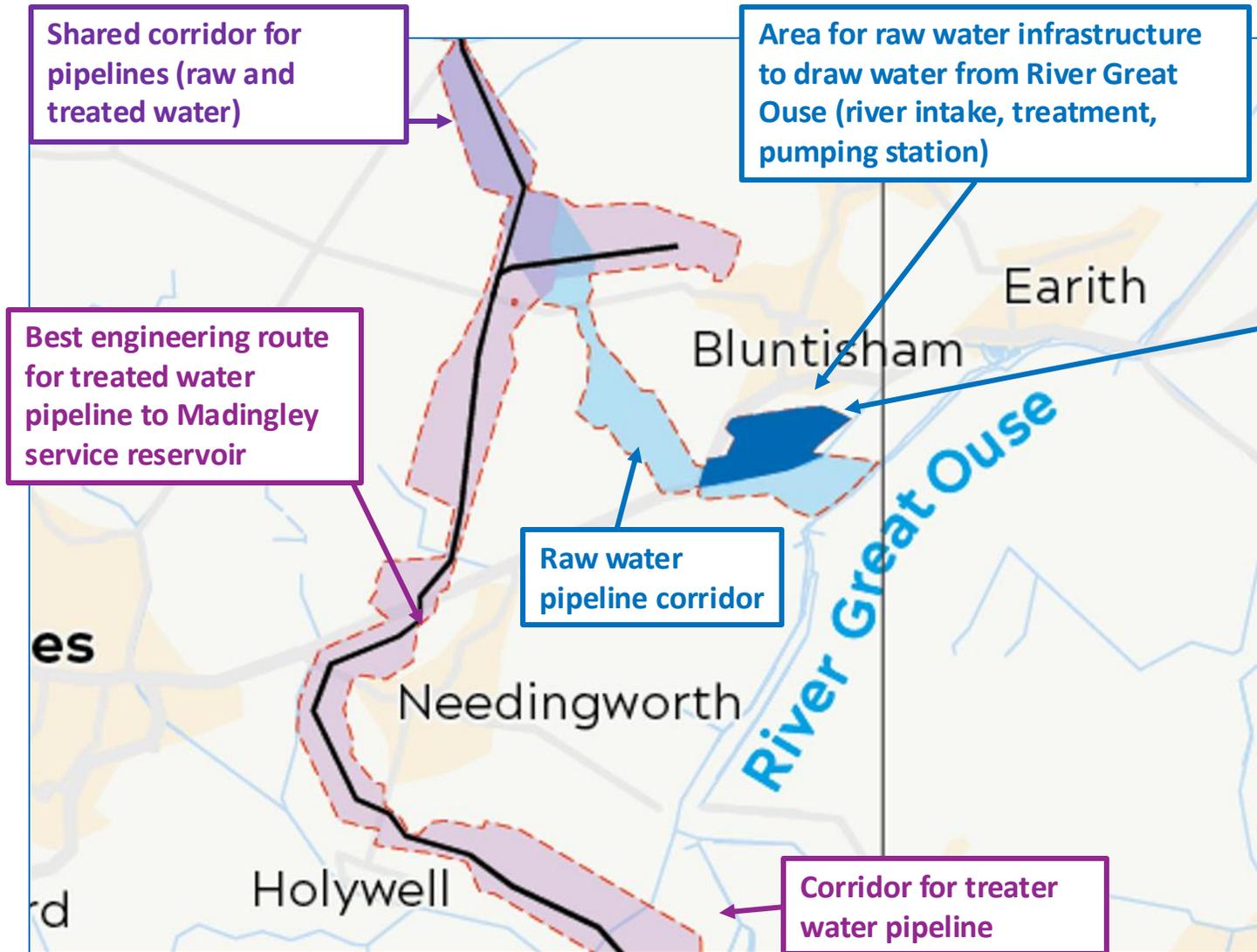
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Our proposals near Whittlesey



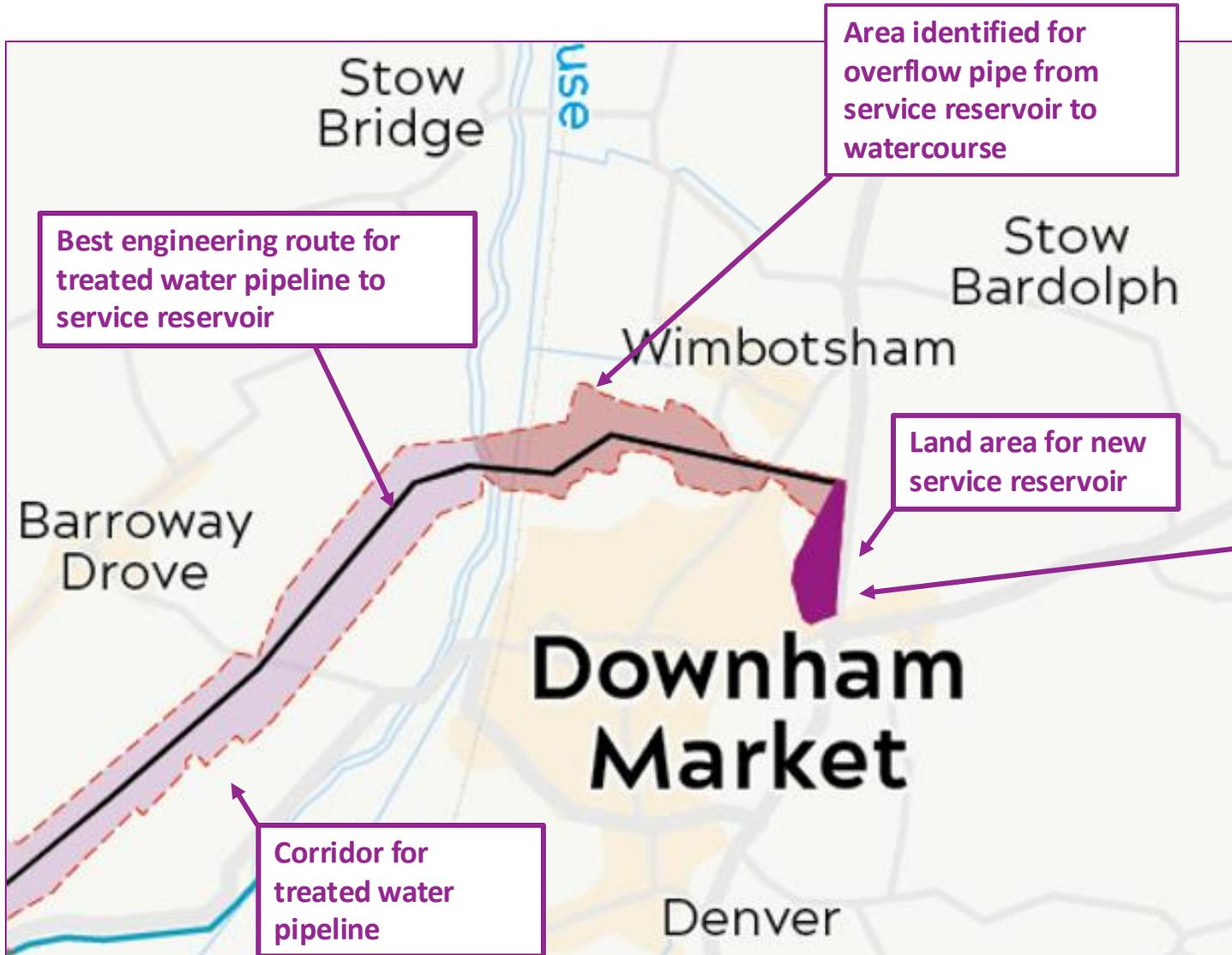
Our phase three consultation materials will show the changes made since our previous consultation

Our proposals near Bluntisham and Earith



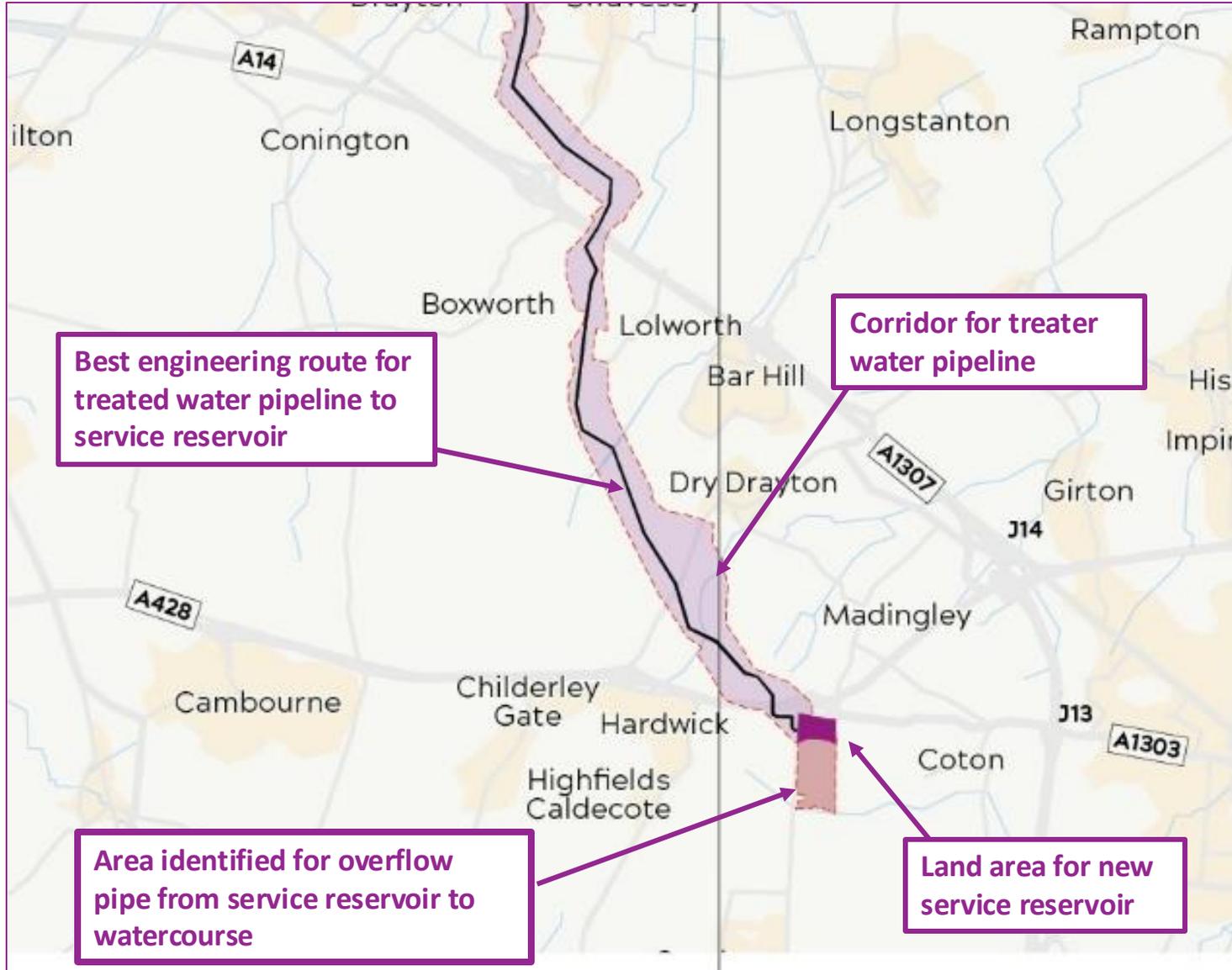
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Our proposals near Downham Market



Our phase three consultation materials will show the changes made since our previous consultation

Our proposals near Madingley



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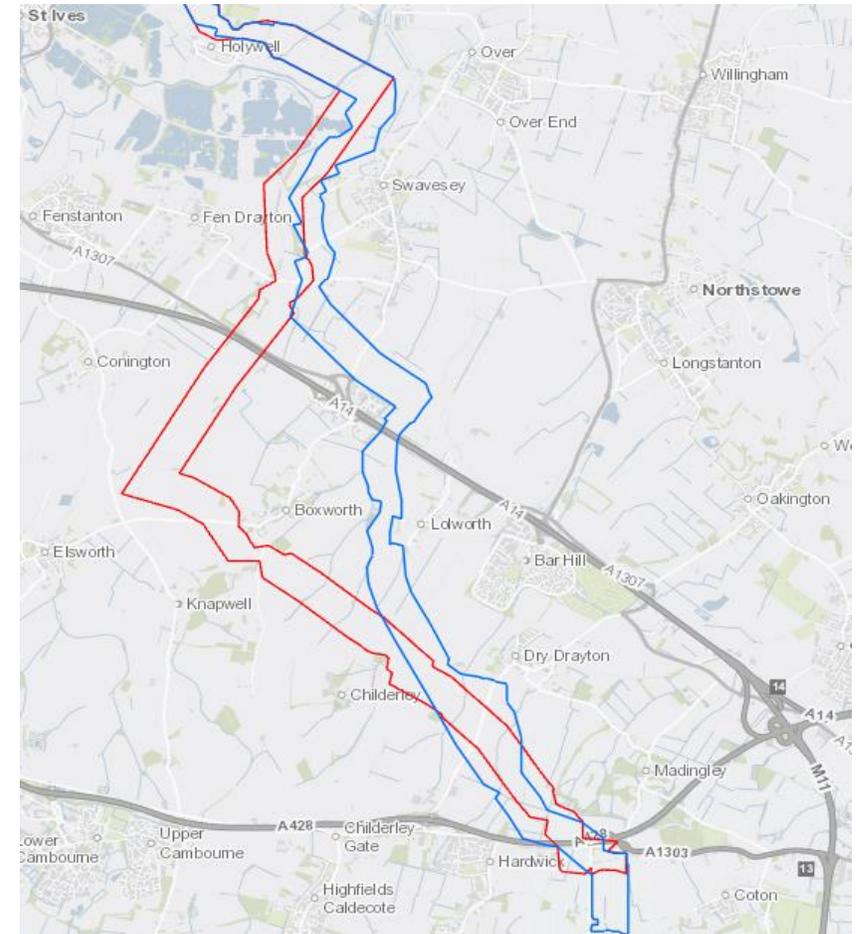
Grafham to Cambridge

Strategic Corridor Integration

- Following our phase two consultation, an opportunity was identified to align the proposed pipeline from Bluntisham to Madingley with the existing Grafham to Cambridge project in partnership with Cambridge Water
- The shared corridor section runs from Holywell (south of the A14) to Madingley.

Benefits of alignment

- Reduced disruption to local communities and infrastructure.
- The project teams will coordinate on consulting and engaging on the two projects.
- Improved cost efficiency.
- We are working in partnership with Cambridge Water and the regulator to explore whether there is an opportunity to deliver this as a single pipeline.



Blue – CON3 route
Red – CON2 route

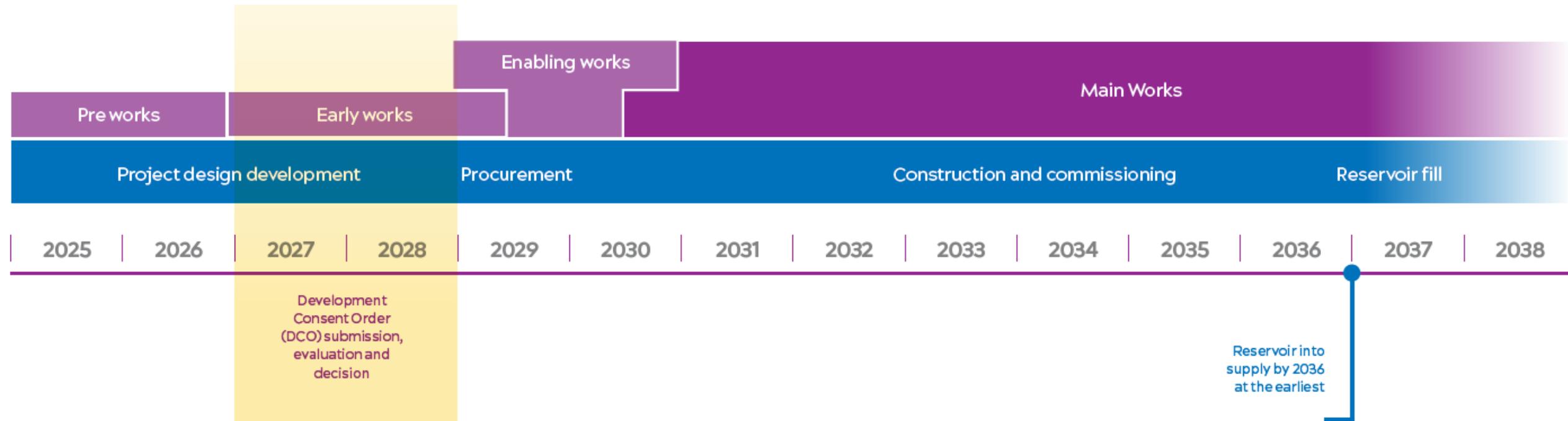
Constructing the reservoir

A proposed reservoir in the Fens

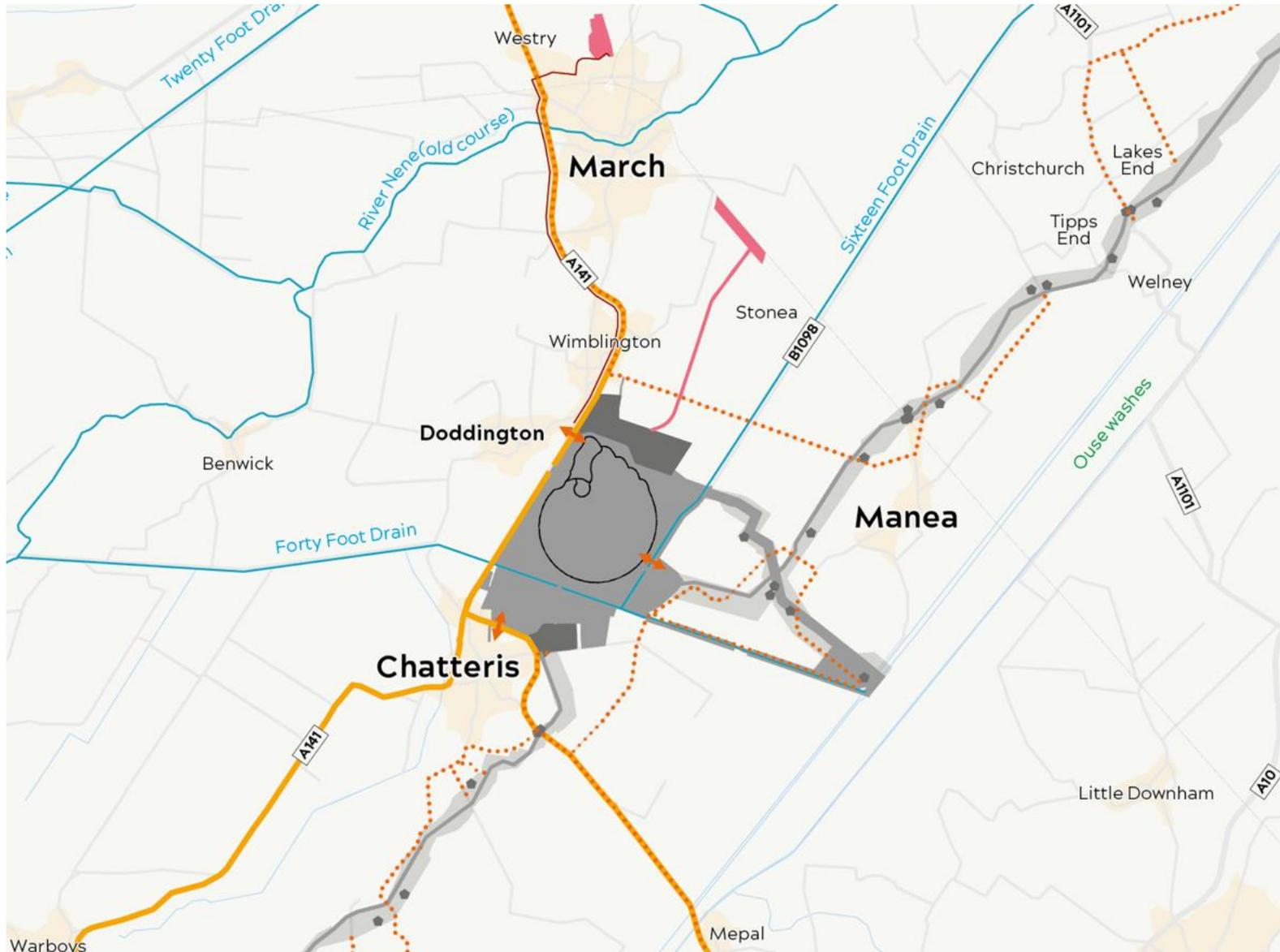
Constructing the reservoir

How we're planning for construction:

- Identifying opportunities to re-use as much material from the site as we can.
- Working out how and when we need to carry out certain construction activity, and the workforce involved.
- Considering how we will keep impacts on people, place and environment as low as possible, and the ways we can manage these impacts.



Constructing the reservoir



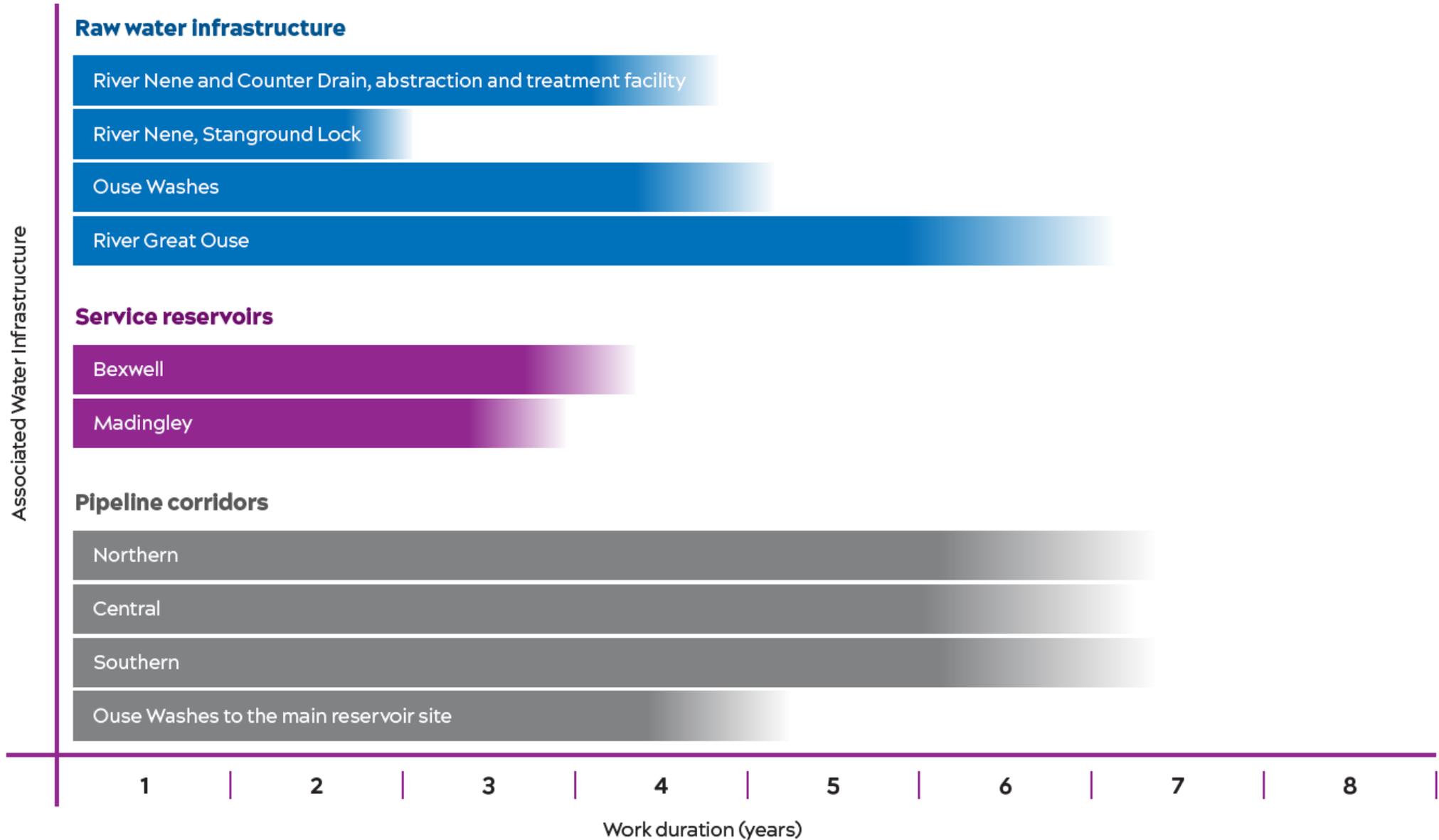
Key

- Our phase three indicative project boundary
- 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 construction railway sidings and their associated routes to the main reservoir site
- 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

Constructing the associated water infrastructure

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Construction timeline

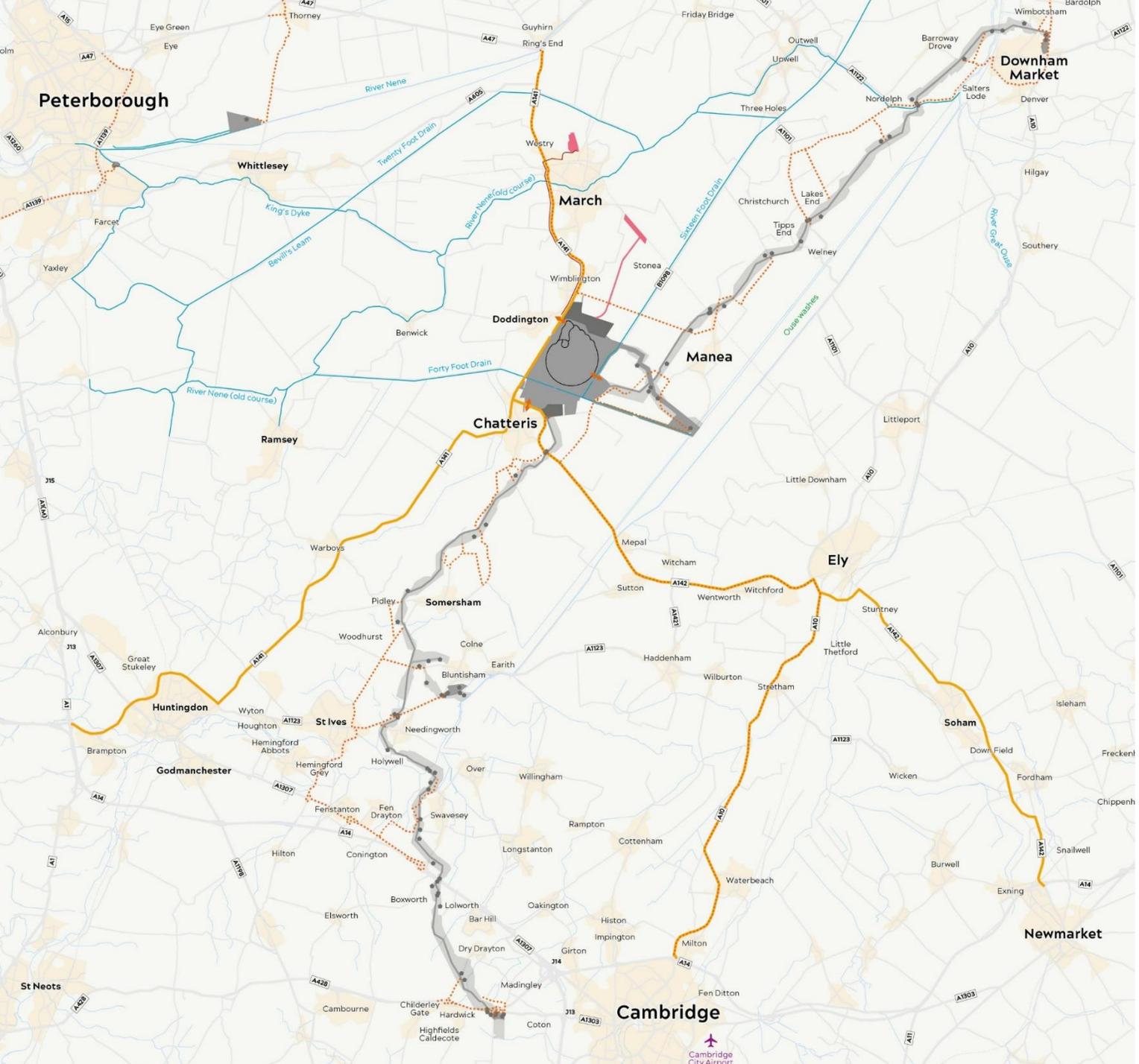


How we'll manage impacts on the road network

- Pipeline Corridor and Associated Infrastructure access routes



- Pipeline corridor access and AWI site access:
 - Over 500 potential highway access routes assessed
 - Sifted to one route per access point (approximately every 1km along pipeline corridor and at AWI sites)
 - Estimated number of HGV movements per day at each access point is approximately 60 HGVs (equivalent to one HGV movement every 10 minutes)
 - Some access routes will be used for more than one access point
 - Further assessment is being undertaken to identify locations where cumulative impacts may occur and any mitigation required.
- We may need to make some improvements to some roads, such as widening sections and reinforcing the surfaces to prepare for heavier vehicles.
- Further information can be found in our Design Refinement Report.



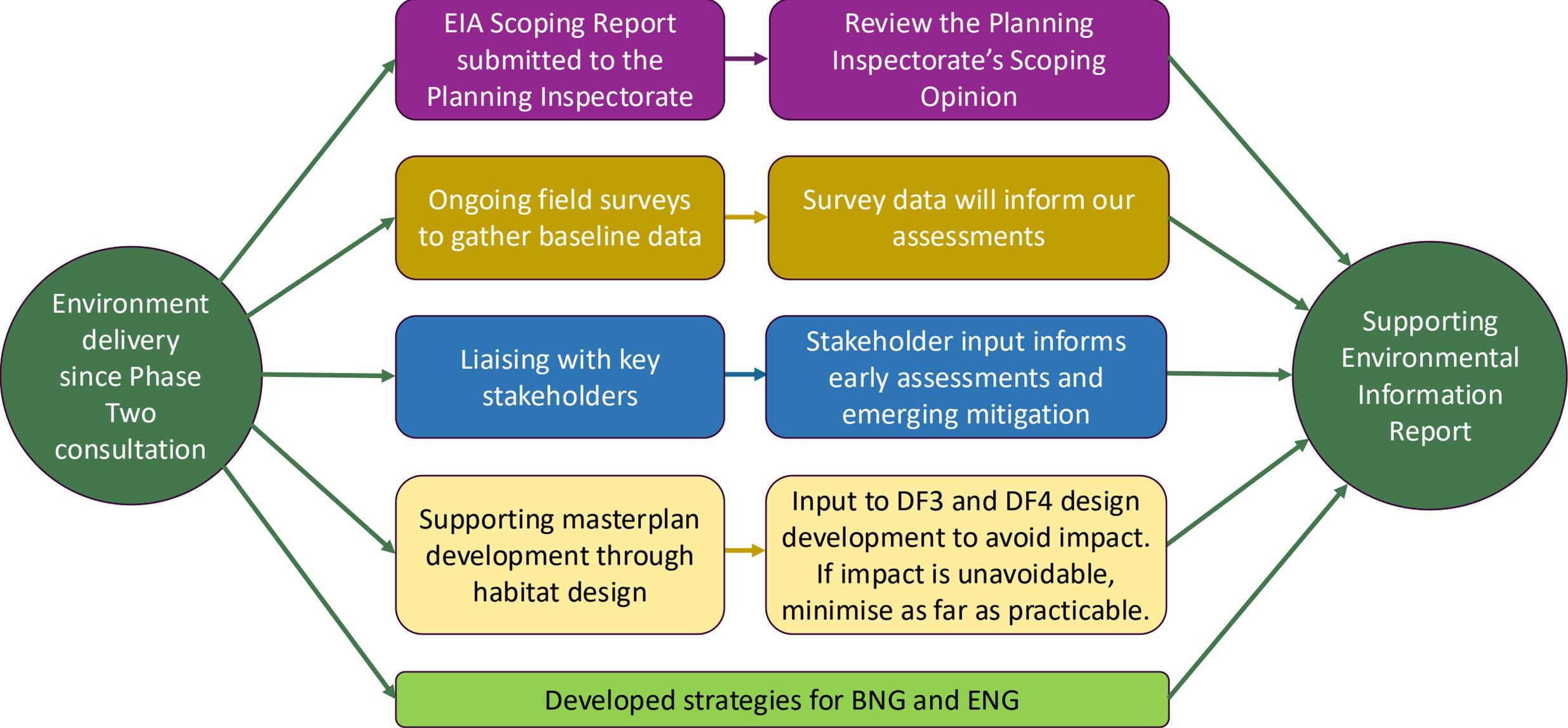
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Environmental Impact Assessment

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Environment delivery since phase two consultation





Public Consultation

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Phase three consultation



Our consultation is open from **15 October until 10 December 2025**. We will be consulting on our phase three design proposals for:

Design of the main reservoir site

Reservoir construction, traffic and transport

The associated water infrastructure

How we would construct the associated water infrastructure

Supporting Environmental Information Report

Engaging with landowners



We have prioritised **engagement with landowners**, talking to those directly affected ahead of sharing information with the public.



We have engaged through **one-on-one meetings with landowners**, as well as our **landowner engagement forum**.



Drop-in events will run prior to community consultation events.

Providing feedback

People will be able to provide feedback in several different ways:

- On Anglian Water's project website using the online form: www.fensreservoir.co.uk
- Sending an email to: info@fensreservoir.co.uk
- Sending written feedback to: **Freepost Fens Reservoir**

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

We will publish a feedback summary report after our consultation.



Community events



COMMUNITY EVENTS		
LOCATION	DATE	TIME
St Wendreda's Church Hall	Monday 3 November	3pm-8pm
Wimblington Parish Hall	Friday 7 November	1pm-6pm
Bar Hill Village Hall	Saturday 8 November	10am-3pm
Queen Street Church	Monday 10 November	3pm-8pm
Bluntisham Village Hall	Tuesday 11 November	11am-4pm
Downham Market Town Hall	Thursday 13 November	3pm-8pm
Doddington Village Hall	Friday 14 November	1pm-6pm
The Bricstan Hall	Saturday 15 November	10am-3pm
Manea Village Hall	Tuesday 18 November	3pm-8pm
Swavesey Memorial Hall	Friday 21 November	1pm-6pm

Any questions?

