

# Statement of Community Involvement

Our approach to stakeholder engagement



September 2020

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# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out our approach to engaging with a range of people and organisations in relation to our proposals to construct a series of interconnecting water pipelines and associated infrastructure across our region.

The long-distance pipelines will require planning consent under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the shorter length pipelines are likely to fall under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and be considered permitted development. This document outlines the opportunities available for involvement and explains how we intend to engage with the local community.

This document will be of interest to statutory bodies, including local planning authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England, as well as local communities near the proposed pipelines and other required infrastructure.

We recognise that local engagement will be vital to the development of our proposals, and this will be undertaken in accordance with best practice. We will develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports environmental, social, economic and local community interests.

This document covers:

- The need for water resources
- A description of the pipeline programme
- The consenting framework
- Who we will engage with
- How we will engage, and where people can find out more information
- How people can provide their feedback, and how we will process it.





## 2. About Anglian Water

We employ almost 5,000 people and supply water and water recycling services to more than six million customers in the East of England. The East of England region faces particularly acute challenges from climate change, population and housing growth and the need to enhance the natural environment.

Above and beyond the provision of fresh, clean water and the effective treatment of used water, our purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to 'love every drop'.

Our Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) sets out how we will ensure we have sufficient water resources to meet the current and future demands of our customers, over a minimum 25-year period.

A critical part of our WRMP is the construction of a series of new interconnecting water pipelines and associated asset infrastructure across our region.

This new network of interconnecting pipelines will allow us to move water more freely around the region in stages, from areas of water surplus in north Lincolnshire down to the south and east of our region, where it is less readily available.

The new sections of pipeline will improve the flow of water around the entire East Anglia water network - increasing resilience for thousands of our customers. Many areas are on a single source of water supply and this addition to our network will have benefits for all our communities and businesses.



### 3. Description of the pipeline programme

Collectively we will deliver up to 500 kilometres of water pipelines with associated infrastructure across our region.

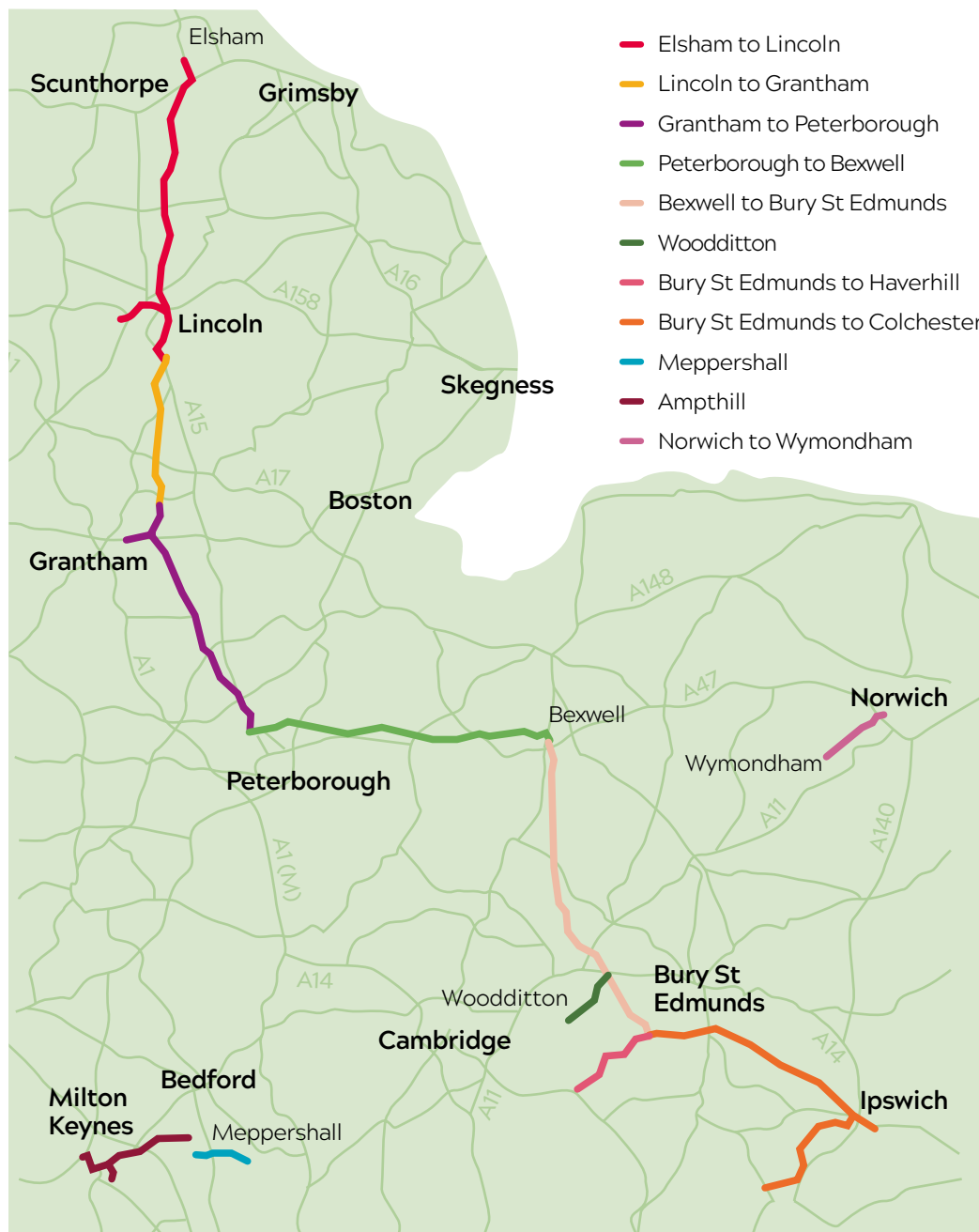
The key deliverable within our programme is an interconnecting spine pipeline which will run from North Lincolnshire to Essex in the south of our region.

We are also proposing constructing several smaller length pipelines across the wider region to support our programme.

Our programme for the design and construction of the pipelines runs from 2020 with a delivery date of March 2025. In order to deliver the required water by March 2025, a phased programme is being developed.

The programme will be regularly reviewed and refined over the course of the five years.

Image 1: Indicative routes for new strategic pipeline sections



A full list of local authorities through which the proposed pipelines will be routed is set out in Appendix 1.





## 4. The consenting framework

Town planning consent will be required for some of the pipeline sections under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Other pipeline sections will be progressed, where appropriate, as permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

Long distance pipeline sections that require an Environmental Impact Assessment will require a planning application to the relevant local planning authorities. Shorter distance pipelines are likely to fall as permitted development under the General Permitted Development Order 2015.

The planning consent process for each scheme will be discussed and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities, including which schemes need an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to

grant planning permission for a project or scheme (which is likely to have significant effects on the environment), does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision-making process.

The methodology and scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment will be agreed with the appropriate regulatory and environmental bodies, for example the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, we will prepare and submit an Environmental Statement to the local planning authority. The Environmental Statement will set out the information required to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the scheme. It will be made available electronically and on our website as part of each planning application submission.

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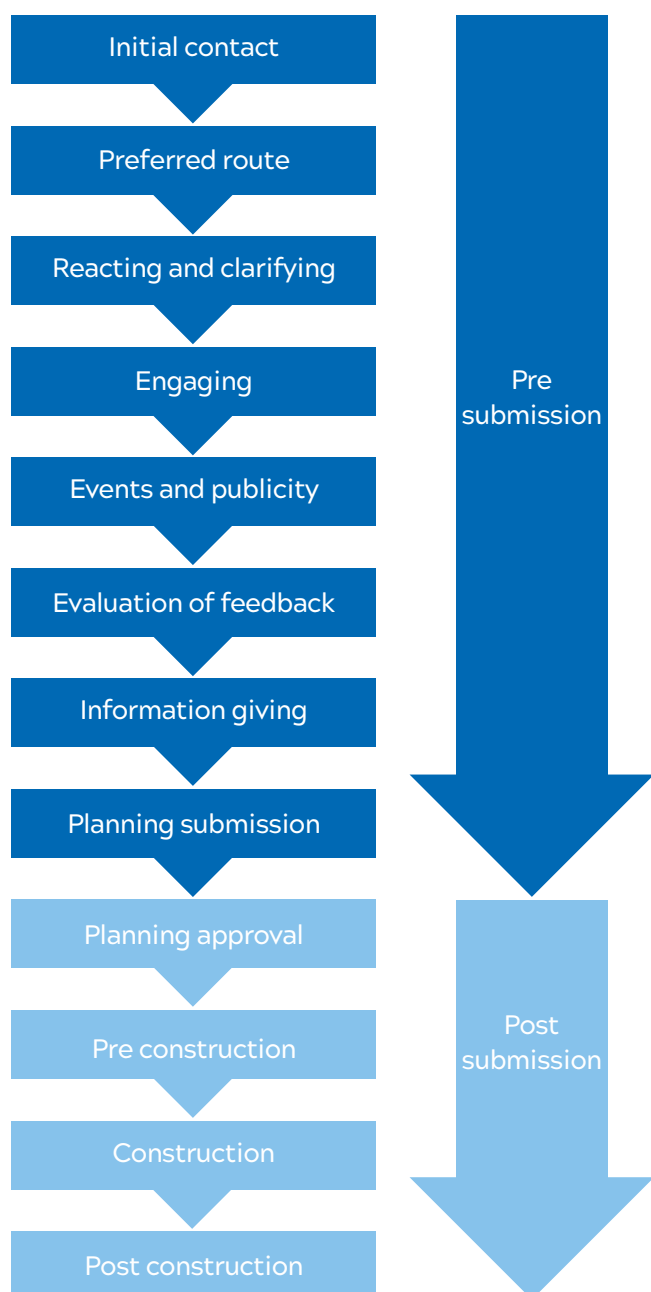
<sup>1</sup> The process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the context of town and country planning in England is governed by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the '2017 Regulations'). These regulations apply to development which is given planning permission under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The EIA identifies, describes and assesses, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity, land, soil, water, air and climate; material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape; and the interaction between these factors.

# 5. Engagement phases

The form and level of engagement will be proportionate to each specific scheme and will vary dependent on the scheme elements and consenting route.

Several communication phases are proposed. For schemes that necessitate a planning application we would expect up to 12 communication stages, including public consultation events ahead of the planning application submission.

Image 2: Our engagement phases



## Who we will engage with

We will use a range of activities to engage with our customers and stakeholders. Activities will include online engagement, technical meetings and written correspondence. A summary list of phases, stakeholders and methods is set out in Appendix 2.

We will be discussing the programme and each scheme with a range of stakeholders, including:

- Statutory stakeholders, for example local planning authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England
- Non-statutory stakeholders, for example environment groups, MPs, councillors, landowners
- Customers, including domestic and businesses.

## Hard to reach groups

From discussions with local authorities and other stakeholders, and through our own research, we will aim to identify and contact individuals and groups with a legitimate interest in this programme, that may experience difficulties taking part in our engagement activities. We are keen to share our plans and receive feedback that will help us inform our routes and approaches. This might include people with difficulties accessing materials whether that be due to physical, economic or social challenges.





## 6. Our approach to pre-application consultation

Pre-application public consultation activities will be undertaken for schemes that require a planning application.

We will assess the need for engagement activities for every scheme to ensure that those with interests are involved. We will have a strong focus on online engagement with residents and businesses able to review our plans and ask questions through our dedicated project website pages. We'll also write to all landowners along the proposed pipeline routes.

### **What we will be consulting on**

For our public consultation activities, we will be seeking feedback on key aspects of the schemes. This will involve asking the local community to give us their views about our proposals. The feedback we will seek will vary depending on the specifics of the pipeline scheme.

For example, for pipeline schemes that are permitted development we may ask whether individuals can see the benefits of the scheme. Questions could include: 'Can you see how the scheme would improve water supplies / resilience to the area?' Or 'Is there anything you'd like more information on during the construction period?'

For pipeline schemes that require a planning application and supporting Environmental Statement, we will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals regarding issues such as, but not limited to:

- The proposed pipeline route
- Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as upon wildlife and land use
- Long-term operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape and views.



Details of our draft planning application submissions will be available during the pre-application consultation period. These will include details of our Environmental Impact Assessments as agreed by the local planning authorities and construction methodologies for each pipeline scheme, and land that may also be needed for compound or construction purposes.

### Methods

Our consultation activities will involve a mixture of written material, online and face-to-face engagement to ensure all stakeholders are engaged. The mix will be dependent on the individual pipeline scheme.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic currently restricts public movement preventing public exhibitions and other face-to-face engagement. Restrictions on public movement and social distancing may be in place for some time. For schemes impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, we will discuss options for online engagement with the relevant local planning authorities. Our aim is to seek feedback to inform our proposals prioritising online engagement, supported by written material and face to face engagement where appropriate.

### Examples of written materials

- Information will be provided to relevant elected members including MPs, county, district and parish councillors as early as possible to introduce the pipeline scheme and inform them of how their community will be engaged with during the process. This may include letters - via email where possible - with indicative maps.
- Programme and scheme specific leaflets will provide information on our proposals and details of how the local community can have their say. These will be made available online.

### Examples of face-to-face

- Stakeholder meetings and briefing sessions will be arranged with local parish councils and with key local stakeholder groups where appropriate.

### Examples of public information

- A dedicated webpage hosted on our website will be available to find out more information and provide feedback.



- We will consider using the local media to publish adverts to inform local communities of our consultation.
- We will consider the use of social media to target certain communities and demographics e.g. by geographic location or age.

### General communication

- A dedicated email address will be open for questions and comments and interested parties can contact us on our customer centre phone number.

### Community access points

- Where appropriate we will endeavour to make hard copies of public consultation documents readily available at community accessible points, including libraries and council offices.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Provision of information at public locations will be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions being lifted.

## 7. How we will use feedback

We will review and evaluate all feedback received. We'll take these views and other relevant information into account when finalising our scheme designs.

For pre-planning application public consultation, we will produce a consultation report on the views shared by respondents, highlighting any issues and concerns, and additional information provided in responses.

This report, along with other information, will help us finalise our plans and inform our decisions. The

report will be submitted as part of our planning application submission to the local planning authorities.

We will also publish our response to the issues raised during our consultation activities on our website. We will not publish individual's names or responses unless responding on behalf of an organisation. All consultation and programme feedback will be collected and stored in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and not shared outside of the programme partners.

## 8. Contacting us

Email us at **[strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk)**

Call our Anglian Water customer line on **03457 145145**

Write to us at Strategic Pipeline Alliance, 3rd Floor Worldwide House, Thorpewood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB

Visit our website at **[www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/new-water-pipelines/](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/new-water-pipelines/)**

If you require alternative formats, please contact us to discuss your needs using the details above.



# **Appendix 1: List of local authorities**

(as at September 2020)

## **County and Unitary councils**

Buckinghamshire County Council

Cambridgeshire County Council

Central Bedfordshire Council

Essex County Council

Lincolnshire County Council

Milton Keynes Council

Norfolk County Council

North Lincolnshire Council

Peterborough City Council

Suffolk County Council

## **City and District councils**

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Fenland District Council

Lincoln City Council

North Kesteven District Council

South Kesteven District Council





















































































































South Norfolk Council

West Lindsey District Council

West Suffolk Council

NB this list may be updated as routes are refined.

# Appendix 2: Summary of engagement phases with potential activities

Phase / Stakeholder	Customers	Landowners	Local planning authorities	Other statutory consultees	Parish councils
Initial contact					
Preferred route		  	 	 	 
Reacting and clarifying		 	 	 	 
Engaging		  	  	  	  
Events and publicity	  	  	  	  	  
Evaluation of feedback		  	  	  	
Information giving		 	 		
Planning submission		 	 	 	
Planning approval		  	  	  	
Pre-construction	 	  	 	  	 
Construction	 	  	 	  	 
Post-construction					

## KEY

	Online engagement		Site visits		Written correspondence, including emails
	Website		Public events		Media
	1 to 1 meetings		Drop-in		Technical meetings





For more information, please visit

[www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/new-water-pipelines/](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/new-water-pipelines/)

This document has been produced by the Strategic Pipeline Alliance, made up of Anglian Water, Costain, Farrans, Jacobs and Mott MacDonald Bentley.

This new alliance has been created to design and construct a series of interconnecting water pipelines and other assets that Anglian Water needs, to deliver its Water Resources Management Plan.

### Revision History

Issue	Author	Date	Description
1	Mark Mathews	20/05/2020	1st Draft

### Technical Check

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Stakeholder & Customer Lead (SPA)	Eleanor Taylor		28/05/2020
	Eleanor Taylor		22/09/2020

### Approval

Role	Name	Signature	Date
	Grant Tuffs		28/05/2020