

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project  
Anglian Water Services Limited

# Statement of Common Ground: The Environment Agency

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## Document Control

<b>Document title</b>	Statement of Common Ground between Anglian Water Services Limited and The Environment Agency
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## Version History

1	17/06/22	- First draft agreed following end of Consultation Phase 3
2	08/08/22	- Format and font changes Amendments to Groundwater scope and Groundwater contamination as proposed by Environment Agency
3	02/01/23	- Format and font changes. Additions following comments received on revised Water resources Chapter of Environmental Statement, WFD Scoping Report, Drainage Strategy, Flood Risk Assessment and Outfall drawings.
4	06/06/23	- Updates following comments on Outline Decommissioning Strategy.
5	12/10/23	- Update following Submission of Relevant Representations and Rule 6 Letter dated 19 September 2023.
6	01/11/2023	- Update on FRA and Ground Water monitoring proposals.

**This version and earlier versions of the SOCG has been prepared by the Applicant and submitted to the EA for comment. The areas of agreement/disagreement are therefore based upon the EA's technical and planning teams representatives understanding of the position. The SoCG will not be formally agreed until such time as the EA have received express agreement from their in-house legal team.**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (“SoCG”) is submitted as part of an application by Anglian Water Services Limited (“the Applicant”) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (‘the Application’).
- 1.1.2 The Application is for the provision of a new modern, low carbon waste water treatment plant for Greater Cambridge (“The Project”). The project is an enabler of sustainable growth. The relocation of the existing works, from its current site, will unlock the last large brown field site in Greater Cambridge and allow the creation of a new city district and provide much needed housing and commercial space in a sustainable location, with access to transport, jobs and recreational opportunities.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency in its role as Regulator of pollution control and flood risk and statutory consultee and the public body responsible for the protection and improvement of water, land and biodiversity and supporter of sustainable growth.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant has entered into this SoCG to reflect the engagement with the Environment Agency and the technical expertise they have provided in relation to the project. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidance <sup>1</sup> published by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- 1.1.5 To date, the Environment Agency have provided formal views on draft proposals at various stages of the design development.
- 1.1.6 This SoCG has been prepared to identify matters agreed, matters not agreed and matters still in discussion between the Applicant and the Environment Agency. In this SoCG, reference to ‘the parties’ means the Applicant and the Environment Agency.

## 1.2 Approach to the SoCG

- 1.2.1 The SoCG will evolve as the DCO application progresses to submission and through examination. It is structured as follows.
- Section 2 confirms the pre-application consultation undertaken to date between the Applicant and the Environment Agency;
  - Section 3 identifies the relevant documents on which the agreements recorded in this SoCG were reached;
  - Section 4 provides a summary of matters that have been Agreed, is still Under Discussion and Not Agreed;

<b>Agreed</b>	indicates where the issue has been resolved and is recorded in <b>Green</b> and marked <b>“Low”</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/8369/2130206.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8369/2130206.pdf)

<b>Under Discussion</b>	indicates where these issues or points will be the subject of on-going discussion whenever possible to resolve or refine the extent of disagreement between the parties and is recorded in <b>Amber</b> and marked “ <b>medium</b> ”
<b>Not Agreed</b>	indicates a final position and is recorded in <b>Red</b> and marked <b>high</b>

- Section 5 includes the signatures of all parties to confirm their agreement that this SoCG is an accurate record of issues and discussions as at the date of this SoCG.

### 1.3 Status of the SoCG

- 1.3.1 This version of the SoCG represents the position between the Applicant and the Environment Agency as at 6 November 2023, covering the Pre Application, Acceptance and pre-Examination application stage of the process. The SoCG will continue to be reviewed and progressed through Examination as well as any actions arising from the Issue Specific Hearings on the draft DCO.
- 1.3.2 A Principle Areas of Disagreement document (PAD) which will be updated and submitted to the Examining Panel during the examination to reflect matters that remain in discussion or are still not agreed.

## 2 Consultations and Engagement

- 2.1.1 The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency in a series of meetings within a Technical Working Group (TWG) forum and in bilateral meetings on specific issues.
- 2.1.2 A full table recording the engagement that have taken place up to the submission of the dDCO Application in connection with the proposed development and how it has informed the DCO application are set out in full in Appendix 1.
- 2.1.3 The parties now continue to meet monthly to review matters and issues still in discussion

### 3 Documents Considered in this SoCG

3.1.1 In reaching common ground on the matters covered in this SoCG, the parties made reference to the following documents.

- Pre - Application EPR permit and response from the Environment Agency;
- Hydrological Impact Assessment dated 21 February 2021 Mott MacDonald, Hydrogeological Impact Assessment 415458 0 C, dated 01/02/2021.
- WFD – Mott Macdonald Report entitled “WFD Approach: Items requiring agreement with the Environment Agency. Dated April 2022; Author Mona Cowman.
- Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project – Network modelling Report – Spills to the watercourse” Reference 123239; Author Annelle Buchanan and Dan Buxton. Dated March 2022.
- Draft Water Resources Chapter of Environmental Statement 5.2.20
- Water Framework Directive Scoping Report
- Draft Outline Drainage Strategy v6,18/10/2022
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Preliminary Outfall Drawings
- Outline Drainage Strategy dated April 2023(App Doc Ref Appendix 2.3)
- Proposed Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

## 4 Summary and Status of Agreement

**Table 4.1: details the summary and status of matters agreed by topic.**

Topic	Status	Record of agreement
<p><b>Hydrological Impact Assessment (HIA)</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the structure and content of the HIA undertaken for the purposes of site selection.</p>	Low	Graham Phillips email to Kathryn Taylor dated 16 December 2020
<p><b>Flood Risk Assessment</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the need for a detailed Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to be submitted with the DCO. The assessment will cover the NPA's<sup>2</sup> requirements and the NPPF<sup>3</sup> guidance, to include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- modelling work to ensure a reduction in current and future flood risks in areas of the catchment downstream of the site,</li> <li>- the design flood standard will be 1:100 and will consider climate change and</li> <li>- the FRA modelling will be used to assess the impact of the new discharge which includes the transfer from Waterbeach, on river levels and flooding.</li> </ul>	Low	Chris Swain email to the Applicant dated 21 June 2021 and TWG 19 August 2021
<p>The FRA submitted with the DCO makes use of the Fluvial Model Report outputs and the Mixing Model outputs, of which the former relies on the use of a model obtained from the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency have raised the issue that the fluvial model provided to the Applicant dates from 2013 and that there have been no modifications to the model for the site-specific study. The Environment Agency have advised in their Relevant Representations that new modelling would be available from 30 September 2023.</p> <p>This modelling was received on 10 October. The Applicant has begun the process of undertaking further modelling. The EA appreciate that AWS are now aiming to submit the model assessment and the amended FRA by Deadline 3. The EA has concerns that because the new River Cam model does represent an increase in flood levels and flows, particularly through Cambridge</p>	High	<u>Meeting 12 October 2023</u>

<sup>2</sup> National Planning Statement for Waste Water section 4.4.4 and 4.4.7

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69505/pb13709-waste-water-nps.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69505/pb13709-waste-water-nps.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> NPPF section 160 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf)

Topic	Status	Record of agreement
<p>itself, that if this information is provided later than by Deadline 3 and there are any issues with the revised FRA that need to be addressed and resolved, that the EA will not have sufficient review time during the appropriate Examination stage. Particularly as the associated model will need signing of from their modellers, which can take up to four weeks. The EA will aim to review the amended FRA by Deadline 4. The EA can only accept the FRA if the model has been considered fit for purpose. If the FRA is still unacceptable and/or the model not fit for purpose, then the EA would essentially be objecting on flood risk grounds and would not have sufficient information to be able to suggest an appropriate Requirement.</p>		
<p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that the FRAP should be actioned through the EPR permit system rather than through the protective provisions of the DCO.</p>		<p>Meeting 30 March 2022</p>
<p><b>Drainage Strategy</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that the Drainage strategy is acceptable. It is agreed that following further assessment of site-specific ground and groundwater conditions the use of infiltration SUDs is now not being considered.</p>		<p>Meeting 9 December 2022 and letter dated 21 December 2022</p>
<p><b>Storm Water Management Proposals</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that if the proposed storm management measures and associated modelling for the CWWRP presented in the meeting on 22 February and in the report, entitled “Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project – Network modelling Report – Spills to the watercourse” Reference 123239, are submitted in (water quality) permit application which accords with the measures and modelling detailed in the report, that the Environment Agency do not foresee any reason, from a storm management perspective why the permit will not be granted. The water quality, final effluent permit was submitted by the Applicant to the Environment Agency on 9 September 2023.</p>		<p>Jeremy Hay email dated 25 April 2022 to Kathryn Taylor.</p>
<p><b>Industrial Emission Permit</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the IED application and assessment of containment requirements. IED Application submitted to Environment Agency March 2023. This has been returned and an enhanced preapplication process is now underway to identify appropriate next steps for the resubmission of the Application. This will involve identifying further information sought and dates for submission of the revised application.</p>		
<p>The Applicant, following further advise from The Environment Agency has now begun work required for an enhanced pre-application for re submission.</p>		<p>10 October 2023</p>



Topic	Status	Record of agreement
<p><b>Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan.</b></p> <p>The Applicant has prepared a ground water monitoring plan in response to representations made by the Environment Agency a further document to add to the dDCO Application which sets out the scope and duration of monitoring of groundwater and related surface water features in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the CWWTPR. It supports the position presented in the Environmental Statement Volume 2 Chapter 20 -Water Resources (App Doc Ref 5.2.20) states that <i>'The scope and duration of borehole water level and quality monitoring will be agreed with all relevant stakeholder before works commence'</i>. This has been shared for comment and now agreed. The finalised version will be shared with The Environment Agency at Deadline 1 for final agreement.</p> <p>The Parties are discussing if the mechanism for securing the monitoring plan within the DCO and Requirement 22 is appropriate.</p>		Meeting 24 October 2023
<p><b>Discharge Point</b></p> <p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree there will be no potential impact on water quality with the relocation of the discharge point from its current location to a new location on the opposite bank of the River Cam.</p>		Email Katie Baxter to Mark Taylor 8.12.20
<p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the methodology assessment and identification of the location and design of the discharge point and the need for scour assessment.</p> <p>The Applicant has considered scour in the Water Resources Chapter of the ES, Appendix Outfall CFD Report (App Doc Ref 5.4.20.7)</p>		Working Group for Water Quality held on 14 October 2021. <u>Review of this and resolution will be added to November monthly meeting 16 November 2023.</u>
<p><b>Private Boreholes</b></p> <p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that the surveys undertaken in relation to private boreholes is acceptable and there are only two residences that will require non derogation agreements to be entered into to ensure groundwater protection.</p>		Meeting 10 June 2022
<p><b>Water Framework Directive</b></p> <p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency have agree the scope and approach of the WFD. The final WFD Assessment report (App Doc Ref 5.4.20.3) has been shared between the parties and is acceptable.</p>		Email from Kathryn Taylor to Keira Murphy dated 12 April and email from Keira Murphy to Kathryn Taylor dated 29 April 2022
<p><b>Biodiversity and Ecology</b></p> <p>The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the proposed species for surveys and scoping</p>		

Topic	Status	Record of agreement
assessment, the indicative design proposals for consultation and initial landscape and ecology proposals for consultation.		Biodiversity TWG 11 June 2021
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree with the principles on Biodiversity Net Gain approach and the use of Defra metric 3.1.		Biodiversity TWG 18 November 2021
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the mitigation proposed and main commitments presented in the Landscape, Ecological and Recreational Management Plan (LERMP) and riverbank protection works required at the outfall and further modelling work required and design development to minimise loss to the riverbank.		Biodiversity TWG 3 February 2022
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the biodiversity assessment criteria, baseline data and proposed mitigation.		Biodiversity TWG 26 April 2022
<b>Decommissioning</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency have held an initial meeting to identify requirements and standards the Environment Agency expect for surrender of the existing environmental permits at the waste water treatment plant on Cowley Road, Milton.		Meeting 10 June 2022
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that Appendix 2.3 Outline Decommissioning Plan (April 2023) adequately sets out the decommissioning process and follows the guidance that the Environment Agency would expect the Applicant to follow to ensure the existing waste water treatment plant on Cowley Road, Milton is in a satisfactory state prior to surrendering the permit. The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that the Environment Agency will require confirmation that the decommissioning plan has been followed prior to surrender.		Letter Environment Agency to the Applicant dated 26 May 2023.
<b>Consents and other Permits</b> The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the content of the Consents and Other permits (App Doc Ref 7.1) and that the need, timing and type of permits from the Environment Agency as issuing authority is accurate. The Environment Agency has recommended that although this is likely to only be for temporary use, with current restrictions on availability of water, the Applicant should issue the requests for the Water Abstraction Licence for construction and miscellaneous testing, installation and the water Impoundment Licence at this stage rather than at the more typical point of construction. These Applications will be submitted by the Applicant with the best estimates of timing and volumes that are possible at this early stage.		Email Kiera Murphy to Kathryn Taylor 7 March 2023.

## 5 Matters still under discussion

**Table 5.1: details the summary and status of matters still under discussion**

Matter	Actions
<p><b>Biodiversity and river bank impacts</b>            Minimising impacts to the grazing marsh and river bank and the final net gain calculation for those habitats are being considered.</p>	<p>Review of this and resolution will be added to November monthly meeting 16 November 2023.</p>
<p><b>PRA</b>            As the development involves underground final effluent and storm water pipelines, there is the potential risk of sub-water table transmission of pollutants within principal and secondary aquifers. The Environment Agency have now reviewed the Preliminary Risk Assessment (Mott Macdonald, dated 26 January 2022) and agree with the overall conclusions and support the recommendations in Section 6.3 for the next steps. Section 6.3 has identified appropriate actions for further intrusive site investigation work and foundation works risk assessments as well as actions for dewatering and the management of excavated material. These will need to be provided either as part of the DCO application or conditioned as ‘requirements’ for the post-DCO consent stage.</p>	<p>PRA has been reviewed by Environment Agency July 2022.            Con Sim modelling to be shared with Environment Agency. The actions specified in Section 6.3 of the PRA should be followed to ensure the risk to controlled waters is avoided/minimised. This sets out the next step for intrusive site investigation, assessment and remediation and foundation risk assessments (including actions for dewatering and management of excavated material).            Review of this and resolution will be added to monthly meeting on 16 November 2023.</p>
<p><b>Design and Engineering Proposals</b>            The Applicant and the Environment Agency continue to discuss the design/engineering proposals for the shaft and tunnels.            Primary groundwater protection mitigation measures for the shafts and pipelines are set out in table 2.6 of the Draft Water Resources Chapter 5.2.20.</p>	<p>Request in Section 42 Response and letter dated 21 December 2022.</p>
<p><b>CoCP</b>            The Applicant and the Environment Agency continue to discuss appropriate standard mitigation methods to limit contamination or pollution of groundwater and surface watercourses are set out in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).</p>	<p>Updates to CoCP and CEMP to be shared with Environment Agency as appropriate to confirm they are adequate.</p>
<p><b>Construction dewatering Consents and permits</b>            The Environment Agency has recommended that the Applicant issued the requests for dewatering permits at this stage rather than at the point of construction. These</p>	

**Matter**

Applications will be submitted by the Applicant with the best estimates of timing and volumes that are possible at this early stage.

**Water Supply requirements and mitigation**

The Applicant to show what the water needs are for the new facility and how the development will minimise impact on potable demand for water and show consideration for alternative sources of water. On site storage and appropriate water efficiency re-use for buildings on site. Requested in letter dated 21 December 2022.

**Actions**

The new facility is replacing the existing works so no additional demand to the water supply will be made. Water efficiency standards and water consumption estimates to be provided.

# 6 Agreement on this SoCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly agreed by:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of:** Anglian Water Services Limited

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position:**

**On behalf of:** The Environment Agency

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1

**Table 1:1 Schedule of engagement undertaken to date with the Environment Agency**

Date	Details
January 2018 – July 2019	Informal discussions between the Applicant and the Environment Agency to identify background to the project, current position with the Housing Infrastructure Funding (“HIF”) application and need to identify permit standards to maintain water quality to inform design standards for HIF business case. Pre- Application submitted on [ ] and Indicative standards proposed were in principle acceptable to establish the parameters of the intended standards for the final EPR permit as confirmed on [ ] .
24 September 2019	Meeting between the Applicant and the Environment Agency to introduce the project. Discussion around topics and issues that will require technical support of Environment Agency and need for Pre application funding to cover resources, current position on site selection process and project programme.
Meeting 3 Nov 2020	The Applicant produced and submitted to the Environment Agency an overview of the potential impacts on surface water and groundwater water resources of relocating the Cambridge WWTP to one of the three selected site areas in the site selection process. The Environment Agency indicated that a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment (HIA) should be carried out to support the selection of a final site for the relocation of Cambridge WWTP. As a result, the Applicant commissioned the production of a report following a meeting with Environment Agency to discuss content and supporting data.
11 Dec 2020	Email from the Applicant to Environment Agency attaching the outline structure of the HIA for approval
16 December 2022	Email from the Environment Agency to the Applicant confirming the outline structure of HIA accepted.
4 February 2021	Email enclosing draft HIA sent to the Environment Agency for further comment
24 February 2021	Letter from the Environment Agency to the Applicant setting out comments on the final version of the HIA in support of site selection.
21 June 2021	Email exchange between the Environment Agency and the Applicant regarding innovative design approach to storm management and intention to agree position in principle to support application for final EPR Permit. The Applicant and Environment Agency agree design approach can be considered but further modelling and spill calculations will be required.
4 October 2021	The Applicant preparation of report detailing network modelling and spill calculations sent to Environment Agency.
2 December 2021	The Applicant presented and shared with the Environment Agency information for discussion on storm management proposals to detail the full flow to treatment network modelling results of storm spills to CWWTPrpand existing Milton WRC storm spills together with the modelling results. The meeting included a focused discussion on storm management options and next steps sought.

Date	Details
6 January 2022	The Environment Agency can accept the 20,400 storm figure presented as opposed to the 23,000 figure in the pre-application. 20,400 is, however, the minimum expectation. The Environment Agency need to see a clearer story about the storage numbers in the tunnel and what the volume is and spill calculations. This is to be reviewed and prepared by the Applicant in further report and modelling work.
22 February 2022	The Applicant and Environment Agency final meeting to review calculations. Storage in tunnel an acceptable proposal and network modelling and spill calculations agreed. The Applicant and Environment Agency agree that Environment Agency will confirm this position in written note to include in SoCG.
14 March 2022	The Applicant send the updated report entitled " <i>Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project – Network modelling Report – Spills to the watercourse</i> " to the Environment Agency for final review and any further comment.
KT to check dates with KR/SR [April 2021 – December 2022]	The Applicant and the Environment Agency hold monthly meetings regarding new IED requirements to identify timing of IED application and assessment of containment requirements. Application completed 22 December 2021. Application submitted by the Applicant January 2022 to the Environment Agency with expectation for duly made status summer 2022
15 August 2022	Outline Drainage Strategy shared with Environment Agency and comments received. Recommendations for Sustainable Drainage System and infiltration SUDs provided.
9 December 2022	TWG meeting to discuss revised Water Resources Chapter of Environmental Statement, WFD Scoping Report, Drainage Strategy, Flood Risk Assessment and Outfall Drawings - preview provided prior to Development Consent Order submission.

## Get in touch

You can contact us by:



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Calling our Freephone information line on **0808 196 1661**



Writing to us at **Freepost: CWWTPR**



Visiting our website at [www.cwwtpr.com](http://www.cwwtpr.com)

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/cambri-dge-waste-water-treatment-plant-relocation/>