



Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project



Site Announcement Webinar
FAQ Summary
27 January and 04 February 2021

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project – Site Announcement Webinars FAQ Summary (27 January and 04 February 2021)

On 27 January and 04 February we held two webinars with local elected representatives and members of the public to discuss our proposals and respond to questions on the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation project following our Site Announcement and conclusion of our Stage 4 – Final Site Selection process.

This document summarises the questions we received during the webinars, including those submitted via email, and the answers provided by the project team. It also addresses questions which we were unable to respond to during the live sessions, due to the level of interest and the number of questions we received.

The questions and answers have been summarised within the following sections based on the most common themes and issues arising during the webinars:

- Traffic and transport;
- Visual impact;
- Green Belt, biodiversity, and carbon;
- Odour;
- Project development and consultation process;
- Economic, funding and cost; and
- Water resources, flooding and contamination.

Traffic and transport

Q: How many tanker movements will there be to and from the site?

A: The number of tankers visiting the site per day will be the same as those for the current location, on Cowley Road, at around 70 per day or 140 movements in and out.

Q: What route will the tankers take and when will they be entering and leaving the site?

Consistent with the existing plant, the site is open for sludge imports 24 hours a day, although the majority of them occur during daylight hours as there are far fewer drivers on duty overnight.

We are continuing to discuss access options and arrangements with Highways England and Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant highway authorities. Options being considered include potential access routes to the new WWTP from either side of site area 3 via Horningsea Road or High Ditch Road. Mitigation measures would be put in place to minimise any potential impacts on public access during construction and operation of the scheme including restrictions to prevent access or egress through Fen Ditton.

Our proposals continue to be refined and we look forward to sharing more information through our upcoming rounds of consultation the next commencing Summer 2021.

Q: What route will construction traffic take?

A: We are consulting with the relevant highway authorities on access for construction traffic.

Currently we envisage that construction traffic would access the site via junction 34 of the A14 off Horningsea Road.

As part of our proposals, we will be undertaking a detailed traffic and transport assessment and consulting with the local highways authorities and Highways England to identify and agree any necessary measures to minimise traffic disruption on the road network and local communities. We will then prepare a detailed Traffic Management Plan to manage traffic flows and construction traffic for the site, and associated tunnel and pipeline corridor construction. We will also consult the public and other stakeholders on our Traffic Management Plan before submitting it to the Planning Inspectorate to be examined as part of our final Development Consent Order (DCO) application for our proposals.

Q: How long before there will be a pipeline from WRC (New Town East) to support RLW (Royal London Waterbeach) site, and where will sewage tankers go before pipeline in place?

A: Our proposal is for the new Waterbeach development to connect to our existing plant at Cowley Road initially and will then join other flows when diverted to the new plant. This connecting pipeline to Milton is expected to be in place by end of 2023/early 2024. We don't anticipate any additional tanker movements. This date aligns with the anticipated need date and timelines to support the RLW development of the Waterbeach site.

Q: Has the increase to construction traffic for Marleigh been considered?

A: Yes, this has been taken into account, and we have considered access routes and potential cumulative impacts. The site selected has more than one possible access option, such as Junction 34, (Horningsea) and Junction 35 (Quy), and also possible slip off A14, and all options will be assessed. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will calculate exact number of vehicles and map it over construction traffic for Marleigh development, which will be part of the design process moving forward.

Q: What aspects of the Transport Plan are you envisaging to minimise damage to High Ditch Road and the villages of Horningsea and Fen Ditton?

A: As part of our proposals, we will be undertaking a detailed traffic and transport assessment and consulting with the local highways authorities and Highways England to identify and agree any necessary measures to minimise traffic disruption on the road network and local communities.

We will then prepare a detailed Traffic Management Plan to manage traffic flows and construction traffic for the site, and associated tunnel and pipeline corridor construction. There are opportunities for distribution of traffic, that is something we work with Marleigh, and Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) for the eastern gateway and greenway improvements. We are mindful of these other proposals and will be reflected in transport plan.

We will also consult the public and other stakeholders on our Traffic Management Plan before submitting it to the Planning Inspectorate to be examined as part of our final Development Consent Order (DCO) application for our proposals.

Q: What assurances can you give to keep road traffic disruption and safety impacts to a minimum?

A: Safety is of paramount importance to Anglian Water. Safety measures will be a key consideration in the final Construction Traffic Management Plan and final Traffic Assessment and Management Plan. We will be consulting with communities and other stakeholders on these plans and will be carrying out traffic surveys in areas around the proposed plant to make informed decisions on the outcome.

Q: How will you use High Ditch Road as an access when this currently has a weight limit?

A: There are weight restrictions at J35 of 18tonne and 7.5tonne except for access. Modifications would therefore need to be made that may include widening. The amount of works required needs to be investigated, and we will be carrying out physical surveys. Further information on this will be included in our phase two consultation.

Q: How will any restrictions on traffic for the project be enforced?

A: Any restrictions or traffic management obligations will be detailed within the DCO application itself and enforced by this mechanism. Although DCO applications are not determined by the local authority, the local authority will be the responsible planning authority for enforcement post-consent.

Visual impact

Q: What will the plant actually look like and when will we be able to see visualisations?

A: The project's architectural and engineering team will develop the design of the WWTP in partnership with our stakeholders and the local community. We are committed to high quality design and have engaged with the Design Council to help develop our design principles. A local architectural firm has been appointed to help us deliver an exciting landscape vision for the site.

At phase two consultation, planned for Summer 2021, we will consult on an outline design together with visualisations and photomontages to share our evolving design with you. The final design, which we will share in 2022, will draw on consultation responses and will include more design details such as architectural finishes and planting.

Our commitment to environmental enhancement at the site will mean that the project will also be sensitively located within improved surroundings, providing new habitats for nature and a sense of place for visitors and local residents.

Q: Will I be able to see it?

A: Views of the plant will be dependent on its final location within the chosen site area and the location of the viewer. In many cases existing hedgerows and vegetation as well as mitigation planting will limit views of the WWTP. We are currently exploring design options, including associated landscaping, for the new plant. More detailed information on how the plant could look will be made available and consulted on during our phase two consultation this summer.

As with our current site, the tallest elements of the new plant will be the anaerobic digesters, of which there will be two or three. The exact number and dimensions of these are yet to be

determined although they will be no taller than 26m in height for a two-digester option and indeed it is likely that they will be shorter than this. We are also exploring a number of different digester arrangement options to reduce their visual impact, such as increasing from a two-digester option to three shorter digesters.

As part of our first stage of consultation we published zones of theoretical visibility for digesters of this height, which show where those largest process units could be seen from. We will of course be trying to minimise these heights where possible as we move further into the detailed design.

Q: How will you prevent light pollution?

A: Lights will only be used during nighttime for safety reasons and, where practicable, will not face our neighbours or be activated unless needed. A lighting assessment will form part of our landscape and visual impact assessment.

Q: How have you considered the Government's 2011 policy statement on 'Criteria for good design for waste water infrastructure' which requires that 'development should ideally contribute to the quality of an area'?

A: We are taking into account relevant Government policy statements for the proposals and are already working closely with the Design Council to assure we are delivering this 'good design' specifically as part of the project.

Q: Could the design of the proposed works be adapted to blend into the landscape. For example, by sinking below ground level and using grass roofing such at the Brighton and Hove treatment works or planting trees and bushes in the fields between the works and nearby villages?

A: Our proposals will include landscaping and architecture designed to help the proposed plant blend into its landscape. The local area geology, hydrology and topography are quite different to those found at Peacehaven WWTW. We are however working with local architects to respond to the landscape and surrounding areas as much as is feasible.

Green Belt, biodiversity, and carbon

Q: Why are you proposing to relocate to a site within Green Belt?

A: We have applied a rigorous 4-stage site selection process and we looked very closely at alternative sites outside of the Green Belt and there were none that are suitable. Anglian Water recognises the sensitivity of all three sites we consulted on being in the Green Belt. The Green Belt has been considered as an important planning constraint. Proposals for development within the Green Belt must be considered in the context of national as well as local planning policy, where development may only be permitted if the right circumstances exist.

The creation of a sustainable, low carbon community in North East Cambridge relies on Anglian Water's Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant being relocated elsewhere. The chosen site was found, on balance, to perform best across a range of key assessment criteria, and opportunities for delivering enhancements including improving access to the countryside. These circumstances will be considered by the independent Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Q: Why can't the site be relocated further afield, such as to the north of Waterbeach?

A: We have undertaken a detailed site selection study to identify a suitable location for the relocated Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant. The aim was to identify locations that are technically and operationally feasible, minimise environmental and community impacts, and comply with national and local, legal, regulatory, and planning frameworks for waste water treatment plants. The study involved a 'sieving' approach and comprised stages to exclude areas of land where the plant could not be relocated (taking account of, for example, flood zones and proximity to protected and statutory designated sites).

The length of tunnel for each site and transport routes from the main strategic road network were key factors. This would mean a greater carbon impact from tunnelling and pumping waste water further away, and greater impacts on local communities from the construction of the new plant and the transportation of waste water to a site. The road transport routes from the main strategic road network to a number of possible site areas further north also pass through the centre of at least one village or passed community facilities such as schools and nurseries.

All of the other site options therefore performed less well against these factors. All of the site selection information is available in full on our website (www.cwwtpr.com) if you would like to find out more.

Q: What is being done to deliver a design that goes above and beyond what is the minimum requirement for environmental impact?

A: Anglian Water's ambition for this considerable engineering endeavour goes beyond just building a new plant. It isn't about simply moving an old facility to a new location.

As well as being found, on balance, to perform best across a range of key assessment criteria, Site 3 also presents greater opportunities to protect and enhance the surrounding environment, deliver improved habitats for wildlife, and create increased access and connectivity so that people can enjoy the Greater Cambridge countryside, delivering on many of the things residents have told us are important to them.

These opportunities will also be consulted on with the community and stakeholders as part of our ongoing design process. Before our phase two consultation on more detailed proposals for the new facility opens later this year, we are forming a series of technical and community working groups to begin to explore these ideas in more detail.

Q: How many years before the plant reaches carbon neutrality, and does this include the carbon emissions during construction and the decommissioning of the old plant?

A: We are committed to reaching net zero carbon by 2030 and to making our region resilient to the risks of drought and flood. The management of climate change is embedded into everything we do, and we are leading the water industry's Public Interest Commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The new Greater Cambridge facility will be an operationally net zero facility and modelling is ongoing to determine the break-even point which will take account of the construction elements too. We have completed site selection in light of these considerations, and Site 3 has the lowest overall lifetime carbon emissions, but we have not yet completed the detailed project design for construction and operation of the plant.

Q: Isn't choosing Site 3 for the project incompatible with the National Trust's Wicken Fen Vision?

A: We understand National Trust is interested in developing a strategic greenspace which would include unlocking the Wicken Fen Vision, and we are engaged in dialogue with them on this. We consider the visions to be compatible, as Site 3 will also increase accessibility to biodiverse rich areas for people in Cambridgeshire, as the Wicken Fen Vision wishes to do.

Q: How will environmental enhancements such as rewilding, wetlands and new habitats be delivered?

A: The final Development Consent Order Application (DCO) we submit to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will include proposals for enhancement of the surrounding environment.

We are also talking to statutory and non-statutory bodies for potential partnership opportunities, possibly including Wicken Fen Vision. All mitigations and enhancements will be included in our final proposals, and we want to be in dialogue with the community and stakeholders to help us develop these proposals.

Q: When will more detailed information on environmental surveys and mitigation measures be made available and who will be undertaking these?

A: The environmental impact assessment and survey work is being coordinated by technical experts. This is also being supplemented by information from and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including Natural England, Historic England, the Environment Agency, local planning authority officers, and organisations including the National Trust, RSPB and the Wildlife Trust as well as local bodies and groups.

More detailed information on potential impacts on local amenities, the local environment, landscape, and views, and what measures we could take to reduce those impacts and deliver further environmental enhancements, will be made available as part of our phase two consultation this summer. More comprehensive mitigation measures and updated environmental information will be included in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which will be consulted on at our phase three consultation in 2022. The full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the site will then be submitted as part of our DCO application to PINS.

Q: Who will examine the environmental impacts and determine the planning application?

A: The project is one for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required, and Anglian Water will therefore undertake an EIA for the project. EIA is a process where the likely environmental effects of the proposed development are studied, surveys are carried out and mitigation measures (things which reduce or remove environmental impacts) are identified. The methodology and scope of the EIA and how it will be carried out will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies (for example, the Environment Agency) and the local planning authorities.

Our Environmental Statement (ES) will detail the findings of the completed EIA process, setting out our final assessment of the likely effects of the project and the mitigation we will propose. The ES will form part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for submission and is an

important document for the public examination process carried out by the independent Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Following the public examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who will ultimately determine the application.

Q: Will green energy generated at the plant be able to be supplied directly to the local community?

A: The sustainable design of the new facility as well as its use of renewable energy generation will reduce the plant's carbon footprint, and biogas production could heat homes or power vehicles. We are also currently developing the design for the best way we can utilise the heat that will be produced at the new plant. At the current plant that heat helps us produce green energy to power the works.

Odour

Q: Won't the new plant still smell?

A: Our experience of operating waste water treatment plants and the nature of the job they are designed to do means that whilst it is difficult to eliminate odour, we understand the importance of minimising odour as far as possible for local communities.

The relocation project gives us the opportunity to design and build a state-of-the-art waste water treatment plant, using the latest technologies, which means that odour will be easier to minimise at source when compared to older plants. With this new plant we will be able to minimise odour by incorporating solutions to address it at source and using best operational practices.

Preliminary modelling took place as part of the site selection and we are confident that no residential property will experience odour above the "negligible" threshold of 1.5 odour units as set out in the Institute of Air Quality Management's guidance. We also considered how odour might affect local amenities such as walking and cycle routes, following feedback from the community.

As well as minimising odour at source in the design of the new facility, the risk of any odour impact is also lower at Site 3 compared to the other two sites we consulted on, owing to distance from sensitive receptors and prevailing wind direction.

Q: Are the tanks/digester towers covered at the current Milton plant and will these be covered at the new site?

A: All units that are currently covered, where these are still needed in the new works, will remain covered. The digester towers are currently covered as this is how we contain the biogas for use in renewable energy generation and will be enclosed.

Additional measures are now being explored which will further reduce the likelihood of odour impacts and covering is not always the most effective in achieving lower odour. Other design elements being explored include:

- selecting processes and process technologies with a lower "odour potential",
- flow handling techniques to prevent odour dispersion,

- the processes most likely to generate offensive odours being contained or enclosed being in the centre of the site.

The upgrades we made in aeration system at the existing Cambridge plant in 2014 had a significant impact on reducing odour generation. This resulted in reduced turbulence at the surface which reduces odour dispersion. This shows that through good engineering design we can reduce turbulence through the new treatment plant and therefore reduce odours.

Q: One of the reasons for choosing Site 3 was that the risk of odour impact is lower. What will you still be doing to mitigate odour for the communities near Site 3?

A: We are committed to being a good neighbour and will be using industry approved methodologies of modelling to make sure we align with our project outcomes of achieving a negligible impact on sensitive receptors (which includes residential properties).

In designing the new plant, we will be prioritising the prevention of odour occurring in the first place. This will be through targeting controls in areas we know odour may occur and designing the treatment processes to reduce odours being released (see above reply for further details).

Project development and consultation process

Q: Why can't the existing plant stay where it is? / Why can't the existing plant be upgraded and made smaller and the rest of the site still be redeveloped for new homes?

A: The relocation project provides an opportunity to deliver a state-of-the-art, net zero carbon waste water treatment plant that will continue to provide vital services for the community and the environment, recycling water and nutrients, producing green energy, and helping to enable Greater Cambridge to grow sustainably.

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council recently consulted on a draft Area Action Plan for a new low-carbon city district in North East Cambridge, which could create 8,000 homes and 20,000 jobs over the next 20 years. Achieving this vision relies on the relocation of Anglian Water's Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, and we are working in partnership with them to unlock the development potential of the area, which has great walking, cycling and public transport links, including the new Cambridge North Station, making it a highly sustainable location for new homes.

The project is being funded by the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). The HIF funding has been awarded to support sustainable growth and accelerate housing delivery in Cambridge through the Area Action Plan, in recognition of the regional and national significance of the redevelopment opportunity.

Relocating the plant will unlock both the existing site and the surrounding area to be redeveloped to provide thousands of much needed new homes, including affordable housing, jobs, and green transport connectivity. If the plant remained where it is, even if it could be rebuilt to be smaller, it would limit the amount of housing that could be developed to a few hundred new homes, if any, rather than thousands. It's unlikely the Government would still make funding available for a new, consolidated plant on the existing site, as the business case would not be viable.

Q: How was the community consulted on the need for the relocation project?

A: The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is proposing to deliver 8,000 new homes and 20,000 jobs for Cambridge through the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (AAP). The option of delivering homes and jobs through the AAP was identified in the adopted Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans. A number of alternatives were considered and consulted on with the local community as the Local Plans were developed by the councils between 2011 and 2014.

The relocation project unlocks the last large brownfield site within the North East Cambridge Area to make way for up to 5,600 of those homes. The different issues and options stages for developing the AAP itself were consulted on between 2014 and 2019, as part of an open invitation to all residents and stakeholders of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Feedback from these consultations was used to help develop the draft plan, which the local councils recently consulted on between 27 July and 5 October 2020.

Q: What about the impact on local residents?

A: We understand that local residents will be concerned about the project and may be feeling unsettled by what our proposals may mean for them. At this stage we wish to reassure the local community that, having now selected our preferred site, it is our intention to develop the detailed proposals for the project through consultation, working with local communities and stakeholder groups. Because of this iterative and consultation-driven approach, at this stage many of the details which residents will wish to know are not yet available. However, many of the initial concerns around odour, traffic and design have been considered as part of the site selection process or through preliminary stakeholder engagement. Further detail on all of these areas will be available during our next phase of consultation starting Summer 2021.

Q: How are you going to work with members of the community who opposed choosing site 3?

A: We recognise that many people feel very passionately about the issues raised during the phase one consultation and we entirely understand the strength of feeling. We have very carefully considered all responses alongside our other assessments and it was a challenging decision to make in concluding our site selection process which identified Site 3 as the most appropriate site overall.

Before we undertake any further consultation with the wider community on the detail of the proposals at Site 3, we will be forming a series of working groups to invite local community representatives to help us explore the issues raised during the phase one consultation in more detail. We are also committed to continuing the dialogue through attendance at Parish Council and other local meetings.

One of the reasons we chose the site was because it presents great opportunities to protect and enhance the surrounding environment, deliver improved habitats for wildlife, and create increased access and connectivity so that people can better enjoy the countryside. We hope that residents will get involved and share their thoughts through the consultation process to help us make sure that the project delivers the enhancements which they would most want to see.

Q: What will be the impact on local farming?

A: As with all potential impacts caused by the relocation project, we are seeking to assess and mitigate impacts to local farming as part of our design development process. During this process we

are keen to engage with the local community and landowners to understand their concerns and feedback and work together to find the best possible solution for everyone.

The land necessary for the project will need to be acquired, we hope by agreement with the landowners, but DCO does also give opportunity for compulsory purchase powers. We are in dialogue with all potentially affected landowners, and now these in-depth conversations will be progressed for Site 3 by our dedicated Land Team.

Q: What are the key dates over the next 10 years for the project?

A: Scheme preparation, including technical studies, environmental surveys and two further phases of pre-application consultation will continue until 2022, when we will submit our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). PINS will appoint an independent Examining Authority to carry out a public examination and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. We anticipate the Secretary of State's decision by 2024. If approved, construction and decommissioning works will then commence, and we expect these will take four years to complete before the new plant will be operational in 2028.

Q: Have you submitted a Section 35 request to DEFRA and what was their advice?

A: We did contact DEFRA and the Secretary of State has confirmed the project's NSIP status.

Q: When will you submit a request to PINS for a Scoping Opinion?

A: We had anticipated that we would be submitting our EIA Scoping Report to PINS in Spring 2021, as shown in the timeline as part of our Site Announcement in January, alongside beginning environmental and ecological surveys and ground investigation activities. While those surveys are progressing, we have decided to delay the scoping exercise until Autumn 2021, when it can be better informed by the survey findings and phase two consultation and, consequently, a more developed design. This will allow for a more focused and comprehensive scoping exercise.

Q: How have you considered and responded to the concerns raised by the local community during the phase one consultation?

A: We published our Phase One Consultation Summary Report (www.cwwtpr.com) and posted this to all addresses within the phase one consultation area, which provided a breakdown of the feedback we received and how we would be responding to this.

A full breakdown will also be documented, alongside feedback from our further planned consultation on the proposals, in the final Consultation Report submitted as part of our DCO application. Everything we do throughout the consultation will be fully captured and considered.

This webinar provides a further opportunity to connect with the community outside of our formal phases of consultation, and our communications lines also remain open and available.

Q: Has the use of public funds on this infrastructure project been re-evaluated in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: That would be for the Government to consider. We are however in regular contact with them, and it is precisely these types of projects that they are keen to proceed in order to contribute to the economic recovery in light of the pandemic, providing thousands of new jobs over the next 20 years.

Q: Who and how will you be consulting during phase two this Summer?

A: Anglian Water is committed to delivering an open, meaningful and inclusive consultation for the project and we want people to have their say and help shape the proposals. We are also continuing to work with the local authorities to help inform and guide our pre-application consultation. Our consultation activities will continue to include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community. This includes seeking to provide access to hard copies of the full suite of latest consultation materials via both public information points as well as face-to-face consultation events, dependent on the latest national or regional COVID-19 restrictions which may apply.

As part of our iterative and phased approach to consultation we will be revising the area of our core consultation zone following our non-statutory phase one consultation, relative to the selected site.

We will continue to ensure that anyone who may have an interest in our proposals is properly consulted in a way that is proportionate and reasonable.

Economic, funding and cost

Q: Why is the project still going ahead with public funding when the majority of people don't support it?

A: We are working with a range of partners in national and local government to support the wider need for, and benefits of, the relocation project. These include unlocking the regeneration of North East Cambridge as well as providing a state-of-the-art, net zero carbon facility providing a vital service for a growing population. It is not unusual at this early stage of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for people to oppose or feel unsure about what is proposed, and our project partners are all aware of the way people are feeling.

The consultation approach we have developed is to consult early, meaningfully and iteratively so that people can have their say and help shape our proposals as they develop. In listening and taking on board feedback, we would hope and expect that more and more people will feel positive and support the proposals, especially when they see that Anglian Water's level of commitment goes far beyond simply moving an old facility to a new location.

The community can continue to have their say over the coming weeks and months through the working groups we will be arranging and in the formal phase two consultation in the summer. We hope that as we continue to consult, people will continue to give us their feedback and shape our proposals.

Q: What will the impact of the project on local house prices?

A: In our site selection process we applied buffers to ensure we are a distance away from residential properties. Site 3 is furthest away from any densely populated areas and there are very few residential properties within 1km from the site area.

We don't believe that the project will have a long-term effect on house prices. The project will undergo rigorous environmental impact assessment and independent review from examiners under the DCO process. In addition, our commitment to high quality design and wider environmental enhancement, together with the predicted negligible odour effects, mean that house prices are unlikely to be adversely affected.

Q: Will the biodiversity that will be lost be addressed by enhancements that will be covered by the HIF funding?

A: We appreciate how important the site is to local people. It is noticeable that it is largely arable land with some biodiversity areas. The site presents great opportunities to create rich biodiverse habitats – and we can achieve a net biodiversity gain.

We are also keen to engage with councils to support their aspirations. Anglian Water has a 10% biodiversity net-gain commitment and we are very keen to engage with the local community on this.

In order for us to receive development consent, we will need to put forward environmental enhancements and demonstrate that the scheme is fully funded and deliverable for the funding provided.

Q: How has cost influenced the choice of site and what is the nature of the HIF funding to cover this i.e. loan or grant?

A: The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) is a government capital grant programme of up to £5.5 billion. Nearly £4 billion has been allocated which will help to unlock up to 320,000 new homes. Funding is awarded to local authorities on a highly competitive basis, providing grant funding for new infrastructure that will unlock new homes in the areas of greatest housing demand.

Homes England have made a commitment of £227m, for the purposes of unlocking the regeneration of North East Cambridge through the AAP, and this is a grant and not a loan. The site selection decision was taken following a rigorous multi-stage process and extensive community and stakeholder consultation. The final assessment was made across a range of assessments including environmental, community, planning, operational, economic and programme.

The site area selected was the best performing across that range of criteria including being better performing for the community – less risk or any odour impacts being farthest away from densely populated areas, had the lowest carbon emissions, the lowest risk of negative impacts on underlying aquifers and also presents the greatest opportunities to deliver environmental enhancements and community aspirations.

Q: Will local residents receive compensation for any environmental impacts or disruption?

A: Anglian Water recognises the potential impacts the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation project may have on local communities. Considering these impacts, how to mitigate them, and contributing to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities within which

we operate is right at the heart of our decision making. This has informed our site selection, and the chosen site presents the greatest opportunities to protect and enhance the local environment and deliver on many of the things residents told us are important to them.

As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, we will be engaging with all relevant authorities throughout the development of our proposals. We will also demonstrate how we have fully assessed potential impacts of our scheme and considered all feedback received through consultation. Detailed assessments will form part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the site area identified to take forward in the DCO application. During construction and operation of the project the local authority is the responsible planning authority, post-consent of the project.

Q: What is the anticipated cost of the necessary road improvements and will this be covered by the HIF funding and what will happen if this goes over budget?

A: The Government through HIF funding has provided £227m to cover the cost of the project including necessary improvements as part of the DCO application. Analysis was made prior to this grant being awarded to make sure relocation can happen within the funding provided and there will be no additional financial impact, for example, to our customers. We have an 'Alliance' structure where other expert engineering and construction companies also work with us to deliver our major infrastructure projects, and as part of engineering and design process, have contributed to the understanding about how best the relocation can be delivered within the funding provided.

Q: How will the affected communities directly benefit from the project?

A: This development will create opportunities for thousands of new homes and jobs. The project will also deliver a new, relocated facility that will continue to provide vital services to Cambridge and Greater Cambridge in a state-of-the-art, net zero carbon waste water treatment plant, at no cost to customers.

As we continue to develop our emerging proposals for the relocation project, we will be inviting the community to provide feedback on what we can do to deliver a project that can co-exist with the local area. We will be sharing information about the design of the project and how we plan to minimise impacts to communities and the local environment, and this will also include a range of enhancements and mitigation measures for the environment at the final site location chosen. It is also likely that further contributions will form part of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). However, further work is required to establish exactly what these will comprise.

Q: Will Anglian Water make a profit from the relocation project?

A: The relocation project provides the opportunity for Anglian Water to build a new state-of-the-art, net zero carbon facility for Greater Cambridge that will continue to provide vital services to residents and businesses and at no cost to our customers. The relocation is being funded by Homes England to unlock the existing site to make way for thousands of new homes, and proposals for the development of the site released are at an early stage and will be subject to a separate consultation and planning process.

Any value or profit that releases at the end of that process is governed by strict rules and conditions associated with the HIF funding, which is very heavily weighted in the favour of our customers and

the local community. Release of any value or profit is not the key driver here, as the project is driven by the councils' vision to free up our existing site to unlock the regeneration opportunity for North East Cambridge in order to provide thousands of new homes and jobs over the next 20 years.

Q: Will the new plant make any money from the by-products of the treatment process i.e. from selling leftover sludge?

A: Any by-products that derive from the treatment process at the current works or in future at CWWTPR form part of the regulated business and are subject to the regulations and financial controls imposed by Ofwat.

Water resources, flooding and contamination

Q: What is the population equivalent capacity of the current site at Cowley Road and what will this be for the new plant?

A: The current plant at Cowley Road already has the capacity to treat an overall population equivalent exceeding 500,000. The new plant will be designed to deliver, functionality and capacity, in excess of 500,000 population equivalent. This will ensure the plant can also accommodate expected future growth, to include Waterbeach New Town and the new housing planned to be built on the existing site.

Q: Please would you explain why you don't believe Site 3 presents a risk to the principle aquifer?

A: As part of our site selection process we have undertaken a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment (HIA) which has been fully reviewed by the Environment Agency and is now publicly available to view on our document library.

The HIA considers potential groundwater risks for all three sites we consulted on. In general groundwater flow at levels above the Greensand aquifer is very low, and the view supported by the Environment Agency is that Site 3 presents the lowest groundwater risk of the three sites consulted on.

At Site 3 the groundwater and surface water relationship were also investigated for the Black Ditch, Quy Fen SSSI pools and Allicky Farm Pond, and in all cases adverse impact on water quality risk is very unlikely (due to distance and low hydraulic conductivity of the ground). The bottom of the infrastructure, such as the incoming tunnel and pumping station, will be well above (at approximately 23m deep) the aquifer (which sits at approximately 50m depth) with minimal risk of contamination, something which will be prevented even further through good design.

Q: Water is in short supply in Cambridge and South Cambs, which are experiencing great growth. Is it not possible to clean the waste water sufficiently for drinking water?

A: We are in dialogue with Cambridge Water, and it is technically possible from the end of a water recycling process to clean water to put it into supply. However, there is a negative public perception issue which makes this an unpopular idea. Generally, we would return the cleaned water to a river system such as the Cam, and possible augmentation of flows if beneficial for water supply – although this won't be drinking water.

Q: How has flooding risk been taken into account?

A: Flood risk was considered at Stage 3 and this final Stage 4 of site selection, and all sites compared equally at low risk (flood plain 1). This was discussed with the Environment Agency.

As part of the DCO process we also have to take into account long term resilience, and the new plant is being designed to treat the waste water of Greater Cambridge, prevent flooding by managing storm flows and serve the environment. This includes taking account of a growing population and climate change. We're also consulting with the relevant Internal Drainage Board and Lead Local Flood Authority on the proposals.

Q: What protections will be placed on the River Cam?

A: Our installation will be subject to environmental permitting regulations. As part of this compliance, we will be adhering to the Industrial Emissions Directive. This aims to protect against contaminated discharges to land, air, and water. The proposed plant will be constructed in line with water industry guidelines and specifications, most of which are there to prevent pollution to water courses. The Hydrological Impact Assessment (HIA), which has now been reviewed by the Environment Agency, follows the recommendations required to protect ground water sources, including the River Cam.

Q: Why isn't the new capacity required for Waterbeach development on that development?

A: Anglian Water originally considered a new Water Recycling Centre to the east of Waterbeach to take new flows from the Waterbeach New Town. This was not supported by the County Council Waste and Minerals department or by the Environment Agency given the area is in flood plain 3. The most feasible solution, in their opinion, was to take flows to the existing Milton site or to a new Cambridge site.

Q: Defra magic maps show potential for pollution based on the geology of the site, why would you risk this?

A: We have now issued a Hydrological Impact Assessment (HIA), which the Environment Agency has reviewed. Risk does not exist on site 3 for lower Greensand aquifer. Regarding magic maps, The Environment Agency does designate chalk aquifer as high risk, but our assessment is that the ground water flows at that location has low flow characteristic. Anglian Water will also take every measure necessary to contain the materials treated at the site.

Q: Will the treatment process be different to at the current plant, will there be any sludge left over afterwards and what will happen to this or any energy generated?

A: Anglian Water's CWWTPR project will build a modern, net zero carbon water recycling plant for Greater Cambridge and the surrounding area. It will deliver a new facility that will provide vital services for the community and environment, recycling water and nutrients, producing green energy, and enabling Cambridge to grow sustainably.

The project's ambition goes beyond just simply building a new plant. We plan for the new facility's ability to turn Greater Cambridge's waste water into a resource, harnessing it to create renewable energy to power the plant, recovering nutrients and returning higher quality cleaned water to the

River Cam. In line with our net zero carbon goals, we will utilise renewable energy to power the plant.

All of the sludge created at the works or imported from other works will be treated and processed into biogas (giving a valuable source of renewable energy) or biofertilizer.

Q: How are you going to ensure land remediation on the existing site.

A: When the existing site is decommissioned, AWS will ensure that the existing Environmental permits are rescinded to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency. The existing site will after this be in the ownership of the master developer and all liabilities will transfer to them.

Q: How do your proposals correlate with the frequent discharge of raw sewage into the Cam particularly in storm events?

A: Storm overflows play a vital role in our combined waste water network systems as they work like pressure release valves to protect homes and businesses from flooding during periods of extreme rainfall. Because of the job they do, the majority of what comes out is rainwater, not sewage. The Environment Agency (EA) issues permits for our storm overflows.

The Environment Agency publishes data (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>) about storm discharges and water quality for each river and waterbody which include the reason for not achieving good ecological status.

We recognise that we need to better understand the environmental impact of storm overflows, which is why we are fitting thousands of monitors to storm overflows right across our region. However, it must be recognised that storm overflows protect homes and businesses from flooding.

We are committed to resolving any environmental impact from storm overflows, but know they are just one contributor to river water quality. As is clear from Environment Agency data, there are many contributing factors outside of water company control that cumulatively have a more significant impact on the health of our waterways.

Over the next five years we're investing £811million as part of our Water Industry Natural Environment Programme (WINEP). This includes work on protecting the environment and improving river water quality. Ours is the largest plan of any water company, with double the number of obligations than in the last five years.

CWWTPR are working with the Environment Agency to identify and implement the most appropriate storm management processes for the new works.

Q: Will the project contribute towards the restoration of Chalk streams in the area?

A: CWWTPR is not anticipated to have any impact on Chalk streams and so we're not currently proposing any restoration in relation to mitigation of potential impacts. There is only one watercourse classified as a Chalk stream in proximity to the site area, the Little Wilbraham River, which is approximately 1km south east of the new WWTP and this will not be impacted by the development. All the other Chalk streams in the area are located outside the project vicinity either within Cambridge or further south and south-east of the city in the upstream reaches of the Cam and associated tributaries. We continue to work with Cambridge Water as the water supplier for the

area to explore other opportunities to make a positive contribution towards the restoration of Chalk streams where possible.

Q: How much of Cambridge's Water is currently from aquifer versus not from aquifer, and how much treated water could you theoretically produce as a percentage of abstracted water, to understand how big an impact this would make to abstraction rates?

A: Anglian Water doesn't actually supply water to Cambridge, the water supplier is Cambridge Water. This would be a question for them to consider rather than us, with regards to the actual amounts. We do however continue to work with Cambridge Water as part of the Water Resources Management Plan, to understand demand and explore opportunities for reuse where possible.