

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project
Anglian Water Services Limited

Environmental Statement

Chapter 4: Consultation

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Summary

This chapter provides an overview of the approach to, and summary of, statutory consultation and non-statutory consultation undertaken to date during the EIA for the Proposed Development.

Consultation with stakeholders has informed the environmental assessments that have been undertaken by using local knowledge and technical expertise to influence what should be assessed, identify matters that may benefit from further investigation, and develop a range of mitigation measures that limit adverse effects and enhance environmental benefits.

Consultation was split into three main phases, summarised as follows:

- Phase One Consultation (between 8 July and 14 September 2020) – non-statutory early engagement where the Applicant consulted on the three possible site areas and invited feedback from the public and stakeholders to inform the final site selection.
- Phase Two Consultation (between 23 June and 18 August 2021) – the purpose of which was to seek views on the emerging proposals for the new site, including mitigation measures; took place in parallel with phase one of statutory consultation under section 47.
- Phase Three Consultation (between 24 February and 27 April 2022) – sought feedback on the final design and mitigation proposals for the Proposed Development as well as publishing and inviting comment on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (also provided digitally); took place in parallel with phase two of statutory consultation under section 47.

Following Phase Two Consultation and prior to Phase Three Consultation, the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping took place, whereby the issues to be addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment process were identified. The objectives of the Scoping Report were to:

- identify potential environmental issues associated with the proposed development;
- identify those environmental issues which should be considered further in the final reports to accompany the planning application;
- provide a basis for consultation, where appropriate, with statutory and non-statutory consultees on the relevant environmental issues for the purposes of environmental assessment;
- define the methods to be used to assess the environmental effects of the proposed development; and
- where appropriate, agree these methods with statutory and non-statutory consultees.

A request for a formal Scoping Opinion was made to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 October 2021, using the information detailed in the Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 29 November 2021. In addition to comments from the Planning Inspectorate, a range of organisations were formally consulted as part of this process.

Details of points raised by Statutory Consultees with regard to specific environmental assessments and how these have been responded to in the Environmental Statement are given in each topic chapter. In addition, more general comments have been in this chapter and Chapter 2: Project Description.

Throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment process, extensive non-statutory consultation has taken place with technical consultees in the EIA process and to identify key impacts, constraints and design changes. This included the formation of multiple Technical Working Groups which covered a range of topics.

Similarly, a Community Working Group (CWG) was set up to engage and provide updated information with representatives of the community on an ongoing basis and outside of statutory consultation periods. The first meeting occurred on 21 April 2021, with four further meetings between then and 28 June 2022.

1 Consultation

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) provides an overview of the approach to, and summary of, statutory consultation (in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter ‘the Planning Act’) and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter ‘the EIA Regulations’)), and non-statutory consultation undertaken to date during the EIA for the Proposed Development. This is intended to help explain how the two separate formal consultation exercises along with the extensive informal consultation have been managed to ensure an efficient transfer of information, effective consultation and iterative evolution of the scheme. A full and formal explanation of the statutory engagement with statutory bodies and the community under the Planning Act is given in the Consultation Report (App Doc Ref 6.1).
- 1.1.2 Pre-application stakeholder engagement underpins the development of a comprehensive and balanced ES. The views of statutory and non-statutory consultees serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific issues that require further investigation. Consultation is an ongoing process, which enables mitigation measures based on local knowledge to be incorporated into the project design thereby limiting adverse effects and enhancing environmental outcomes.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development has a wide range of stakeholders (including landowners, statutory consultees, non-governmental organisations, local communities and specialist interest groups) with differing interests that require varied levels of engagement. Specific communication activities have therefore been focussed to meet the needs of particular individuals and groups. This requires an understanding of the stakeholders and their interests in the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 Stakeholder engagement for the Proposed Development has been based on the following principles:
- early, collaborative and ongoing engagement to inform and influence the design process;
 - seeking an appropriate level of feedback in the iterative design process and ensuring that comments received are taken into consideration;
 - building of long-term relationships with key stakeholders to help better understand their views;
 - where possible and practicable ensuring concerns are addressed; and
 - ensuring appropriate statutory consultation is undertaken in compliance with requirements of the Planning Act, EIA Regulations and associated guidance.

1.2 DCO consultation requirements

- 1.2.1 The DCO process has several statutory requirements regarding consultation. These requirements stipulate that certain stakeholder groups and the community must be consulted as part of the pre-application process, as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. Further requirements set out how the Proposed Development must be publicised, and specific documents produced, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a Consultation Report.
- 1.2.2 The Consultation Report (App Doc Ref 6.1) provides a comprehensive record of the statutory consultation undertaken and a detailed explanation of the non-statutory consultation. This is complementary to the statutory consultation undertaken for the EIA, for example in agreeing the scope of the ES.

1.3 Phases of consultation

Phase One Consultation

- 1.3.1 The Applicant carried out early engagement on the Proposed Development by undertaking a first phase of non-statutory community consultation on site selection between 8 July and 14 September 2020.
- 1.3.2 During this Phase One Consultation, the Applicant consulted on the three possible site areas and invited feedback from the public and stakeholders to inform the stage 4 – final site selection (Appendix 3.5, App Doc Ref 5.4.3.5).
- 1.3.3 Full details of the site selection process are provided in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives (App Doc Ref 5.2.3).

Phase Two Consultation

- 1.3.4 Phase Two Consultation took place over eight weeks between 23 June and 18 August 2021, the purpose of which was to seek views on the emerging proposals for the new site, including mitigation measures.
- 1.3.5 Phase Two Consultation took place in parallel with phase one of statutory consultation under section 47.

Phase Three Consultation

- 1.3.6 Phase Three Consultation took place between 24 February and 27 April 2022 (allowing 55 days) and sought feedback on the final design and mitigation proposals for the Proposed Development as well as publishing and inviting comment on the PEIR.
- 1.3.7 Phase Three Consultation took place in parallel with phase two of statutory consultation under section 47.

1.4 Section 42 and other organisations' consultation

Introduction

1.4.1 Under section 42 of the Planning Act requires, pre-application consultation has taken place with:

- prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those deemed prescribed by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations;
- non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Proposed Development (e.g. local nature conservation groups or member organisations with an interest in the proposals);
- local authorities, in accordance with Section 43 of the Planning Act; and
- persons with an interest in the land, in accordance with Section 42(d)(1) and Section 44 of the Planning Act.

1.4.2 Appendix 5 of the Consultation Report (App Doc Ref 6.1.5) provides a full list of prescribed consultees notified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations.

1.4.3 In addition to the prescribed consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate, Appendix 5 of the Consultation Report also lists all non-prescribed organisations consulted with as Section 42 consultees.

EIA Scoping

Scoping

1.4.4 Scoping is the process of identifying the issues to be addressed during the EIA process. Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, as amended, provides for an applicant to ask the Secretary of State to state in writing their opinion as to the information to be provided in an ES.

Scoping Report

1.4.5 A request for a formal Scoping Opinion was made to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 October 2021. This was based on a Scoping Report (Appendix 4.2, App Doc Ref 5.4.4.2), which set out the findings of the scoping process undertaken. The objectives of the Scoping Report were to:

- identify potential environmental issues associated with the proposed development;
- identify those environmental issues which should be considered further in the final reports to accompany the planning application;

- provide a basis for consultation, where appropriate, with statutory and non-statutory consultees on the relevant environmental issues for the purposes of environmental assessment;
- define the methods to be used to assess the environmental effects of the proposed development; and
- where appropriate, agree these methods with statutory and non-statutory consultees.

Scoping Opinion

- 1.4.6 The Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 29 November 2021. The list of organisations that were formally consulted by the Planning Inspectorate as part of this process, and details of which organisations provided a response to the Planning Inspectorate within the statutory timeframe is provided in Scoping Opinion (Appendix 4.1, App Doc Ref 5.4.4.1). It should be noted that the Applicant has taken account of all responses received throughout the consultation process, including late responses.
- 1.4.7 Table 1-1 summarises the key points raised by the Planning Inspectorate and in consultee responses through the Scoping Opinion, setting out how and where these are addressed in the ES or through the development design. Details of how points raised with regard to specific environmental assessments have been addressed in each topic chapter.
- 1.4.8 While no environmental topic areas have been scoped out of the ES in their entirety, each topic chapter details any specific effects within that topic area that have been scoped out on the basis that no likely significant environmental effects are anticipated.

Table 1-1: Key points raised in Scoping Opinion

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
2.2.1	The ES should ensure that the extent of any works which are relied upon as mitigation are accounted for and their impact assessed across the relevant aspect chapters, including any explanation as to if / why they need not be included in the site boundary.	Depending on the nature of the measures being applied, mitigation exists both within and outside of the main proposed WWTP site boundary. All mitigation measures requiring construction prior to establishment are considered part of the Proposed Development design, and are considered in each aspect chapter where relevant.
2.2.2	The ES should justify the design year of 2050 and why any reasonably foreseeable growth to 2080 would not be within the scope of the assessment. To the extent that it can be foreseen, the ES should describe any additional components of the Proposed Development that might be necessary and any additional 'space' that has been allowed for in the design to accommodate future growth.	<p>As detailed in Chapter 2: Project Description (App Doc Ref 5.2.2), the following space has been allowed for on the site for future growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● space around the inlet works to allow for the addition of an extra channel and screen; ● space for an additional PST, these PSTs can also be adapted to increase each unit's capacity in the future; ● space for an additional MaBR lane; ● space for an additional FST; ● space for additional storm storage; ● space for additional cells on the tertiary treatment plant; ● space for final effluent filtration and disinfection to support water reuse; ● space for sludge cake import centre should more sludge be processed; ● space for an additional thickened sludge tank; ● space for additional HpH process; ● space for an additional digester, post-digestion tank and gas bag; ● space for FE heat recovery and cooling; and ● space for carbon capture from the gas to grid plant.
2.2.3	Decommissioning is not proposed to be assessed as there is "no intention to decommission the proposed WWTP at any point in the future". In light of the decommissioning of the existing WWTP the Inspectorate considers that there is at least the potential for future decommissioning of the	The need for decommissioning the existing Cambridge WWTP is set out in full in the Planning Statement (App Doc Ref 7.5), in part due to its location within what has become the urban fringe of Cambridge.

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	Proposed Development and that as such, this requires a description of likely decommissioning solutions to the extent that they can be foreseen (eg the extent of removal of above ground infrastructure and any landscaping etc).	<p>It is unlikely that the proposed WWTP will be decommissioned at any point in the future on the basis that a substantial amount of space on the site have been provided to facilitate future growth.</p> <p>If decommissioning of the proposed WWTP were ever to occur, it would follow a similar sequence to what has been described for the existing Cambridge WWTP, essentially a reversal of the commissioning and construction process, over a much shorter timeline, with the removal of structures to meet whatever design standard is appropriate at the time. This would be highly unlikely to require landscaping or the removal of landscaping as it is extremely unlikely that the proposed WWTP would be decommissioned if the area remains green belt or greenfield. In addition, a new WWTP would need to be constructed before the proposed WWTP is decommissioned, which would require all associated effects to be fully considered.</p>

EIA Consultation

- 1.4.9 The PEIR and PEIR non-technical summary (NTS) were produced as the statutory consultation documents for the section 42 consultation with section 42 consultees during Phase Three Consultation (and also made available for the parallel phase two section 47 statutory consultation). The PEIR comprised the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the Proposed Development. A Digital PEIR was also produced, so that those wishing to view an online version of the PEIR could do so.
- 1.4.10 Details of points raised with regard to specific environmental assessments and how these have been responded to in the ES are given in each topic chapter.

Non-statutory consultation with section 42 bodies

- 1.4.11 In addition to the statutory consultation undertaken, extensive non-statutory consultation has taken place with technical consultees in the EIA process to discuss key impacts, constraints and design changes. This included the formation of multiple Technical Working Groups ('TWG') which covered topics such as Traffic and Access, Biodiversity and Ecology, Water Resources, Landscape and Heritage, Public Rights of Way and Environmental Health. In addition, one-to-one meetings were held where it was considered beneficial to discuss specific issues with technical consultees.
- 1.4.12 The ongoing non-statutory engagement with technical consultees enabled a two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on updates relating to the Proposed Development and enabled the Applicant to consider consultee feedback on the iterative design of the Proposed Development.

1.5 Section 47 local community consultation

Introduction

- 1.5.1 Under section 47 of the Planning Act, the Applicant developed a draft SoCC and consulted on this from 18 February to 19 March 2021. In response to the comments received, the Applicant made changes to the SoCC, and the final SoCC was published on 9 June 2021.
- 1.5.2 Overall, pre-application consultation under section 47 has taken place with:
- the local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Proposed Development;
 - a wide range of community groups, local nature conservation bodies, community interest groups and local business owners; and
 - local elected representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council,

Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and the MPs for South East Cambridgeshire and Cambridge.

- 1.5.3 A full list of section 47 consultees who were consulted with on the Proposed Development is provided in the Consultation Report (App Doc Ref 6.1).

Statutory section 47 consultation

- 1.5.4 Statutory consultation under section 47 ran in two phases. Phase one took place between 23 June to 18 August 2021 (which was referred to at the time as Phase Two Consultation) and phase two took place between 24 February to 27 April 2022 (publicly referred to as Phase Three Consultation). Each phase of consultation allowed a minimum of a 55-day consultation period, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.

- 1.5.5 During Phase Two Consultation there were:

- 1,650 visits to the digital engagement platform and virtual exhibition space, 245 comments to the digital platform, 300 completed hard copy feedback forms, 60 attendees to the community webinars; and
- 39 attendees across the two face-to-face events that were held when Covid-19 restrictions eased.

- 1.5.6 During Phase Three Consultation:

- 122 people attended across the five in person consultation events that were arranged as Covid-19 restrictions eased, 138 visitors to the Digital PEIR, 2,148 visitors to the digital engagement platform and virtual exhibition space, with 151 respondents and 186 completed hard copy feedback forms;
- Further:
 - 4 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners;
 - 28 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation; and
 - No responses were received specifically in relation to the Section 48 notice.

- 1.5.7 The Consultation Report (App Doc Ref 6.1) summarises the general themes of responses by section 47 consultees in Phase One and Phase Two, setting out how and where these are addressed in the ES or through the development design.

Non-statutory section 47 consultation

- 1.5.8 Following the non-statutory consultation with the community and selection of the preferred site for the Proposed Development, a Community Working Group (CWG) was set up to engage and provide updated information with representatives of the community on an ongoing basis and outside of statutory consultation periods.

1.5.9 A number of CWG meetings took place, as outlined in Table 1-2 **Error! Reference source not found.** Initially, two separate groups were established to discuss different matters. Specifically, the Site Area CWG was established to discuss matters involving the siting, design and impacts associated with the Proposed Development within and around the chosen site area, including mitigation and enhancement measures. The Milton and Waterbeach CWG was established to discuss the decommissioning of the current waste water treatment plant and the routing of the transfer tunnel from Milton to the proposed WWTP. This group focused on specific issues raised through the consultation associated with these construction works, such as tunnelling, traffic and access.

1.5.10 Following the first meeting (21 April 2021), the two groups were merged.

Table 1-2: Community Working Group meetings

Meeting	Date
Introductory meeting with Site Area CWG and CWG with Milton and Waterbeach	21 April 2021
Second CWG	2 June 2021
Third CWG	2 December 2021 and 13 December 2021
Fourth CWG	13 January 2022
Fifth CWG	28 June 2022

Get in touch

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You can view all our DCO application documents and updates on the application on The Planning Inspectorate website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/cambridge-waste-water-treatment-plant-relocation/>