

National infrastructure: working together with Anglian Water



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Introduction

Anglian Water provides water and water recycling services to almost seven million customers in the east of England, encompassing the whole area south of the Humber estuary to the outskirts of London and around a fifth of the English landmass. We also supply water to the Hartlepool area.

The east of England is the fastest-growing region outside the South East and has seen an increasing number of infrastructure projects of national significance come forward for development in recent years. Examples of which include highway and rail improvements, power stations, flood prevention schemes and renewable energy projects including offshore windfarms.

This publication sets out how and when we want to be involved in the preparation and submission of applications of national significance.

This means we can continue to serve our customers and safeguard the natural environment, while facilitating infrastructure delivery.

It includes guidance and points for applicants to consider, based on our experience of recent proposals, and further advice that Anglian Water is able to provide to applicants, their consultants, legal representatives and contractors.

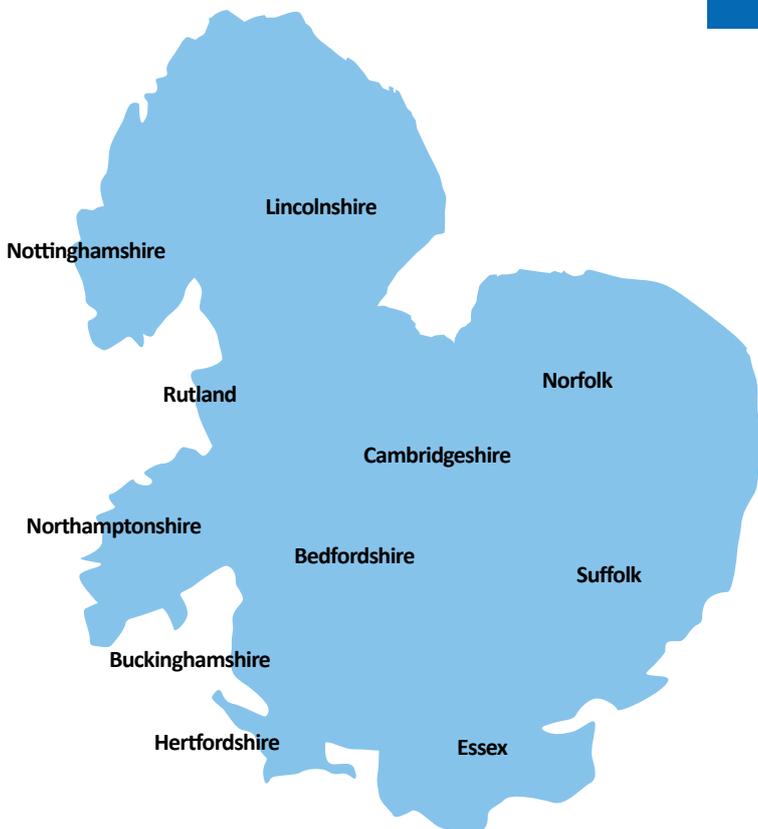
The Strategic Growth and Infrastructure Team is the point of contact for pre-application discussions and formal consultations relating to national infrastructure projects.

Contact details for the team are set out below:

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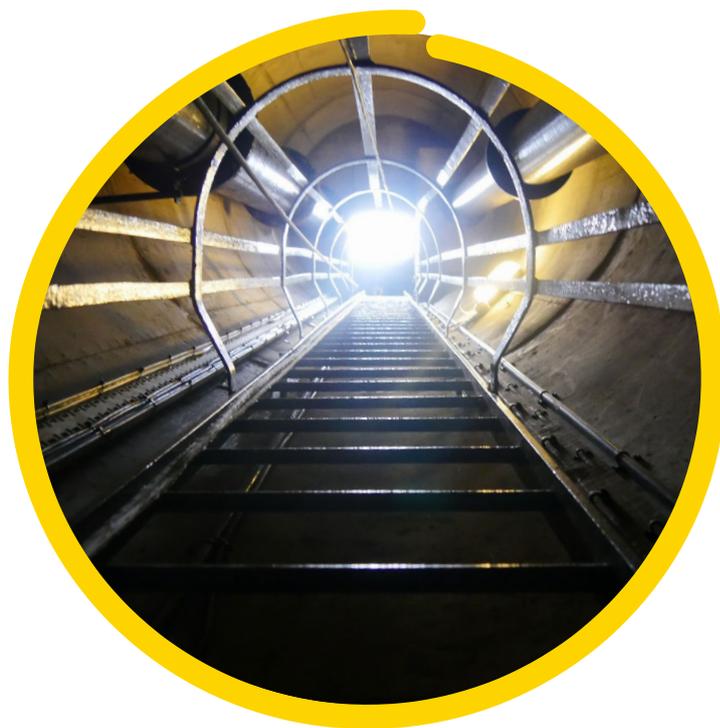
Why do we want to be involved in national infrastructure projects?

In short, we are a statutory consultee for infrastructure proposals of national significance as outlined in the relevant legislation.

We believe that infrastructure delivery should be based on common understanding and collaborative working - so we encourage applicants to consult us as and when the proposal is conceived and through the formal decision-making stages. Working in this way smooths the process for applicants and helps to minimise potential disruption for our customers. It can also lead to better outcomes for the environment and our communities.

We are a supporter of the [National Infrastructure Commission \(NIC\)'s report on design principles for national infrastructure](#).

Under the headings of climate, people, places and value the NIC highlighted that such projects can have wider benefits which are not limited to the site boundary. We are supportive of project proposals that follow this approach.



Water and water recycling infrastructure

We want to ensure that the location of existing water mains, public sewers and associated infrastructure is taken into account as part of the proposed site layout or route/corridor design, and the consideration of site options. Wherever possible, the site boundary should not encompass existing underground apparatus in order to prevent access to it from being restricted during construction, or during the operation of the proposed infrastructure.

Where an existing water main/sewer needs to be removed or relocated, or mitigation is to be agreed with us, this will need to be funded by the applicant. It is also possible to apply to Anglian Water to undertake any required diversions by the applicant's contractor. We also ask that you consider the location of our existing outfalls and any identified impacts on this infrastructure.

In the event that an outfall needs to be repositioned, it is important to engage the Environment Agency at an early stage, as a new permit will be required. In most cases, we would expect existing operational sites (water treatment works, water towers, reservoirs, water recycling centres and pumping stations) to remain on site and be excluded from any works which form part of the site boundary. As re-siting such infrastructure is costly and takes a long time, we place great importance on early engagement with applicants. There may also be emerging capital projects that could have an impact on your proposal. For the latest information on our projects, first search our long-term strategy documents available here:

- [Water Resource Management Plan](#)
- [Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan](#)

Good practice

- Existing water mains and sewers should be located outside the site boundary or proposed working area, unless it is not possible to do so, particularly where access would be restricted.
- Early engagement with us on requirements for any necessary diversions or mitigation for existing water mains and/or sewers, including where the applicant's contractor is expected to undertake the required works.
- Water and water recycling sites managed by Anglian Water should not be included within the site boundary.
- Where there is a requirement for diversions to be located within land owned by third parties, this should be located within the application boundary.



Pre-construction surveys

We recognise that there is often a need to undertake surveys to establish the location of our assets or to inform the design of projects.

We ask applicants to ensure that we are notified of any planned surveys proposed in the vicinity of our existing water and water recycling infrastructure. Where appropriate, we can help supervise the work to ensure that existing infrastructure is not damaged. Anglian Water can also liaise with managers of our operational sites where access might be required for survey work or site inspections.

Good practice

- If you are conducting surveys near our assets, contact us at the earliest opportunity.
- Where surveys are required near our existing apparatus, you should provide details of what is proposed (Risk and Method Statement), and we may supervise work being undertaken in order to assist your application.
- Where access is required to operational sites we will require the applicant's contractors to enter into an access agreement.



Risk assessment and method statement

A risk assessment is normally undertaken to identify the health and safety risks during the construction process with the method statement setting out how any residual risks will be managed. Collectively these are often referred to as Risk assessment and method statements (RAMs).



Compulsory purchase and temporary possession of land

Applicants have powers to acquire land under the relevant acts, which forms part of the application, on a permanent or temporary basis.

As an infrastructure provider, we do not anticipate that our existing operational sites would be acquired on a permanent basis as part of any proposals, and these should be outside the application boundary. Where the applicant identifies a need to acquire and/or temporarily occupy land in our ownership, we would consider whether this would have a detrimental impact on the continued operation of our existing infrastructure.

Anglian Water is able to confirm the extent of our landownership and whether it is currently leased to another party within the application boundary on request.

Good practice

- As the provider of an essential service, we require continuous access to existing infrastructure so that we can continue to serve our customers.
- You should contact us at an early stage if you expect to need to occupy or acquire any land belonging to Anglian Water.
- Details of any land in Anglian Water's ownership which is considered necessary to the proposed development on a temporarily occupied or acquired or permanent basis should be clearly identified as part of the pre-application consultations.
- Where land is being occupied on a temporary basis, we ask that plans setting out any proposed works/mitigation on the land, and the length of time required, to be able to provide comment.



Protecting water resource assets

Water resource assets, such as boreholes, should be protected from inappropriate development in order to safeguard and ensure a resilient public water supply.

Applicants should fully consider the location of existing boreholes for public water supply. The location of these are available to view on [Defra's Magic Map](#). This will enable you to assess and consider the potential risk of pollution during construction and post-consent; and, where necessary, the need for mitigation measures.

Where sites are located within source protection zones (SPZs) or in the vicinity of SPZs, we will help by advising on the risk to the continued operation of these boreholes, including any proposed mitigation.

Good practice

- Contact us at an early stage if there is any risk of pollution to existing boreholes or the water supply network.
- Where there is a potential risk of pollution to existing boreholes, we would expect a hydrogeological assessment to be provided and shared with us for comment.
- Consult us at the pre-application stage and set out the significance of any identified impacts from construction or operational phases and any associated mitigation.



Connections to water supply and foul sewerage networks

Connection to water supply and foul sewerage networks may be necessary both as part of the construction phase and the operational phase of a development of national significance.

In the foul sewerage networks, flows can be from properties and/or from trade effluent. Requirements will vary and there may be a requirement for both, dependent upon the nature of your proposal. Trade effluent is any liquid discharged into the public sewerage network from a business or industrial process.

We encourage applicants to consider anticipated requirements at an early stage in order to ensure that the connections can be made in time to serve the development, including any temporary construction compounds.

Anglian Water fully supports the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to address the risk of both surface water and sewer flooding and which have wider benefits including water quality.

By default, all surface water flows should be managed using sustainable drainage systems with a strong preference in favour of natural infiltration of rainwater into the ground.

Rainwater entering our drains and sewers should be considered only as a last resort, and in all cases minimised as far as possible.

The introduction of additional surface water flows to the public sewerage network increases the risk of sewer flooding for existing residents in the catchment.

Good practice

- Engage early with Anglian Water on any requirements for water and water recycling services for the construction and operational phases.
- Applicants should consider the location of existing infrastructure and the timing of any requirements with their contractors as early as possible. This will ensure that we can provide connections in time to serve the development and undertake any required modelling or design work.
- For trade effluent flows, applicants would be expected to fund improvements to an existing water recycling centre.
- The risk of sewer flooding should be considered as part of the Environmental Statement and Flood Risk Assessment/ Drainage Strategy.

Case study - A14 highway improvements

The A14 Highway Improvements led by Highways England required a significant number of construction compounds which would be used by those working on the project.

Advice was sought from Anglian Water at an early stage about the expected requirements for connection to water supply and foul sewerage networks for each construction compound.

Early engagement with Anglian Water on national infrastructure projects is critical to develop effective solutions for water supply and drainage.



Sustainable Drainage Systems

We wholeheartedly support the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) because they reduce the risk of both surface water and sewer flooding, and bring wider benefits, including enhanced water quality.

By default, all surface water flows should be managed using sustainable drainage systems with a strong preference in favour of natural infiltration of rainwater into the ground. Rainwater entering our drains and sewers should be considered only as a last resort, and in all cases minimised as far as possible.

The introduction of additional surface water flows to the public sewerage network increases the risk of sewer flooding for existing residents in the catchment.

The use of SuDS also reduces the impact on existing sewerage infrastructure to accommodate further foul flows from housing and employment growth.

Good practice

- Applicants should develop their drainage strategy consistent with the [surface water hierarchy](#). Options as high up the hierarchy should be selected if possible. We will only accept a surface water connection to the public sewerage network if it is sufficiently evidenced that it is not technically feasible to manage surface water by another means.
- Early engagement with us is critical, certainly prior to the submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. This will help avoid delays and costs for all parties later on in the process.
- Anglian Water - as a sewerage company - adopts SuDS features where they meet the legal definition of a sewer and the Design and Construction Guidance. Applicants should consider at an early stage whether they wish Anglian Water to adopt any SuDS features and work with us to ensure it meets the specifications for adoption.



Development Consent Orders and Transport and Works Act Orders

Where our assets is located within a proposed site boundary, we would seek to have specific protective provisions for Anglian Water included in the wording of the order. These are in addition to standard protective provisions relating to utilities more generally.

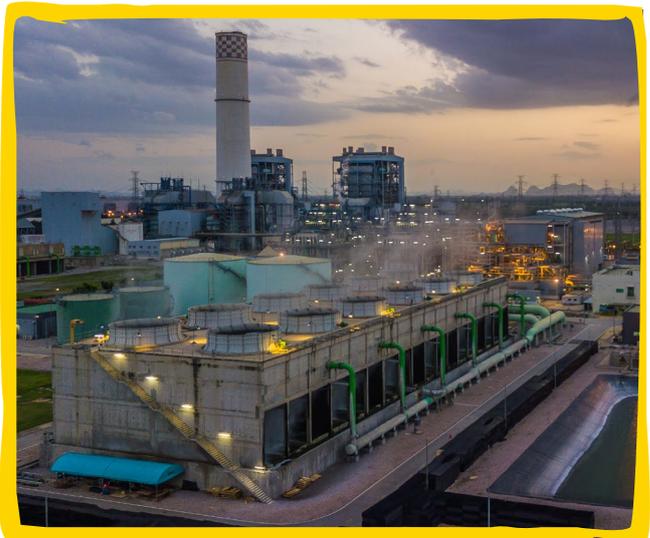
We do this because protective provisions ensure we have the ability to comment on and agree any works in the vicinity of existing apparatus; and that access to existing sites is maintained. Our standard wording has been applied to all Development Consent Orders which have been approved in our operational area. If you would like a copy of this wording, please contact us: spatialplanning@anglianwater.co.uk

During the construction phase, sewers may be identified which appear to be owned by Anglian Water but which are not currently identified on our statutory map. This may be a sewer which has been passed to Anglian Water under the Private Sewer Transfer Regulations.

Should this happen, we ask the applicant to inform us so that we can confirm whether or not it is one of our assets. If it is our responsibility, then protective provisions would also apply to this sewer. Anglian Water's protective provisions include a requirement for this notification process.

Good practice

- The full wording of DCOs/TWAOs should form part of the pre-application consultation stage.
- For a smoother application process, we would like to be contacted at an early stage to reach agreement on the wording of both protective provisions and any other relevant wording. We are open to further dialogue with the applicant's legal representatives about any proposed changes to Anglian Water's preferred wording.



Statements of Common Ground and Side Agreements

The Planning Inspectorate encourages the use of Statements of Common Ground to assist it in its decision-making by setting out areas of agreement and outstanding issues with interested parties. We have entered into a number of such agreements in recent years and we believe this approach helps to facilitate applications. Therefore, we are open to entering into Statements of Common Ground with applicants, subject to agreeing the content of any statements.

Side agreements are legal agreements agreed between the applicant and one or more interested party where the applicant wishes to make concessions in a confidential agreement. While we prefer to reach agreement as part of the DCO/TWAO process wherever possible, we will consider entering into a side agreement where needed.

Good practice

- Contact us at an early stage relating to the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground or side agreement.
- Statements of Common Ground can be developed in parallel to the preparation of the application to reflect the outcome of discussions with us at the pre-application stage and throughout the examination process.
- The topics identified in this guide can inform the scope of any Statement of Common Ground subject to further discussion with us.



How else we can help

Information and data

Maps of Anglian Water's assets detailing the location of our water and water recycling infrastructure (including both underground apparatus and above-ground assets such as pumping stations, water treatment works and water recycling centres) are available to view and purchase at: <https://utilities.digdat.co.uk/>.

Anglian Water can help applicants to identify the location of our assets and how these could be affected by proposals, including the extent to which diversions or mitigation for underground apparatus are required.

We can undertake design work, including providing budget estimates to applicants for any required diversions, and undertake any required works following approval. This design and construction work would be funded at the applicant's expense.

We can provide advice about the anticipated cost and timing of any required connections to the water supply and foul sewerage networks, including undertaking any modelling required to show the impact on existing networks and any mitigation to supply water or drain foul flows effectively.



Opportunities to develop shared approaches

In 2019 Anglian Water changed its Articles of Association to enshrine public interest within the constitutional make up of the business. We believe we have a responsibility to protect and enhance the environment and to bring social prosperity to our region and the communities we serve. We know we cannot achieve this alone. Opportunities for us to work together may include:

Biodiversity net gain

Anglian Water is fully supportive of biodiversity net gain as part of development proposals. Where applicants intend to pursue this as part of a national infrastructure project, there may be scope to work with us, dependent on the location of the project.

Aligning delivery of projects

Where projects are proposed in the same location, or have related impacts, we are open to exploring further any opportunities to align our infrastructure delivery to provide wider environmental or community benefit if possible. This could include environmental net gain relating to both water use and water quality enhancement.

Net zero carbon business

We have made a commitment to be a net zero carbon business by 2030 to address the future impacts of climate change such as increased risk of flooding, drought and heatwaves. We are interested in discussing how we can work together to reduce our emissions and manage these climate change risks in partnership and bring forward mutual progress towards this goal.



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