

New reservoirs in the Fens and Lincolnshire



September 2022

Introduction

We are investing in two new reservoirs – one in Lincolnshire, and another in the Fens in partnership with Cambridge Water. Together, these reservoirs will help protect water supply long into the future. They will ensure people and businesses have the water they need, while providing resilience to future droughts and the effects of climate change.

Why the reservoirs are needed

Every five years, Anglian Water is required to produce a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) setting out how it will manage water supplies over a minimum of the next 25 years. As part of this adaptive planning process, our 2019 WRMP identified a number of strategic solutions that could significantly increase future supply. These solutions include two new reservoirs in the Fens and Lincolnshire.

We are in the driest region in the UK making us particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. These reservoirs will help protect you from future climate events, including hotter summers and potential future droughts. Having the capacity to store more water will also help us reduce the amount of water we need to abstract from rivers and groundwater.

Our region is one of the fastest growing in the country. It is estimated there could be more than 175,000 new homes built over the next five years. These reservoirs will provide the capacity the region needs to grow sustainably.

The reservoirs are needed to:

- Meet the challenges of climate change
- Protect and restore habitats and wildlife
- Provide for a growing population

About the reservoirs



Together the reservoirs will provide enough water for approximately 750,000 households.

Reservoir in Lincolnshire: Our proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire would store water during winter when flows are at their highest, for when it is needed. To date, in the early development of these water resource options we have been developing these plans in partnership with Affinity Water. Moving forward, it is likely that the reservoir in Lincolnshire will be progressed solely for Anglian Water customers. We anticipate that the reservoir will be able to supply around 160 million litres of water per day to our customers throughout the year.

Reservoir in the Fens: We are working in partnership with Cambridge Water to progress proposals for the reservoir in the Fens, which would supply water to customers of both companies. It will increase water resource availability by capturing water during winter when it is plentiful. We anticipate that the reservoir will be able to supply around 100 million litres of water per day throughout the year.

Key benefits

By securing the supply of water long into the future, we can unlock new opportunities for the region to thrive. The reservoirs will also generate a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits for the region, including:



WILDLIFE

Habitats for wildlife, including the possibility of space for new wetlands



BUSINESS

Opportunities for local business to thrive with the potential for leisure activities



LEISURE

Places to explore such as new visitor parks, footpaths, cycle paths and other natural spaces

Identifying locations for the proposed new reservoirs

Since late last year we've been reviewing potential sites for the reservoirs.

In these early stages, we appraised sites based on a range of different factors to create a long list which is then reduced to a site or sites that best balances all the factors we must consider.



Some of these key considerations include:

- The environment
- Impact on people and communities
- Heritage
- Land use
- Existing water courses
- Engineering requirements
- Existing infrastructure



What's happening now

We are still at the very early stages of the project and are close to finalising our work to identify the best performing location for each of the reservoirs.

To help local people understand more about the new reservoirs and why they are needed, we are providing an update this summer, ahead of a consultation in the autumn.



We've created a new website and film which you can view at:

www.anglianwater.co.uk/new-reservoirs

We're also contacting stakeholders across the region to make sure they are aware of plans and what comes next.

What happens next

In the autumn we will be announcing more details about our proposals for both reservoir projects.

This will include our proposed locations and our assessment on what we will need to do to deliver them responsibly by minimising any impacts on the environment and local communities. It will also include more information on the benefits they could create for people and the environment.

Due to their strategic importance to our future water supply, both projects are classified as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

These are projects that are publicly examined, after which the government provides the final approval to proceed, including the planning permission.

This permission is called a Development Consent Order (DCO), and the legal process to obtain consent under the

Planning Act 2008 is tightly regulated by the Planning Inspectorate. You can find out more about this process on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

There are many obligations and requirements that any organisation looking to obtain a DCO must commit to.

One key requirement is to undertake comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement on the project. That means, to offer clear communication about the project process, and create an environment which will allow communities and stakeholders to easily share their views and help shape the development of the proposals.

Consultation

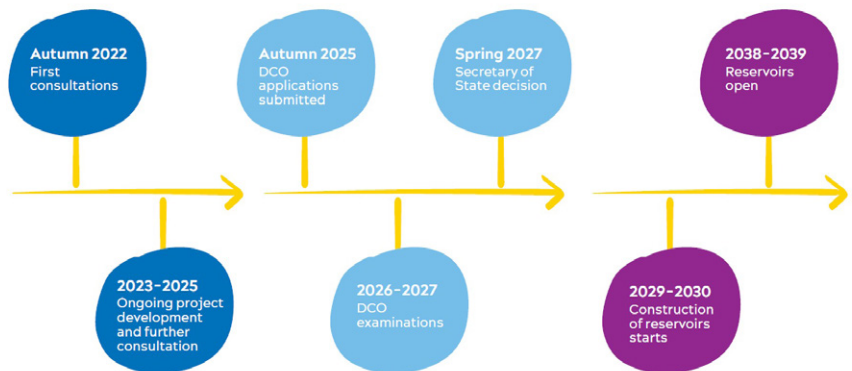


In the Autumn, we plan to hold our first public consultation for each project. This will provide an opportunity for you to fully understand our proposals and provide feedback. We anticipate this will be the first of three phases of consultation.

We will focus the consultation on the communities nearest to each proposed site and ensure everyone who feels they're affected is aware of each project and has the opportunity to provide feedback.

We'll hold community events where our team will be available to talk through the project and answer any questions.

Your feedback is a vital part of the process as we will listen to your views and consider how they can help shape the project going forward.



Get in touch

Our next important announcement will be in the autumn when we will provide information about the proposed sites for the reservoirs, and launch the consultation.



We will continue to keep communities and stakeholders up to date on our plans for the reservoirs.



For more information about our work to date and what happens next please visit our website.

www.anglianwater.co.uk/new-reservoirs

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, please contact us on:



Reservoir in the Fens: info@fensreservoir.co.uk

Reservoir in Lincolnshire: info@lincsreservoir.co.uk