

All parish briefing Date: 14 October 2026

Project team attendees

Name	Initials	Role
Damien Thomas	DT	Local Authority Relationship Lead
Peter Elms	PE	Head of Site Works
Alex McKenna	AM	Constructability Lead
Matt Croot	MC	Traffic & Transport Lead
Kieron Hyams	KH	Socio-Economic Lead
Yimika Koya	YK	Fens Construction Workers Accommodation Scheme Manager
Jody Hollingsworth	JH	Education Lead
Georgie Hunt	GH	Sustainability Project Coordinator
Gareth Thomas	GT	Fens DCO Delivery Lead
Imogen Asquith	IA	External Communications and Consultation Team

Parish council attendees (organisation)

Organisation
Chatteris Town Council
Bluntisham Parish Council
Dry Drayton Parish Council
Doddington Parish Council
Swavesey Parish Council
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council
March Town Council
Manea Parish Council
Whittlesey Town Council

Time:	6pm-7:30pm
Location:	Microsoft Teams

Summary of key discussion points:

DT introduces the team and mentions that attendees can ask questions through the Q&A function, and we will answer at the end of the meeting. DT confirms that this meeting will not be recorded but we will be sending minutes.

Update on proposals

GT provides an update on our proposals:

- Hottest summer on record and therefore supporting the need for the proposed reservoir in the Fens as a long-term solution for water resilience.
- Mentions we've seen a water supply deficit particularly with the dryness in the East of England.
- Environmental destination – our vision is for water supply, but we're creating a place where people, nature and water come together.

GT explains our water supply and water sources. Our work is still ongoing with water supply points which we'll discuss at a later date.

GT discusses the timeline. Our final phase of consultation is in 2027. But in the meantime, we've been engaging with the market following our phase three consultation. We had a productive and important session for the next stage of the project in engaging with the market and stepping into that procurement phase.

DT discusses our community events this summer. We attended Whittlesey festival on 13 September and at these events we've engaged with the community and had valuable conversations. DT asks councillors if they have any festivals in their area that they think may be appropriate for us to attend, please let us know your suggestions.

Surveys

PE discusses our survey programme. We've been gathering information from our surveys since 2023. And these consist of intrusive and non-intrusive surveys.

- Non-intrusive – gathering info and data across all habitats that would provide our strategies on how to manage our environmental impacts.
- Temporary surveys you will see may be monitoring stations we have in ground water, these locations have been put through planning consent.
- We're gathering more data over the years through ground investigations, archaeological trial trenches (ATTs), geophysical surveys geoarchaeological test pits, and observational trial pits (OTPs).
- We found bronze age artefacts from our archaeological trial trenches at the main reservoir site, as well as a post-medieval glass bottle stopper and preserved oak wood.

PE explains where the survey works are located. There are 90 boreholes on the reservoir site, we have undertaken 21 of these so far. We've progressed four out of six OTPs at the site, and 399/1003 ATT's. We're progressing well and will continue through to December.

PE shows where the surveys are planned along the AWI routes. We're undertaking GTPs, ATTs and GIs. We've covered 191 hectares out of 501 along the route so far.

Construction and traffic and transport

AM discusses our construction planning and traffic and transport activities. We've been taking information that's come in from the surveys to plan the mitigations around planning works for our construction strategy.

MC discusses traffic and transport. We're working together with all teams including masterplanning and environment teams to identify our strategy for traffic and transport. We're looking at March and Stonea sidings from our phase three consultation. Also exploring rail versus road for where and how materials get delivered. We are unsure where materials will come from at this point, but we are exploring those options too. Our team is looking at access from sites along the AWI route. We're also exploring routes for non-motorised users and public rights of way.

Feedback summary report

DT shows our consultation outreach from our phase three consultation. We received really valuable feedback from stakeholders, landowners and members of the public. DT shows a summary of feedback of what we received back in December. DT discusses the main themes that came up including traffic and transport, public access, amenity and recreation. He notes that we're now taking these comments onboard and will help shape our proposals.

Construction Workers Accommodation Scheme

KH and YK discuss our process for exploring the potential benefits and impacts of a range of accommodation levers that the project might rely on for better socio-economic outcomes. Once this reservoir is put in place we need to make sure there are sufficient opportunities for potential workers. We're looking at supply and demand factors, including looking at the housing market. We're exploring binary accommodation options, developing realistic accommodation scenarios and reviewing scenarios to determine best solution. We're making sure transportation is developed for this too.

Education programme

JH discusses our education programme and outreach. We are engaging with young stakeholders. The life of this project is so long that the students we are speaking to now will perhaps be using the reservoir the most.

We're inspiring, educating and engaging young people throughout the life of the programme, from development to operation, showcasing sustainability benefits and career opportunities, contributing to a long-term legacy for the Anglian Water region. We're delivering assemblies and workshops. Next year we will have more resources to take into schools.

JH reviews activities to date and forthcoming work, including an FDC and CPCA skills workshop held on 8 October. We're progressing 'Flagship' projects for primary and secondary schools to showcase major infrastructure projects as well as careers. Planning teacher encounter days with local secondary and primary school subject leads and Programme SMEs for spring 2027. Wisbech Green Skills Academy - £4.2 million 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.

Our Young Ambassador Forum – working with local schools and colleges to enlist members (sixth form / college aged 16-17). We will have our first meeting for end of this year and this will be a crucial part of

our next phase of consultation. This will offer students employability skills as well as an insight into the project and opportunity to provide feedback and ideas.

Our programme commitment to community volunteering

GH asks for everyone's ideas on volunteering initiatives in the local area. We're enabling our staff to get stuck in with local community charities and community groups.

GH provides an example of Sizewell C's volunteering programme. We've learnt a lesson from other big projects to create long-lasting partnerships and we aim to make a meaningful contribution to the places where we work throughout the lifecycle of the project. We recently supported a local allotment in the area which suffered during the hot weather this summer.

We're in touch with charities such as Groundwork East. If you have recommendations for charities or organisations, please don't hesitate to contact us at: VolunteeringReservoirs@anglianwater.co.uk.

This marked the close of presentation as we then took questions.

Questions

1. There is a view that once a large new water resource is available, the need to conserve and harvest rainwater will disappear. What is your view?

GT: Looking after the water we've got is still a priority. Anything that looks after the water we still prioritise. We're doing everything we can to prepare for the future.

2. If a reservoir is built, we don't want people to think that water resource is all fine. Is there an education piece here?

JH: We're building for better for years to come, and we will look at this through our education programme.

3. The map shows Overflow pipe to watercourse at Madingley, what is the risk of flooding?

GT: The overflow is there for if the control system wouldn't work for some reason. As a safety measure.

4. Will you be liaising with the C2C busway construction team which was given approval last week?

MC: We will need to consider the cumulative impacts from different schemes within both the Transport Assessment and Environmental Statement that we will need to prepare to support the DCO submission, therefore there will be a need to liaise with the C2C team to consider the likely impact on roads that may be used by construction traffic from both the C2C and Fens Reservoir schemes.

5. Are you working with the NCTC in Chatteris? Joanna Melton, Chatteris Town Council

JH: We haven't made contact with them yet but we are confident this will be flagged as part of our skills strategy as we're identifying all skills/training providers in the region and making contact with them. We may also already be working with them from a wider Anglian Water point of view through our skills/early careers team as we work with training partners like this for our apprenticeship scheme and also to offer collaborative skills programme. I will pick up with these teams to see what work has

already taken place and/or how we can work with NCTC. We want to focus on all young people in surrounding areas as well as Chatteris. We have also visited a number of schools in Chatteris informing them about the reservoir in the Fens.

6. Have you consulted estate agents?

KH: We've used data from estate agents and property advisors in the area. We have not yet approached estate agents, but our land teams may have already. Our property agents are Savills.

You're integrating with the local community for rental accommodation – this needs to be done quite soon.

To confirm, we intend to do this in the future, and the advice and knowledge we need related to the rental market is less about the current position and more about forecasting a future position.

7. With medical facilities – we're struggling to get appointments at our local GPs and NHS. At Doddington we have the minor injuries unit, which has always been under threat.

KH: Through the EIA process there will be a human health chapter and this will also be considered in the socio-economic chapter. There will be Technical Working Groups established through that process which will involve NHS. The constructability team will be considering emergency care requirements.

Summary of Actions:

	Action:	Who:	Deadline:
1.	AW to send meeting minutes	AW	28 Sep
2.	Councillors to suggest suitable local festivals / community events for project team to attend	All	Ongoing
3.	Councillors to recommend local charities or community organisations that could benefit from project volunteering support	All	Ongoing