Anglian Water update

love every drop
anglianwater

To make the East of England resilient to the risks of drought and to secure water supplies for future generations.

January 2022

A new water pipeline in your area

We're future proofing your water supply

Our region is drier than any other part of the UK and is also one of the fastest growing. We are building a network of up to 500km of new water pipelines to make sure our region is resilient to the risks of drought and to secure water supplies for future generations. The new series of interconnecting pipes will allow us to move water more freely around the region to keep up with demand.

Back in June this year, we shared the route for a new 9km clean drinking water pipeline and we now want to provide you with a further update, as our pre-construction work is due to begin soon.

The new pipeline will increase reliability for communities in the area and reduce the number of homes and businesses which currently rely on a single pipeline for all their water needs. It will ensure we can continue to meet demand from population growth in the area, and to replace the supply from local ground water sources, which are subject to environmental restrictions from April 2022.

The preferred pipeline route

The pipeline will start at the Flitton booster pumping station, north-west of Flitton. It will pass north of Silsoe and Upper Gravenhurst, ending at the reservoir south of Meppershall.

We have worked closely with landowners and have listened to customers and stakeholders to confirm our route and will continue to do so. Please see the map on the back page of this newsletter, or, to view an interactive map of the route, please visit our dedicated webpages **anglianwater.co.uk/spa**

What have we done so far?

In June this year we sent out a newsletter to communities along the proposed pipeline to introduce the scheme and route.

In September 2021, we submitted a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion to Central Bedfordshire Council requesting confirmation that the pipeline can be installed using our existing legal powers. Water companies have statutory permitted development powers that permit us to carry out certain work without needing to apply for planning permission. EIA is a process used to help protect the environment by providing a detailed evaluation of how it will be affected by the pipeline. Throughout our work on this pipeline we have engaged with the affected landowners and have used their feedback to inform our processes moving forward.

We are currently completing our ground investigation surveys which will indicate if conditions are suitable for a pipeline.

What's next?

Pending agreement of our approach by the local authority, in February/March this year we will start preparation work along the route of the pipeline, so that the main work of laying water pipes can begin. This is known as 'enabling' or 'pre-construction' work and includes setting up compounds where staff and equipment will be based and creating access for our teams to work.

We will also be putting up fencing and signage and making sure we protect electricity cables and gas pipes. You may also see some temporary traffic management systems where we will be laying the pipe under the roads. These activities will take place along the whole of the route.

Pipelaying is expected to start Spring/Summer 2022.

Working west to east

We intend to start our work at the western end of the route near Flitton, and work eastwards towards Meppershall.

Phase of work	Types of activity	Approximate timetable
Engaging with customers and stakeholders about the preferred route	Sharing the route, listening to feedback	Since September 2020 (ongoing)
Environmental investigations	Archaeological surveys and ecological monitoring	Ongoing
Ground investigations and archaeological trial pits	Digging trenches and boreholes to understand conditions below the surface	Early 2022
Discussions with local planning authority	Discuss whether any consent may be required for the scheme	September 2021 and ongoing
Enabling works (pre-construction)	Ecological protection to conserve biodiversity. Some vegetation removal to aid site access	February/March 2022
Construction	Site compounds set-up Enabling works Pipeline installation (methods described below)	February/March 2022 Spring/Summer 2022
Commissioning	Cleaning the pipeline and connecting to network	Late 2022 (subject to other Anglian Water works in the area)
Reinstatement after installation	Replacement of topsoil Restoration of access routes and fencing Reinstatement of road surfaces Reinstatement of drainage Replacement of vegetation	Summer 2022

These dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances

Impact on communities

We will work hard to keep the impact on you, the communities along the route, and the environment, to a minimum. Visit our dedicated webpages to keep up to date with our work: **anglianwater.co.uk/spa**

For more information about our commitment to working with communities, please see our Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out our approach to engaging with people and organisations. It is available on our webpages.

If you need practical support

You can sign up for free to our Priority Services Register. The Priority Services Register can help a wide range of people, from those with sight, hearing, or mobility difficulties, to parents with babies under 12 months old. And we offer a wide range of support, from sending out bills in other formats, to providing support in an operational event such as if your water supply is interrupted. Also, once on the register you can stay on it for as long as you like. You can sign up by calling our dedicated Priority Services Team on 0800 141 2934, or by completing the online application at **anglianwater.co.uk/priority**

Roadworks

To allow our teams to complete the work safely, traffic management systems will be used in some areas. This will include the use of temporary two-way traffic lights and a small number of temporary road closures. If you will be impacted, we will give you prior notice of these works, informing you of the dates and times you will be affected. Further details about this work are available on Anglian Water's In Your Area pages: **inyourarea.digdat.co.uk/AnglianWater**

Site compound and laydown areas

There will be one main compound for this pipeline route. This will be situated very close to the Flitton end of the pipeline. This main compound will include offices and toilets, storage for materials, fuel, construction materials, waste containers, equipment and car parking as required.

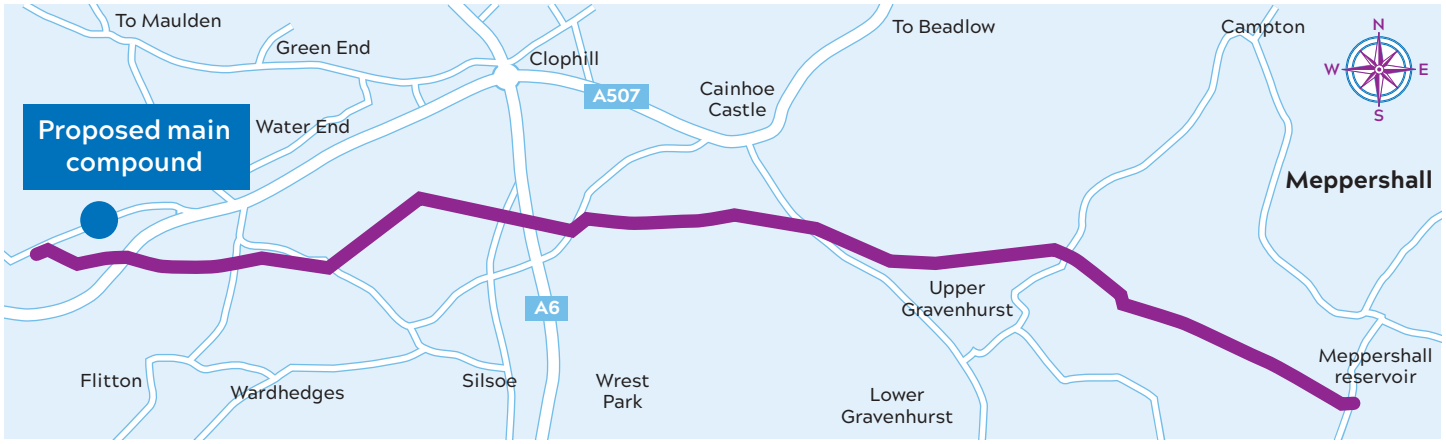
There will be some smaller areas, known as laydown areas, which will be used to store sections of pipe and other construction materials and equipment which may include welfare cabins. These have been strategically placed along the route. The main compound and laydown areas will have secure perimeter fences and working sites will have some security or safety lighting which will be used as required. Construction access will generally be from locations agreed with the local highways authority, where the route crosses public roads, and then along the working width.

Removal of some vegetation

Sections of hedgerows, including some trees, will be removed to allow access. As far as possible, the sections of hedgerows we remove will be replaced.

We have assessed and will mitigate our impact on the environment, farming, people and communities wherever possible.

Indicative map of route showing the proposed location of our main compound. We will be working from Flitton towards Meppershall.



Construction techniques

As you can imagine, there is a lot of work involved in installing a new 9km pipeline. We will continue to work with the local authority, parish councils, landowners and all contractors to deliver the scheme with as much minimal disruption as possible.

We are always looking at better, more efficient ways to deliver this complex programme of works and how to cause less impact to our landowners and communities.

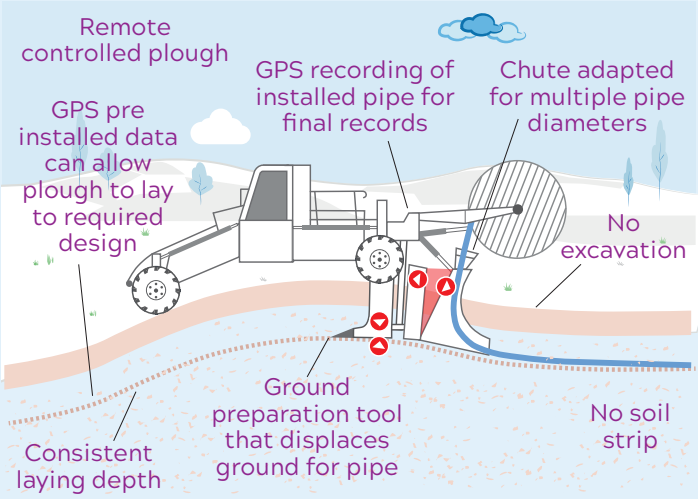
One of the ways to make this happen is to use a 'pipe plough' which is a specialist machine that cuts through the ground and lays pipe at the same time. We have been trialling this new equipment in a first for the UK water industry. One of the main benefits of this technique is that there are no open excavations during installation. This means it causes less disturbance to the ground which is better for landowners. It also reduces our working area, is safer for our workers, is quicker and more efficient and reduces our impact on the environment.

There will be some areas where we won't be able to use the pipe plough e.g. roads, railways and other structures where we must not disrupt the surface. In these cases, we will use traditional techniques such as open cut and trench-less techniques.

Pipe plough

For much of the pipeline route, we are planning to use a 'pipe plough'. This specialist machine cuts a narrow trench after the topsoil has been removed and lays the pipe at the same time so there is no need for digging or refilling. This reduces the overall impact on the land, causing less disruption to the environment. This method also requires a smaller working area (approx. 15 metres on this route) and puts the pipe in the ground quicker than conventional methods, without the need for any open excavations.

Prior to the commencement of any pipeline installation, land drainage will be discussed with landowners and our land drainage contractor.

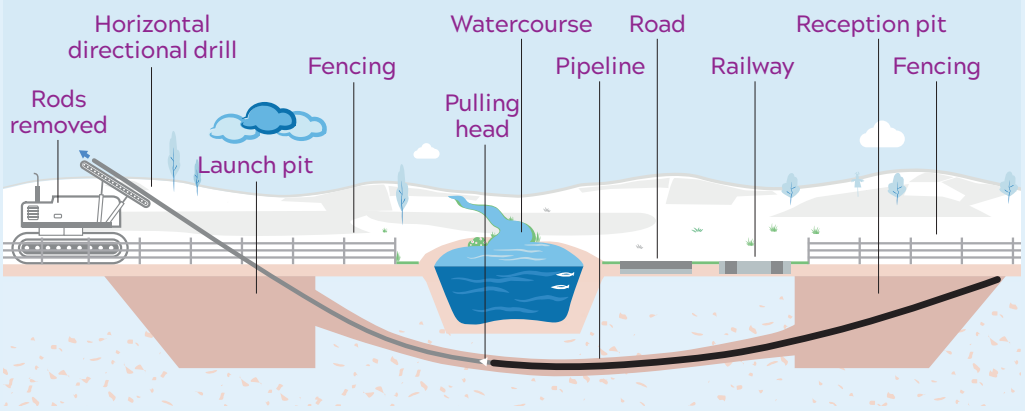


Trenchless

Where we need to minimise disruption to the surface - such as when we want to cross major roads, rivers, and railway lines - we will use trenchless techniques.

We also plan to use trenchless techniques when we are working close to sensitive areas such as local wildlife sites.

Trenchless techniques will be used to lay the pipe underneath main rivers and roads. This involves directionally drilling or auger boring, where a machine will drill or bore a hole through the ground from one side of an obstruction to the other. The pipe is then pulled through the hole.

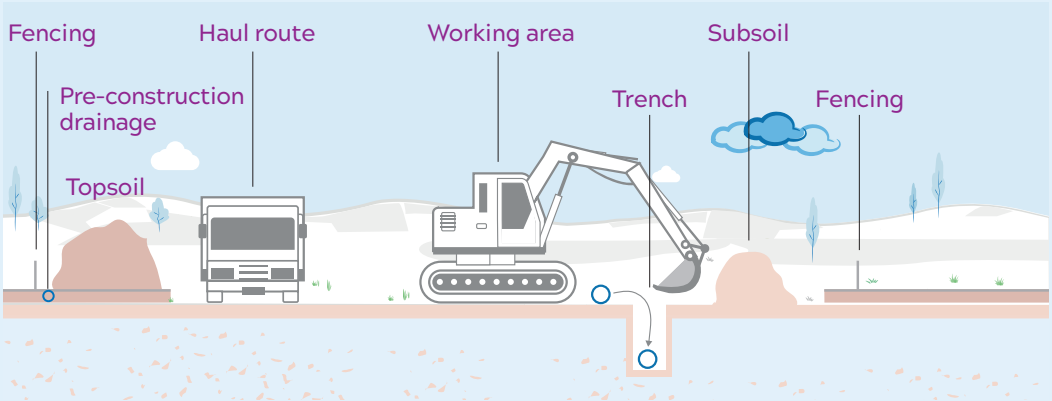


Open cut trenches

The most common method to lay pipe is an open cut trench.

This is when a trench is dug open by a digger, the pipe is laid and then covered over.

The working area may be wider than 15 metres when using this method.

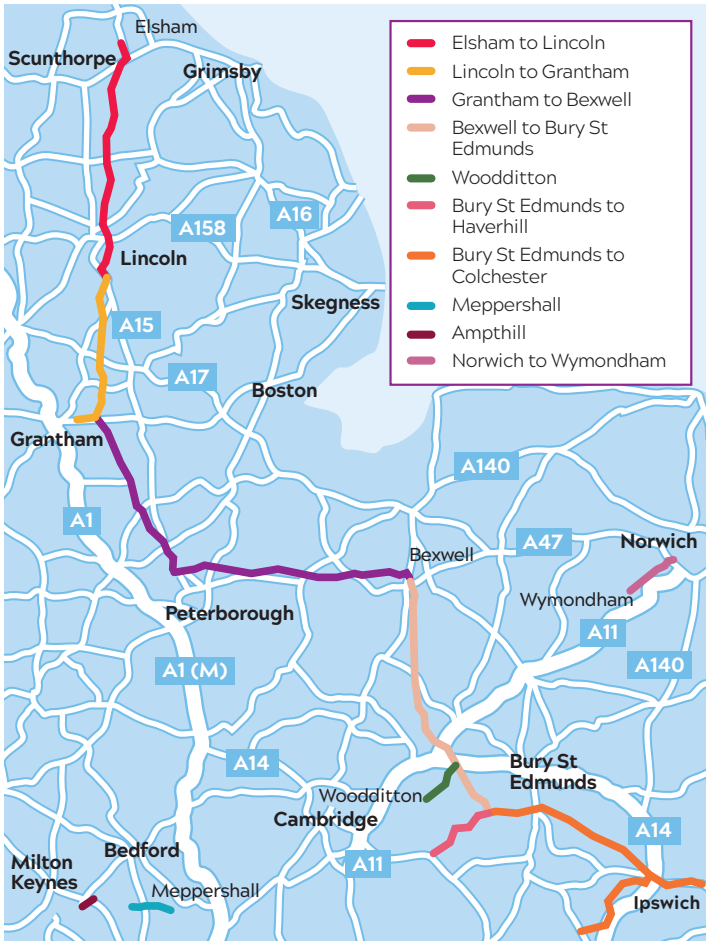


Our working area will generally be 15 metres wide, but this will be slightly narrower for crossing hedgerows, tree lines and watercourses.

Prior to the works commencing, we will initially strip the topsoil (approx. 15 metres wide) and it is anticipated that this will be reinstated in Summer 2022.

The pipe that we will be laying on this route is a 315mm diameter plastic pipe to a minimum depth of 900mm.

Image of our Lincoln to Grantham pipeline.
Photo courtesy of David Clarke, SkyCam
East Lincolnshire



Improving water supplies across the region

We will be building up to 500km of new, interconnecting pipelines, in one of the biggest infrastructure programmes for a generation.

The new pipelines will help us move water more freely around the region, so that we are able to divert it from areas of water surplus in north Lincolnshire to the south and east of the region, where it isn't as readily available.

We are building the pipelines in separate phases so will be able to strengthen local resilience and reduce the number of homes and businesses which rely on a single water source.

Our challenges

We are facing four interlinked challenges to water supplies in East Anglia. These are climate change, environmental protection, population growth and the risk of drought. We want to act now to ensure the long-term availability of water for all customers in the future.

Climate change

The East of England has below average rainfall for the UK. The area is classified as under severe water stress and climate change projections suggest there will be lower summer rainfall and hotter temperatures.

Environmental protection

We will be taking less water from the environment, such as rivers and boreholes. We aim to reduce the amount we take by 84 million litres a day.

Population growth

Our region is experiencing high levels of population growth with a predicted increase of 20 per cent over the next 25 years. This will create an additional demand and pressure on our water resources.

Drought

Since the 2011-2012 drought we have been investing in our network to reduce the risk of water shortages.

Any questions

You can visit our dedicated webpages, **anglianwater.co.uk/spa**

Call us on **03457 145145** stating reference number **57182308**

Email us at **StrategicPipelines@anglianwater.co.uk**

Alternatively, you can write to us at Strategic Pipeline Alliance, Anglian Water, 3rd Floor, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, Cambridge, PE3 6SB.