

A proposed reservoir in the Fens

All parish briefing

14 September 2026



Welcome and introduction

Damien Thomas

Project team members



- **Gareth** – Head of Fens DCO delivery
- **Peter** – Head of Site Works
- **Alex** – Constructability Lead
- **Matt** – Traffic & Transport
- **Damien** – Local Authority Relationship Lead
- **Yimika** – Fens CWAS Manager
- **Kieron** – Socio-Economic Lead
- **Jody** – Education Lead
- **Georgie** – Sustainability Project Coordinator
- **Imogen** – Consultation and External Communications Team
- **Steffi** – Design & Engineering Lead
- **Alison** – Fens EIA Lead

Agenda

**Welcome and
introduction**



**Update on project status
and programme**

Feedback summary report

**Construction workers
accommodation scheme**

**Education engagement
and Young Ambassador
Forum**

Volunteering

**Final questions and
feedback**

Close

Update on project status and programme

Gareth Thomas

A new destination for Fenland

Creating a place where people, nature and water come together



Our scheme

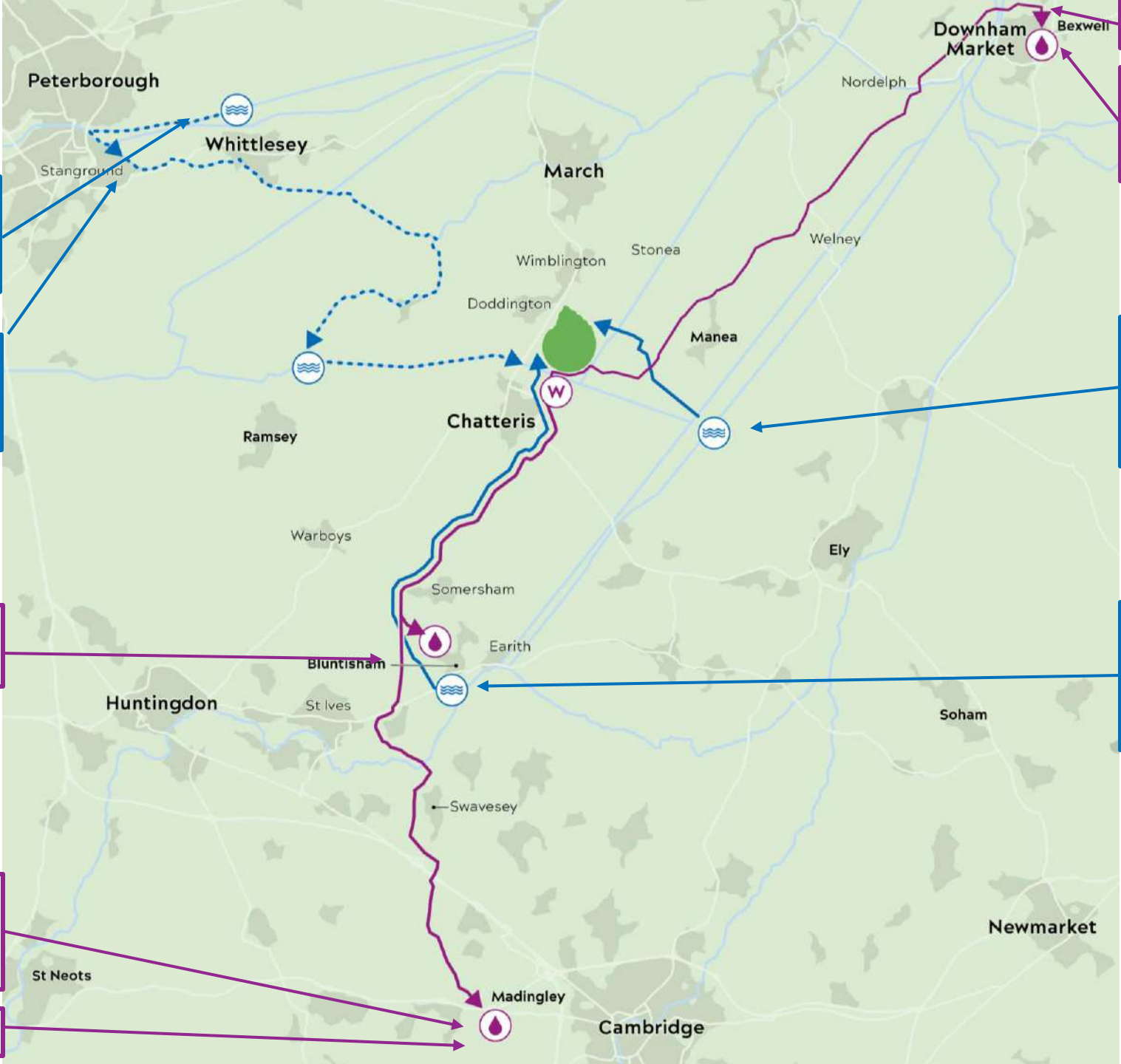
Counter Drain treatment and pumping station into River Nene.

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.

Where we are



The development timeline



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

Lead contractor market engagement



- Our first market engagement event took place on 29 June 2026.
- We were delighted to welcome more than 130 attendees from across the water and infrastructure sectors.
- The event covered our vision, delivery strategy, construction approach and procurement plans.
- This marks the start of our ongoing market engagement. We plan to hold further events in the future which will include local suppliers and those who have contacted us previously.

Community events

We've been out and about at some local events across the Fens:

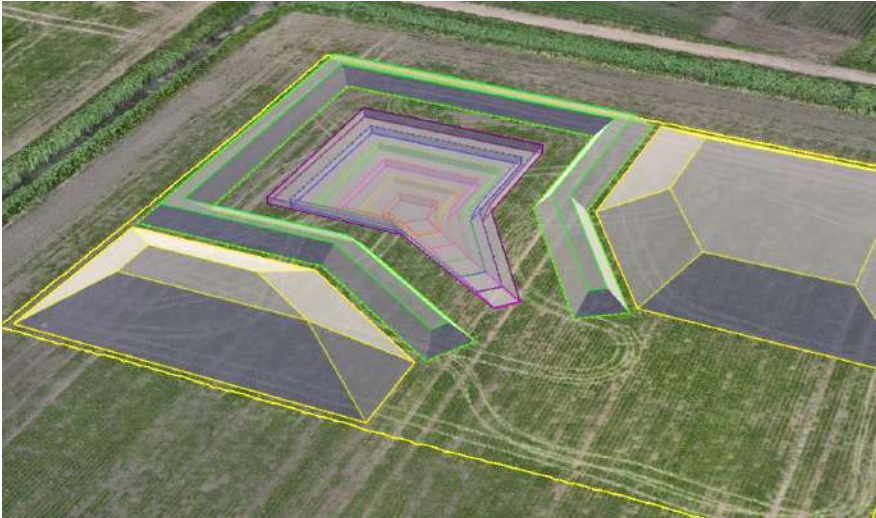
- March Summer Festival – 13 June
- Chatteris Festival – 28 June
- Whittlesey Festival – 13 September



Surveys

Peter Elms, Head of Site Works

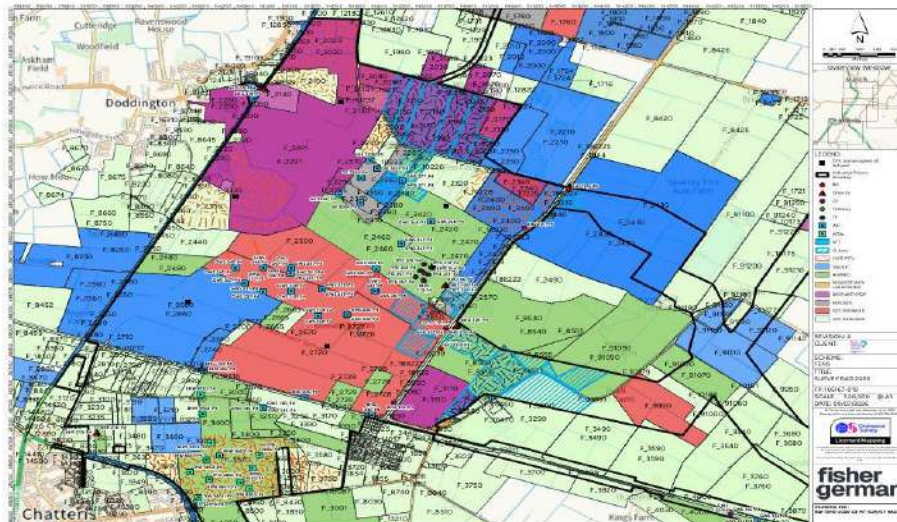
Surveys & Investigations Overview



- Site surveys are vital for gathering important information about the geology, environment and ecology within the proposed development areas.
- The data gathered informs our proposed design and supports the development of key aspects within our DCO submission including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- The surveys help us learn about the ground conditions and ecology of the land, and any important historical archaeology that may need to be considered or preserved.
- Those living locally may see plant or equipment such as excavators and drilling rigs, and there may be some minor daytime noise during the process of excavation or investigation work.
- Once each survey is complete, all excavated areas are reinstated to their previous condition. Some longer term monitoring stations remain in situ under planning consent.

Surveys & Investigations Overview

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Ground investigation	108nrs	141nrs	293nrs	264nrs
Archaeological trial trench	/	233nrs	235nrs	907nrs
Geophysical survey	91.7km ²	43.6km ²	74km ²	225km ²
Geoarchaeological test pits	/	/	/	68nrs
Observation trial pit	/	/	/	6nrs



Surveys & investigations 2026



This year's surveys and investigations commenced in May and will continue through to December 2026.

Across the reservoir, treatment works and transfer locations, the scope will include:

- Boreholes & Geoarch Test Pits
 - 264 ground investigations
 - 225 km² of geophysical surveys
 - Over 900 archaeological trial trenches
 - Observational trial pits
- 



Surveys & investigations outputs



Post-medieval glass bottle stopper

The Observational Trial Pits (OTP) are primarily investigating the ground for periglacial shears, the presence of these shears changes our embankment design philosophy and engineering approach.

We have undertaken circa 12km of ATT's or Trial Trenches to date, no significant findings have been discovered, some examples of recent findings are shown here.



Preserved oak "bog" wood

Ground investigation

A variety of intrusive boreholes/trial pits to study the ground condition to inform the ground modelling and reservoir design.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign:
21/90



Observational trial pit

A 6m deep open excavation aiming to study the presence of periglacial shears to inform the embankment design.

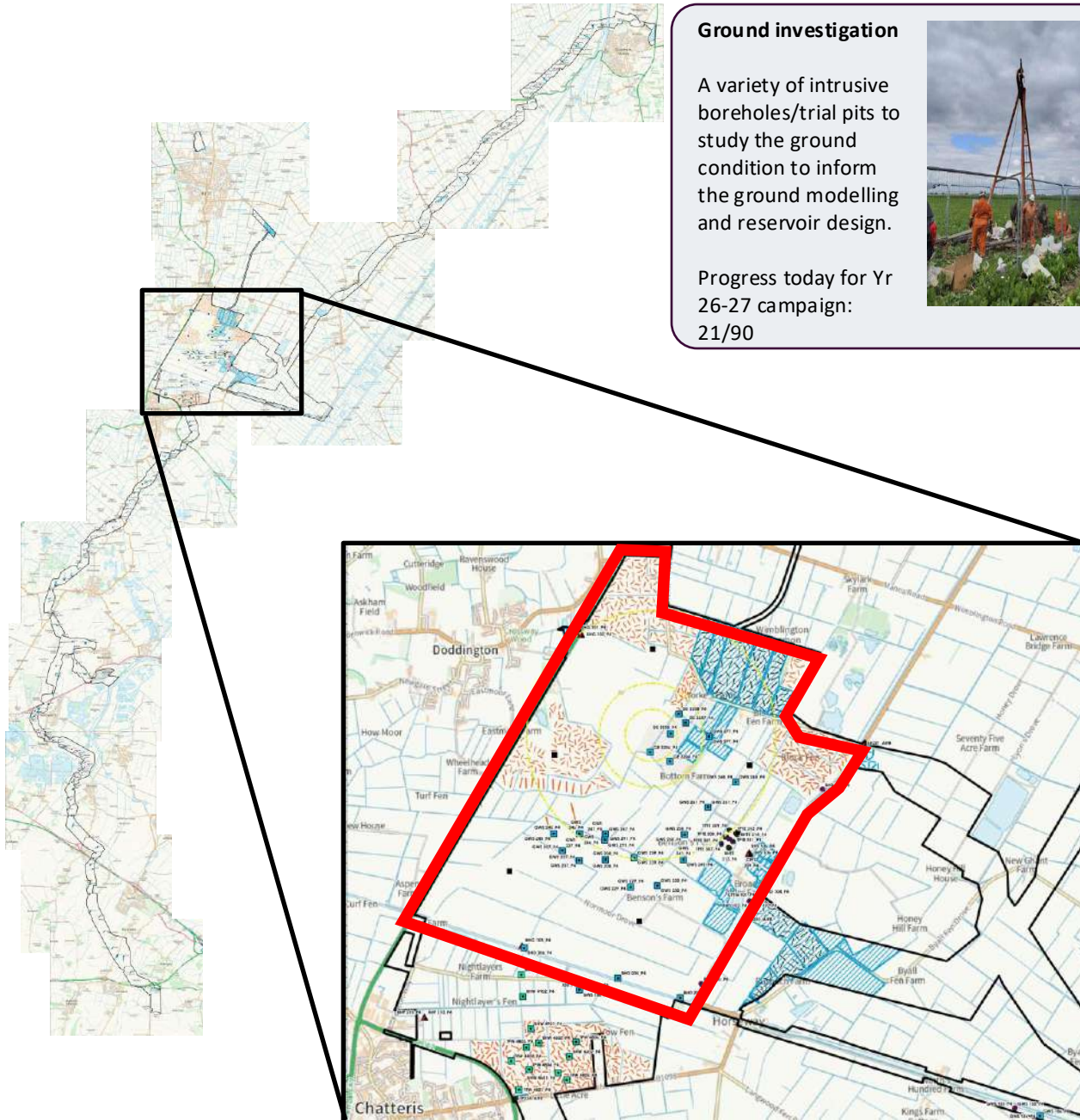
Progress today for Yr 26-27
campaign: 4/6



Archaeological trial trench

A shallow 50-150m long trench aiming to identify archaeology and preserve any history whilst de-risking any consented future construction.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign:
399/1003



Geophysical survey

A non-intrusive survey for identifying archaeological remains that may impact the future works and inform further intrusive investigation.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign:
191/501 (ha)



Nene – currently reviewing investigation requirements by engineering team



March

Chatteris



Madingley Spur



Downham Market

Geoarchaeological test pit

A narrow 4m deep open cut pit for identifying geoarchaeology along transfer route.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign: 1/68



Archaeological trial trench

A shallow 50-150m long trench aiming to identify the archaeology to de-risk the future construction.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign: 2/205



Ground investigation

A variety of intrusive boreholes/trial pits to study the ground condition to inform the ground modelling and reservoir design.

Progress today for Yr 26-27 campaign: 17/114



Construction, traffic and transport

Alex McKenna and Matt Croot

Construction planning and traffic & transport activities

Since our last update, we've been:

- Using survey data to help inform our plans as they develop.
- Looking into where best to source the materials we'll need to bring in for construction.
- Aligning our construction planning with our ecology, heritage and environmental strategies.
- Exploring how rail could support construction.
- Continuing to develop our strategies for non-motorised users and public rights of way.



Feedback summary report

Damien Thomas

Consultation reach

- **22 Sep** – kicked off our stakeholder briefings (20+ conducted)
- **2 Oct** – soft launch of phase three consultation attracted media attention (20 webinars held)
- **15 Oct** – launch of CON3, including press release, and a newsletter sent out to 45,000 homes
- **3 Nov** – a series of 10 consultation events started

- **3 Dec** – we sent our ‘one week to go’ comms and press release
- **10 Dec** – close of consultation



Events held in:

1. March
2. Wimblington
3. Bar Hill
4. Whittlesey
5. Bluntisham
6. Downham Market
7. Doddington
8. Chatteris
9. Manea
10. Swavesey

45,000 homes, 340
landowners

2,000 statutory and
non-statutory
consultees

10 community events
800+ people attended

Feedback statistics

Over
50
key stakeholders
responded



Over
250
people filled in our online
feedback form



Over
800
people attended our **events** and
met the team



Over
50
landowners responded
to our consultation



At a glance summary of feedback

Strong **overall support and enthusiasm** for the project and its design



Emphasis on ensuring the reservoir is **well connected and easily accessible** to surrounding communities

Desire for the reservoir to **become a point of focus** for the community



Many highlighted the importance of **creating space for nature**, with support for the proposed wetlands

Calls for careful consideration of **safe access for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders** from Chatteris across the A142

Mixed views on the **proposed access route from the A141** - some feel it is suitable, others raise concerns and suggest traffic calming measures

General support for rail - **Manea Sidings viewed positively** as it could reduce traffic on the A141. Some express concern about the need for a new haul road

Concerns about **potential construction impacts**, including the effect a large workforce could have on local roads and services

Concerns raised around the closure of the **RSPCA center and Chatteris Aerodrome**



Requests to **maintain public rights of way** between settlements during construction

Strong preference for **using local suppliers and workforce**, with opportunities for apprenticeships and education

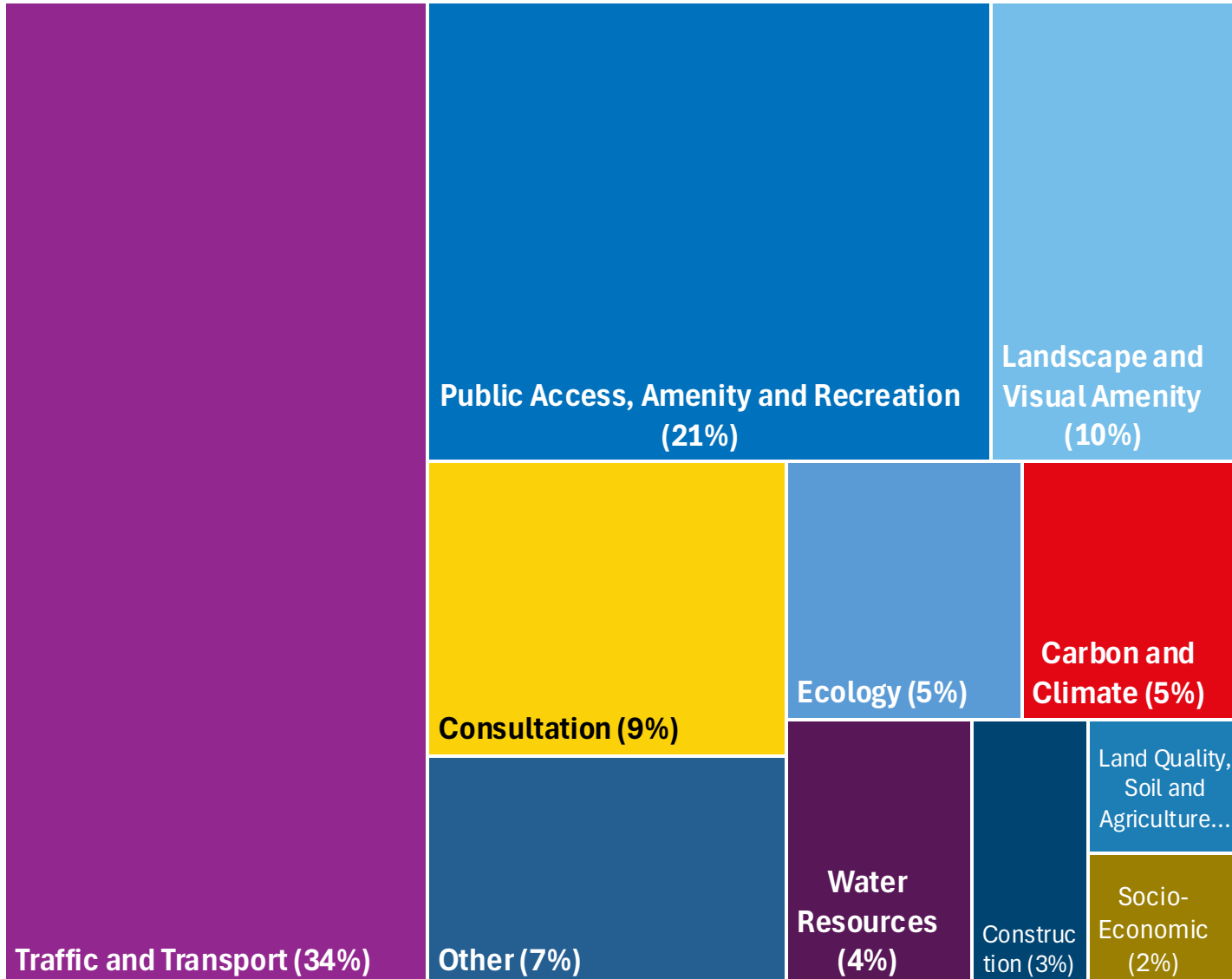
Emphasis on the importance of minimising disruption during construction of the pipelines.



Positive feedback on consultation materials and events

Optimism that abstraction from the proposed water sources could help reduce flooding

Main themes raised by communities



- The biggest topic raised was **traffic and transport**, making up more than a third of all comments.
- Of these comments, 28% related to roads & repairs, 24% to parking and 17% to our rail proposals.
- **Public access, amenity & recreation** was the next highest priority among this group (21%), showing a strong interest in exactly how the reservoir is accessed and the recreational opportunities within.
- Ten percent of comments related to **landscape & visual amenity**, particularly the visual look and impact of the reservoir.

Construction workers accommodation scheme

Yimika Koya and Kieron Hyams

Who are we?



Kieron Hyams

Socio-economic project
director covering CWAS

Yimika Koya

Fens CWAS manager



What is the Construction Workers Accommodation Scheme?

Our process of exploring the potential benefits and impacts of a range of accommodation levers that the project might rely on for better socio-economic outcomes.

Why do we need to think about Worker Accommodation?

If this is all workers
required to build
the reservoir...

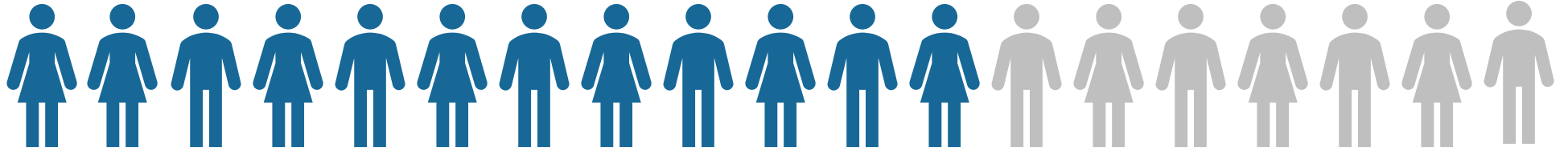


Why do we need to think about Worker Accommodation?

If this is all workers
required to build
the reservoir...



... a significant share
are naturally local
to the area



Why do we need to think about Worker Accommodation?



Why do we need to think about Worker Accommodation?



Why do we need to think about Worker Accommodation?

Our Objectives

01 Operational Deliverability 	02 Impact Mitigation 	03 Worker Health and Wellbeing 	04 Legacy Creation 
Is this supporting our objective of constructing a reservoir?	Have we planned to mitigate any potential impacts of workers arriving?	How is this supporting the health and wellbeing of workers?	Are we considering any long-term legacy benefits to communities?

Our Process

01. Exploring Binary Accommodation Options

02. Developing Realistic Accommodation Scenarios

03. Reviewing scenarios to determine best solution



Multi-disciplinary process

Environment

Land

Planning

Commercial

Master-planning

Transport

Construct-ability

Insights about local housing market

External engagement

Education Programme and Young Ambassador Forum

Jody Hollingsworth, Education lead

Education Programme

Strategy overview

Inspire, educate and engage young people throughout the life of the Reservoirs Programme, from development through to operation - showcasing **sustainability benefits and career opportunities**, contributing to a **long-term legacy** for Anglian Water region.

Education outreach

Working with **priority schools and community groups** close to Lincs and Fens sites.

Delivering engaging sessions linked to the relevant areas of the curriculum and inspire around **related careers**.

Supported by **Education and Skills Ambassadors** across the Programme and **working with local partners/organisations** where possible.

Deliver a **'flag ship' project** i.e. Lego, project simulation – options being explored.

Giving young people a voice

By building long-term relationships with educational settings, we'll **engage the next generation** and give them a voice in the development of the reservoirs.

We'll be setting up **Young Ambassador Forums** for both the Lincs and Fens areas.

Helping to **deliver on our formal consultations**.

Supporting future skills and workforce development

Working in **collaboration** with colleges and universities to develop future skills.

Showcasing different **careers available and skills required**.

Offering meaningful **work experience** placements to support employability and inspire.

Looking to offer further placements and internships and strengthen offering for **early careers** on the Programme.

Education Programme

Activities to date/look ahead – Fens



- **Communication to priority schools** to promote our Education Programme - **In-person engagement** with over 2,000 students since April 2026 and more schools booked in for autumn term.
- Building contacts with **local council Education and Skills colleagues**, to collaborate on work experience/careers events across priority schools.
- Planning for **Fenland District Council/CPCA Skills workshop** on 8 October.
- Set up network of **Education and Skills Ambassadors** (over 30 members) – intro sessions underway and inviting to support live opportunities
- Progressing **‘Flagship’ projects** for Primary and Secondary to showcase major infrastructure projects as well as careers.
- Planning **Teacher Encounter** days with local secondary and primary school subject leads and Programme SMEs – Spring 2027
- **Wisbech Green Skills Academy** - £4.2m investment from AW and partners, CPCA and College of West Anglia – launched in April – demonstrating how investing in skills will create clear pathways to future careers needed in the region.
- Working with wider **Anglian Water Community & Education and Skills teams** to:
 - Collaborate on group and individual **work experience events/placements** – building meaningful workplace experiences, highlighting future growth areas and careers
 - Maximise opportunities to ensure longer-term offering for **Apprenticeships and Graduate Placements** around major infrastructure projects.



Young Ambassador Forum

Building a forum for the Fens project

- Working with local secondary schools and colleges to enlist members – sixth form/college (aged 16/17)
- **First Forum meeting** to be held towards the end of 2026 and then able to be a formal part of the next **consultation process in the spring 2027.**
- Students will **meet termly and rotate each year.**
- **Members will get to hear:**
 - Overview of the Programme with more detail on the Fens project
 - The role of the various Programme teams and current work schedules/priorities
 - Workshop ideas and give feedback on developing plans
 - Sessions on employability skills
 - Mentor opportunities
- Further opportunities to **meet virtually or for site visits.**

Be a voice to influence a major infrastructure project in local area

Get an insight into plans and strategies as they develop

Build subject knowledge

Great addition to CV/Higher education applications

Network with other like-minded students



Community Volunteering

Georgie Hunt, Sustainability Project Coordinator

Our Programme commitment to community volunteering



Community volunteering enables people working on the Fens Reservoir project to support locally led initiatives that create lasting social and environmental benefits for the communities most closely connected to our work.

As a major infrastructure project, we recognise the important role volunteering can play in delivering positive local outcomes alongside project delivery. Through long-term partnerships with charities, community groups and environmental organisations, we aim to make a meaningful contribution to the places where we work throughout the lifecycle of the project.

Our volunteering activities are focused on three key themes aligned to Anglian Water's Societal Strategy:

- Skills for our region and beyond – supporting education, employability and the development of future skills.
- Socio-environmental benefits – delivering projects that enhance the environment while creating positive outcomes for local people.
- Supporting vulnerable communities – working with organisations that help address social, economic and wellbeing challenges.

Volunteering takes place during working hours and is actively encouraged as a team-based activity, helping to create a lasting positive legacy throughout the lifecycle of the Fens Reservoir project.



Our Programme commitment to community volunteering



In partnership with local organisations, we are developing a programme of volunteering opportunities that will enable our people to make a meaningful contribution to communities across the Fens. The programme has been designed with scalability in mind, allowing us to respond to community priorities and increase our support as the project progresses.

Our initial aim is to get around 10% of our people involved in volunteering activities during this first year, creating a strong platform from which to grow participation and maximise the positive social and environmental impact of the project for years to come.

Our first volunteering partnership: Groundworks East

Groundwork East is a community and environmental charity working across the East of England “that takes practical action to create a fair and green future in which **people, places, and nature** thrive”. Their work includes activities such as improving green spaces and supporting young jobseekers through horticultural work experience opportunities.

We are arranging 4 practical volunteering days with Groundwork East in 2026/27, primarily in late summer/autumn period.

The charity is working with local partners to select sites nears the Fens Res site for practical environmental/maintenance volunteering activities



We're looking for opportunities to make a positive impact in the communities around our projects. If you have recommendations for charities and organisations we should be working with, please contact us

VolunteeringReservoirs@anglianwater.co.uk

We are also in conversation with other charities and organisations to identify further opportunities over the coming months across the themes of skills, socio-environmental, and supporting vulnerable communities

Close

Damien Thomas

Thank you!



Further project information:

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

