

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project



Site Announcement

January 2021

www.cwwtpr.com

About the project

Anglian Water is committed to bringing environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve, through our commitment to Love Every Drop. As a purpose-led business, we recognise we have a huge opportunity - and responsibility - to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities within which we operate.

The relocation project provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver a modern, 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.

Between July and September 2020, we held our Phase One consultation and asked for your views on three potential locations for our new waste water treatment plant. In November we published a report summarising the feedback received and how this was being considered in our site selection and early design processes. This is available on our website (www.cwwtpr.com).

Closing the plant at the current site on Cowley Road will:



Allow the existing site to be redeveloped, delivering around 5,600 of the 8,000 much-needed new homes in North East Cambridge, including around 40% affordable housing (rented and shared ownership)



Provide a mix of homes, workplaces, shops and community spaces with good connectivity, that are fully integrated with surrounding communities



Enable improvements to walking, cycling and public transport connectivity, helping to address climate change through reducing car use



Create new parks and open spaces that will form an accessible green space network with a wide range of plants and wildlife, linked with parks in the wider area

Thank you once again to the thousands of residents and stakeholders who provided feedback. We recognise that many people feel very passionately about the issues raised during consultation and we entirely understand the strength of feeling. We have very carefully considered all responses alongside our environmental, community, planning, operational, economic and programme assessments. It has been a challenging decision to make; however, we have now concluded our site selection process and identified the site we will be taking into our Phase Two consultation later this year.

“ Our Purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop ”

Our strategic direction



Make the East of England resilient to the risks of drought and flooding



Enable sustainable economic and housing growth in the UK's fastest-growing region

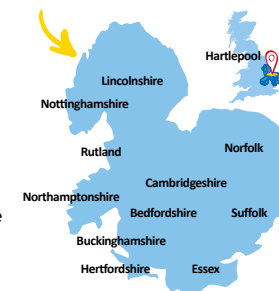


Be a net zero carbon business by 2030



Work with others to achieve significant improvement in ecological quality across our catchments

The **largest** water and water recycling company in England by geographic area



Serving almost **7 million** customers across the East of England and Hartlepool



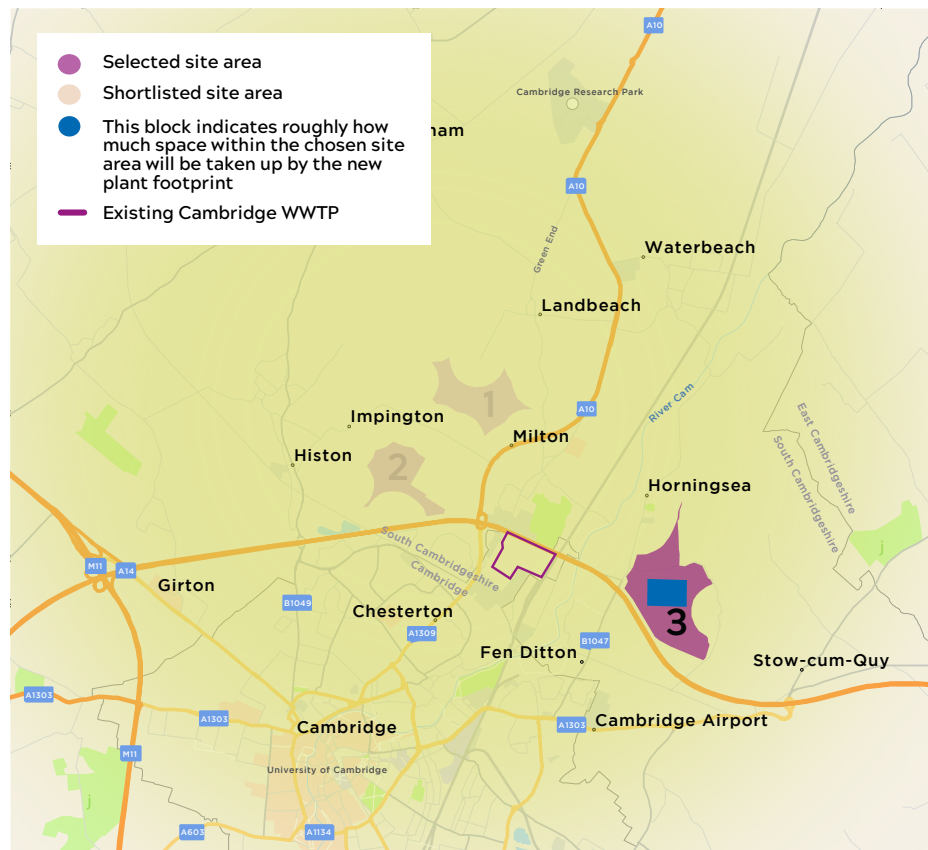
One of the UK's fastest-growing regions, projected to grow by

175,000 homes by 2025

The relocation site

Our site selection process has concluded that Site 3, an area north of the A14 between Fen Ditton and Horningsea, is the most appropriate site overall and is the site selected to build a new state-of-the-art facility for Cambridge and the surrounding area. This site also provides the greatest opportunity to deliver wider benefits to communities and the environment.

Site 3 was found, on balance, to perform best across a range of key assessment criteria. The site 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.



Site 3 was found to be the best performing site in comparison to Sites 1 and 2 across a range of factors, including:



Odour – Anglian Water is committed to minimising odour at source in its design for the new facility. The risk of any odour impact is also lower at Site 3 owing to the distance from more densely populated residential areas, and prevailing wind direction



Environmental enhancement – Greatest opportunities to enhance the surrounding environment and add value



Future urban growth – Site 3 was found to be the best long-term strategic option, providing a sustainable location away from the Cambridge Urban Fringe and areas of potential future development



Carbon – Site 3 has the lowest overall lifetime carbon emissions, as it has the shortest distance to transfer waste water for treatment from the current plant, and to return treated water to the River Cam



Land use – There are currently no competing plans or proposals for development of the site area



Maximises public value – Combining the lowest anticipated delivery costs with the highest potential for realising environmental and social benefits results in best value for public funding

Supporting community objectives

In addition to these factors, the consultation process has identified that the selected site also presents the greatest opportunities for delivering on many of the things residents told us are important to them, and Anglian Water's objectives to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities within which we operate.

This includes increased environmental enhancement, improved habitats for wildlife and connectivity for the local community. These opportunities will also be consulted on with the community and stakeholders as part of our ongoing design process.

Green Belt

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).

Find out more

You can find out more about our site selection process and how we made our final decision in our Stage 4 – Final Site Selection Report, as well as in our non-technical summary of the Stage 4 site selection process. How we chose the three sites for consultation is outlined in our non-technical summary of site selection Stages 1-3. These are all available, alongside the full range of technical reports, on our website (www.cwwtpr.com).



Our vision

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.

Our vision is to create a state-of-the-art, carbon neutral facility that will turn Greater Cambridge's waste water into a valuable source of renewable energy that may power the plant or heat homes before returning it to the River Cam. We will also 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, providing a lasting positive legacy.

It must meet rigorous requirements for safety, sustainability and resilience. The health and safety of all our staff, supply chains and the communities within which we operate, is paramount to our social purpose. As a business we continue to prioritise and invest in our safety culture and this is a key focus in our plans for the relocation project.

We have been receiving advice and guidance on best practice for designing a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) from

a range of independent and expert bodies. This includes from the Design Council, an independent charity and the Government's strategic advisor on design. The Design Council's purpose is to make life better by design and to work collaboratively in partnership with project developers to achieve sustainable living, add value to communities and improve health and wellbeing.

We are also developing our Design Vision in line with the National Infrastructure Commission's design principles for national infrastructure, namely Climate, Places, People and Value. These are based on independent advice from the National Infrastructure Design Group. Our Design Vision for the relocation project will provide a guide as we continue to develop our proposals, and help us to ensure that we are delivering an exemplar project that will unlock wider environmental and socio-economic benefits for Greater Cambridge.

The following four principles will guide the development and design of the relocation project:



Climate
Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change



People
Reflecting social needs and managing our resources carefully



Places
Providing a sense of identity and improving our environment



Value
Achieving multiple benefits and solving problems well



Climate

Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change

- As one of the largest energy users in the East of England, we are committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- The new plant is being designed to serve a growing population and continue providing vital services, resilient to our rapidly changing climate.
- Our vision, to create a state-of-the-art, carbon neutral facility, will turn Greater Cambridge's waste water into a valuable source of renewable energy that may power the plant or heat homes before returning it to the River Cam.
- Building a new facility presents opportunities to explore efficiencies in recycling water, nutrient recovery and generating green energy. We will also assess other sources of renewable energy to power the plant.
- Closing the existing plant will unlock the regeneration potential of North East Cambridge in an area which has great walking, cycling and public transport links, making it a highly sustainable location for new homes.



People

Reflecting social needs and managing our resources carefully

- Anglian Water's ambition for this considerable engineering endeavour goes beyond just simply building a new plant.
- We will also 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, providing a lasting beneficial legacy.
- We plan to deliver improved green connectivity routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians, better connecting the local community to nature and green spaces.
- We will create a visitor centre so that local children and communities can come and learn about the water recycling process and the circular economy.
- By building a completely new, modern plant, we can incorporate solutions and best operational practices to minimise odour impacts at source.
- We want to continue to hear what local people who live in and use the area want to see, so that we can help to play our part in delivering local community aspirations.

How could the relocation project enhance the environment?



Improved access to the countryside



Enhancement of hedgerows and planting



Re-wilding of arable land



Places

Providing a sense of identity and improving our environment

- The new, modern waste water treatment plant will make a positive contribution to its surroundings.
- We will create a sustainable, ecologically rich and diverse landscape within and around the new facility. This will be achieved through working closely with local authorities and environmental organisations to look beyond the site's boundaries and integrate with the surrounding landscape.
- The relocation will contribute to the restoration of wildlife and deliver enhancements including the planting of trees and hedgerows, the rewilding of arable land and the creation of new wetland habitats and green recreational spaces.



Value

Achieving multiple benefits and solving problems well

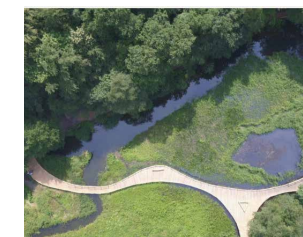
- The project isn't simply about moving an old facility to a new location. It is about the creation of an entirely new, modern facility that will deliver for the climate, people and place as well as enabling the regeneration of North East Cambridge.
- The closure of the current treatment plant on Cowley Road is integral to Cambridge City and South Cambs District Councils' plans for a new low-carbon city district in North East Cambridge, creating 8,000 new homes and 20,000 jobs over the next 20 years.
- Anglian Water is working in partnership with the local councils to enable this vision which relies upon the closure of the current plant, thereby unlocking the regeneration potential of the area.
- The sustainable design of the new facility as well as its use of renewable energy generation will reduce the plant's carbon footprint. Biogas production could heat homes or power vehicles.
- The relocation project provides an opportunity to reduce heavy goods vehicle traffic at the A10/A14 junction.



Improved habitats for wildlife



Reintroduction of wetland



New outdoor recreation opportunities

What happens next?

Over two phases of further consultation we will be asking for your input to help shape and develop our vision for how the plant design evolves. We're also keen to hear your thoughts on what it can deliver for the environment and how it can help to meet the needs and aspirations of the local community.

We will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the relocation project and will be submitting our initial EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) later this year.

We are also continuing to undertake assessments and studies to inform our developing design and these will shortly be extended to include field surveys. We intend to begin environmental and ecological surveys and ground investigation activities to further understand the chosen site and tunnel/ pipeline corridors. We will also be gathering additional archaeology and local heritage information and survey data as part of our EIA. This will enable us to deliver the optimum design for the unique site conditions.

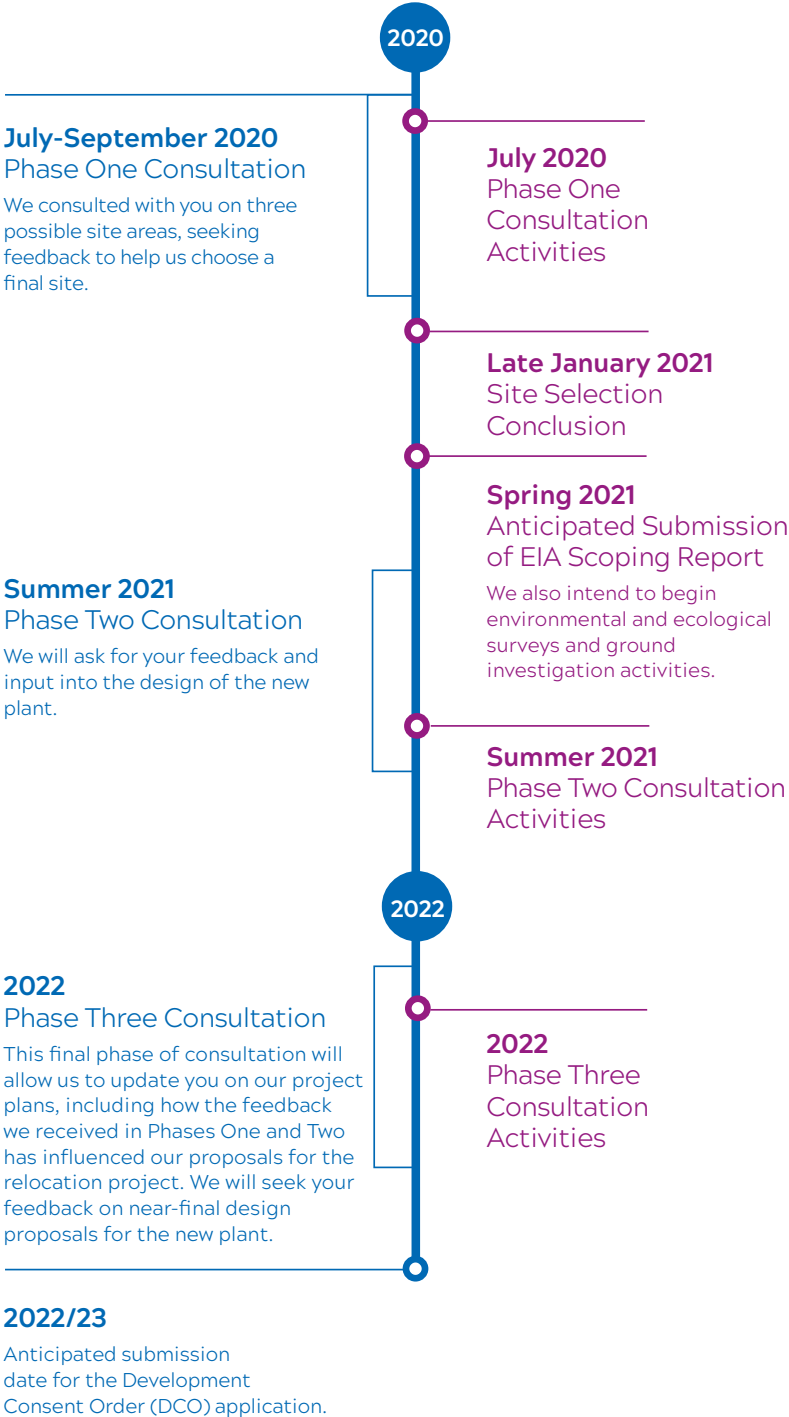
Before our Phase Two Consultation on more detailed proposals for the new facility opens later this year, we will be forming a series of technical and community working groups to begin to explore these ideas in more detail. This input will help us to develop our vision for the plant in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, before undertaking a wider public consultation on the detail of the proposals.

We will undertake further consultation, after which we will submit an application to PINS for a Development Consent Order (DCO). This will include a full Environmental Statement, showing how we will mitigate any potential impacts on the local community and environment.

In the meantime, we will be holding our next community webinar on Thursday 4 February (7pm-8pm), where you can find out more about our site selection decision.

Please register your interest in this webinar by emailing info@cwwtpr.com or calling 0808 196 1661.

Our community information lines also remain open for any questions.





Get in touch

Our dedicated project website, email address, Freephone information line and Freepost address all remain open if you have any questions.

You can contact us by:



Emailing at info@cwwtpr.com



Calling our Freephone information line on **0808 196 1661**



Writing to us at **Freepost: CWWTPR**



Visiting our website at www.cwwtpr.com



If you would like this document in large print, audio or braille formats, please contact us using the details above.

All graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes.

Join our community webinar on Thursday 4 February (7pm-8pm). Please get in touch to register your interest

