

# Anglian Water update



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

August 2021

A new water pipeline in your area

## We're future-proofing your water supply

### Our challenges

Water supplies in East Anglia face four interlinked challenges. 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 of our customers.

Without taking this action, the East of England would face a water deficit of 30 million litres a day by 2025. That's a shortfall of 4,380 Olympic swimming pools of water, every year.

#### Climate change

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

#### Environmental protection

We need to reduce the amount of water we take from rivers and boreholes. We aim to reduce the amount we take by 84 million litres per 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 increase demand on water resources.

#### Drought

Since the 2011-2012 drought, we have been investing in our network to reduce the impact of water shortages. Our 25-year Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) assesses the impacts of these challenges and sets out how we will manage water across our region.

We consulted widely during 2018 and 2019 and have support from our customers and regulators for our plans in the WRMP. This pipeline is part of the 25-year investment we are making in our network.

We are building up to 500km of new, interconnected water pipelines. It is one of the biggest infrastructure programmes for a generation. The new pipelines - which will be longer than any UK motorway - will help us move fresh, clean water more freely around the region and divert it from areas of water surplus in north Lincolnshire, down to the south and east of the region, which is drier.

They will also reduce the number of homes and businesses which rely on a single water source.



## The new Grantham to Bexwell pipeline

Our plans include a new 90km pipeline, known as the Grantham to Bexwell pipeline.

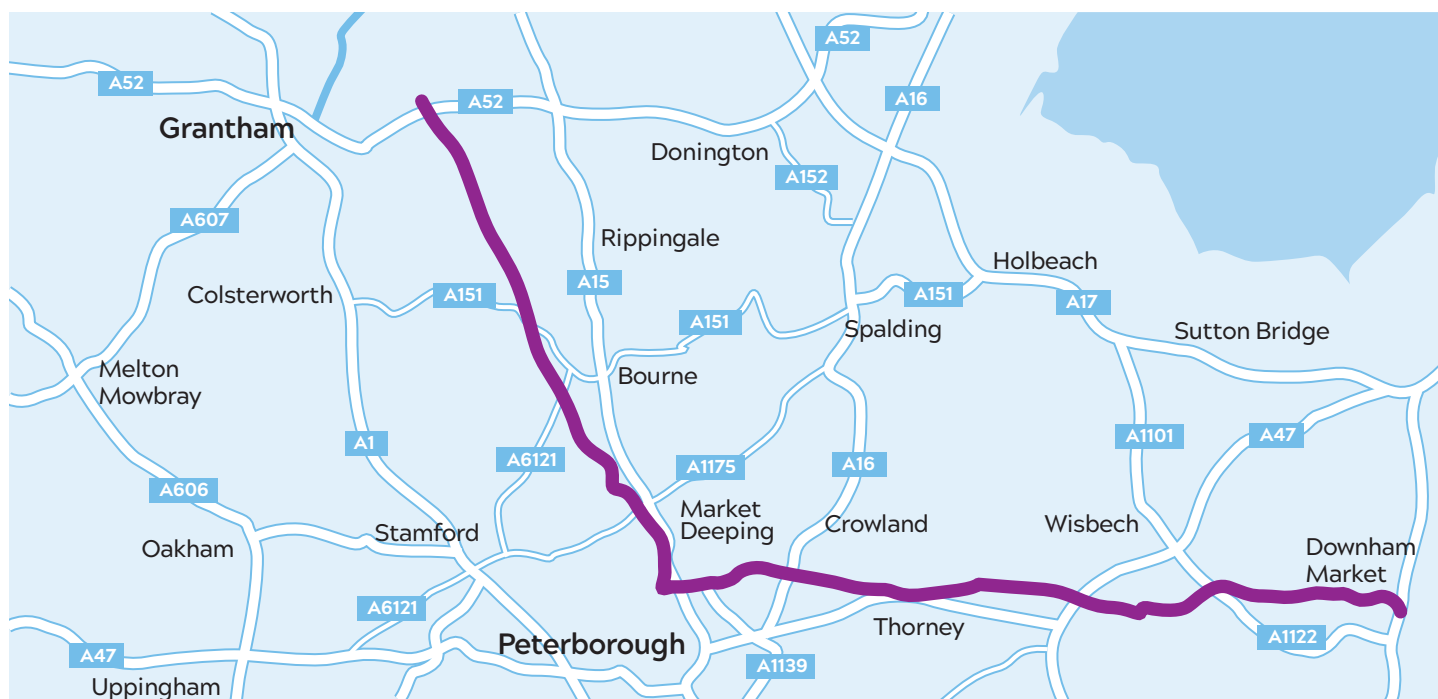
It will run from Welby, east of Grantham, via a reservoir near Etton, north of Peterborough, to an existing water storage tank at Bexwell, which is close to Downham Market in Norfolk.

This pipeline will eventually join up with the others we plan to build; at Welby - in the north - it will join our Lincoln to Grantham pipeline. At Bexwell, in the south, it will join our Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds pipeline.

More information about all our interconnected pipelines can be found on our website - [anglianwater.co.uk/spa](https://anglianwater.co.uk/spa)



## Preferred route for the Grantham to Bexwell pipeline



We've been working hard to plan the best route for the pipeline - now we want to share our plans so you're able to let us know what you think.

Our teams have completed environmental and archaeological surveys, liaised with landowners and local planning authorities and, in some areas, started digging boreholes and trenches so we can understand drainage, soil, and land conditions.

We have planned the route to avoid most urban areas and villages and to minimise disruption to communities, as well as avoiding sensitive ecological and archaeological sites. These include areas where we have found badgers, water voles, bats and Great Crested Newts. We've also worked hard to avoid other sites, such as quarries, along the route.

We're holding a virtual engagement event from 6 to 20 September 2021. Visit [anglianwater.co.uk/spa](https://anglianwater.co.uk/spa) to take part.

It will have all the information that you would expect to see at a physical event in a village hall or community centre. It's an opportunity to see the planned route, learn more about our work and to leave your feedback.

## What happens next?

We will continue to plan our route, including ground investigation work and other surveys. The information we gather will help us to develop the route and to plan access and ways of working.

Our teams will follow the current COVID-19 working guidelines.

Subject to agreement with the planning authorities, we will start pre-construction and enabling works, such as measures to protect wildlife during the construction phase and the limited removal of hedgerows, next year.

The construction start date is dependent on many factors, including the weather. We are aiming to start work in the summer of 2022 and continue until 2023.

## Impact on communities

Once construction gets under way, we will work hard to keep the impact on communities and the environment along the route to a minimum.



## 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.

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](https://anglianwater.co.uk/priority)

Phase of work	Types of activity	Approximate timetable
Engaging with customers and stakeholders about the preferred route	Sharing the route; listening to feedback	Summer/autumn 2021
Environmental investigations	Archaeological surveys and ecological monitoring	Ongoing until the end of 2021
Ground investigations and archaeological trial trenches	Digging trenches and boreholes to understand conditions below the surface	Summer/autumn 2021
Submission of planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment	Ongoing discussions with planning authorities	Winter 2021/22
Enabling works (works needed prior to the start of construction)	Providing ecological protection for protected species such as badgers Limited vegetation removal, including some hedgerows to aid access, site access, fencing and drainage Targeted archaeological excavations	Summer to autumn 2022
Construction	Site compounds set-up Cutting open trenches, laying pipes and backfilling (refilling of soil once the pipe has been installed) Trenchless pipelaying (when pipes are pushed through the ground) Construction of pumping stations and water storage tanks Temporary storage lagoons (to store water that will be used to test the pipeline after construction)	Autumn 2022 until summer 2024
Commissioning (testing of the pipeline prior to becoming operational)	Cleaning the pipeline and connecting to network	Autumn 2023 until autumn 2024
Reinstatement after installation (the land will be reinstated to its original state where we can and with additional improvements in some areas)	Replacement of topsoil, restoration of access routes and reinstatement of road surfaces, drainage and vegetation	Spring 2024 to spring 2025



## Techniques we will use

We will install pipes following good industry practice using tried and tested techniques.

The most commonly used method to lay pipes is an open cut trench. 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 such as drilling.

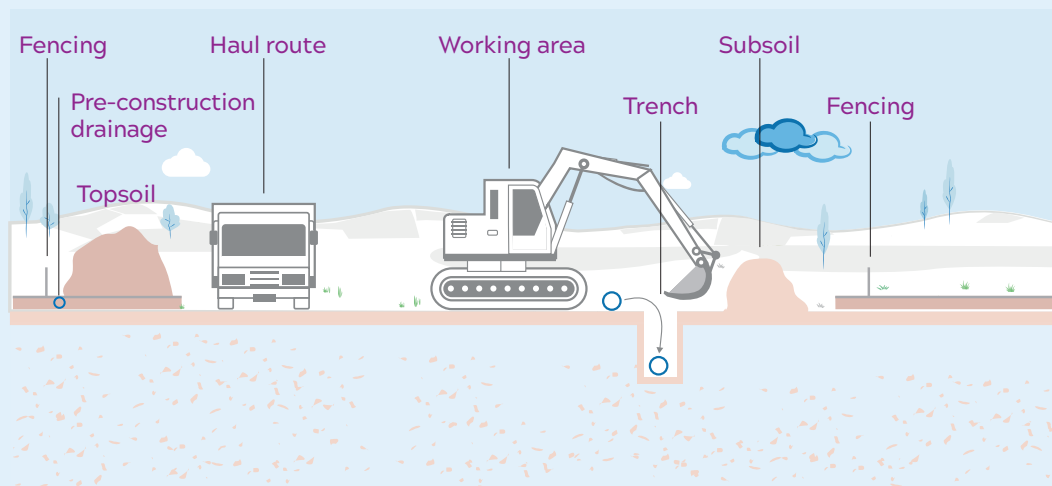
Our working area will be up to 40 metres wide, but will be narrower for crossing sensitive hedgerows, tree lines and watercourses.



### Open cut trenches

There will be parts of the pipeline where we will have to use traditional methods. The most common method to lay pipe is an open cut trench.

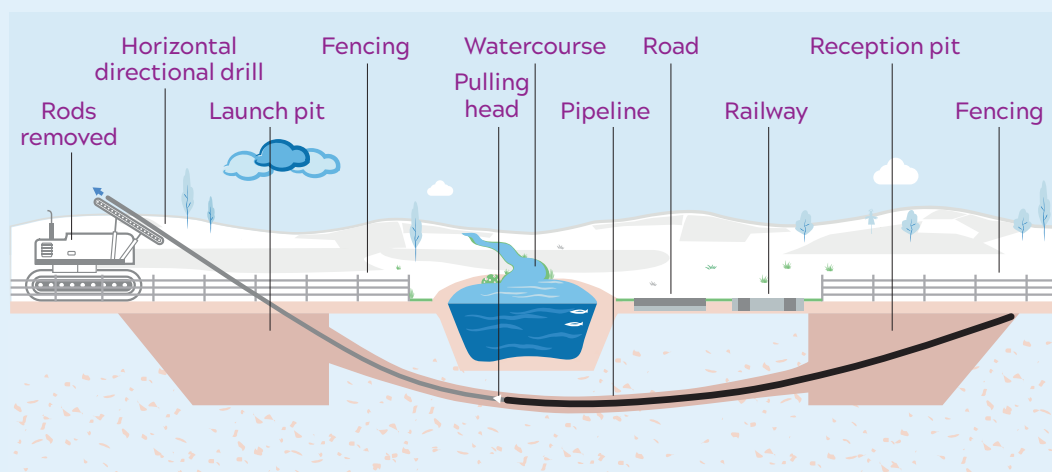
This is when a trench is dug open by a digger, the pipe is laid and then covered over.



### 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 Wrest Park and 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.



For more information about our approach please see our website [anglianwater.co.uk/spa](https://anglianwater.co.uk/spa) and leave your comments between 6 - 20 September 2021.

# What do you think?



## Grantham to Bexwell pipeline feedback survey

We've developed new ways of engaging with communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are holding a virtual event from 6 to 20 September 2021 at [anglianwater.co.uk/spa](https://anglianwater.co.uk/spa), which will have all the information that you would expect to see at a physical event in a village hall or community centre.

In addition, we have added some pages to our website which have all the information.

We understand that some people might not have access to the internet or be able to submit their comments online. We would still like to hear from you - you can get in touch in other ways - please see below.

## We would like to hear your views

You can reply to the questions below by:



Visiting [anglianwater.co.uk/spa](https://anglianwater.co.uk/spa) or scanning the QR code on the right



Sending an email to [strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk)



Posting to Strategic Pipeline Alliance, 3rd Floor, Worldwide House, Thorpewood, Peterborough, Cambridge, PE3 6SB



All surveys must be received by 20 September 2021 so we can take your views into account before we finalise our plans.

### Please tell us about the following:

1. Can you see how this scheme will improve water supplies in the area?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

2. Is there anything you would like to make us aware of in relation to this scheme?

.....

.....

3. Is there anything you would like more information on?

.....

.....

*NB - Please provide your contact details below so that we can reply*

Contact email address (preferred):

.....

Postal address: .....

.....

Telephone: .....

4. Overall, how do you feel about this pipeline?

On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being 'concerned' and 5 being 'happy'

1

2

3

4

5

Please explain your answer

.....

.....

.....

5. Are you a (tick box)

☐

Landowner?

☐

Local business?

☐

Domestic customer?

☐

Elected representative (parish, district, county)?

☐

Technical stakeholder / representative or an organisation? (please state)

☐

Other? (please state)

Please provide some information about yourself. This will only be used to help us understand who has answered the questionnaire and better understand local feelings and will not be used for any other purpose. We will not be able to identify you using this information alone.

What is your postcode?

(please provide the numbers in your postcode such as PE33 7xx)

What is your age? (tick box)

☐

17 and under

☐

18-29

☐

30-44

☐

45-59

☐

60+

The information you provide in your response will be processed and retained by Anglian Water and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. We will not use it for any other purpose.

To read Anglian Water's Customer Privacy Notice, please visit [anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/legal/privacy-notice/](https://anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/legal/privacy-notice/)

