

**Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project Anglian Water Services Limited** 

# Statement of Common Ground: The Environment Agency

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## **Document Control**

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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	06/06/22		Updates following comments on Outline Decommissioning
4	06/06/23	-	Strategy.
			Update following Submission of Relevant Representations
5	12/10/23	_	and Rule 6 Letter dated 19 September 2023.
	12/10/23		and hale o letter dated 15 september 2025.
6	01/11/2023	-	Update on FRA and Ground Water monitoring proposals.
7	29/11/2023		Update on Water Quality Monitoring Plan for Deadline 2
8	02/04/2024		Update on position for Deadline 6

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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;

Agreed	indicates where the issue has been resolved and is recorded
	in Green and marked "Low"

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

 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 final position between the Applicant and the Environment Agency as at 2 April 2024, covering the Pre Application, Acceptance Examination stage of the process. This version represents the final position between the parties at Deadline 6. There remains the outstanding issue relating to the agreement of the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). In order to finalise this SoCG for submission at the end of the Examination, any further submissions regarding the FRA by the parties will be made separately.
  - 1.3.2 The Environment Agency has advised that it is concerned that they will not have sufficient time to review the revised FRA before the end of the Examination given the modelling was not provided until 19 March and the FRA was not provided until 25 March. The Environment Agency is also concerned that if a mitigation strategy is not included in the revised FRA, the FRA will be unacceptable and the Environment Agency would be objecting on flood risk grounds

A Principle Areas of Disagreement document (PAD) which will be updated and submitted to the Examining Panel during the examination to reflect matters than remain in discussion or are still not agreed.

# **Consultations and Engagement**

The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency in a series of meeting within a Technical Working Group (TWG) forum and in bilateral meetings on specific issues.

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.

The parties now continue to meet monthly or as required to review matters and issues still in discussion to reach final agreement before the close of the Examination period.

# **Documents Considered in this SoCG**

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.
- Water Resources Chapter of Environmental Statement(App Doc Ref 5.2.20)
   [REP4-036]
- Water Framework Directive Scoping Report
- Outline Drainage Strategy v6,18/10/2022 (App Doc Ref 5.4.20.12) [REP4-074]
- Flood Risk Assessment (Ap Doc Ref 5.4.20.1) [AS-187] and
- Preliminary Outfall Drawings Design Plans (App Doc Ref 4.13) Outfall CFD Report (Ap Doc Ref 5.4.20.7)
- Outline Outfall Management Plan [REP4-060]
- Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan [REP5 -083].
- Outline Decommissioning Plan (App Doc Ref 5.4.2.3) [REP4-044].

# 2 Summary and Status of Agreement

Table 2.1: details the summary and status of matters agreed by topic.

Topic	Status	Record of agreement
Hydrological Impact Assessment (HIA)	Low	Graham Phillips email to Kathryn
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the structure and content of the HIA undertaken for the purposes of site selection.		Taylor dated 16 December 2020
Flood Risk Assessment	Low	Chris Swain email to the Applicant
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the need for a detailed Flood Risk		dated 21 June 2021 and TWG 19
Assessment (FRA) to be submitted with the DCO. The assessment will cover the NPA's <sup>2</sup>		August 2021
requirements and the NPPF <sup>3</sup> guidance, to include but not limited to:		
- modelling work to ensure a reduction in current and future flood risks in areas of		
the catchment downstream of the site,		
<ul> <li>the design flood standard will be 1:100 and will consider climate change and</li> </ul>		
- 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.		

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

NPPF section 160 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\_July\_2021.pdf

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.

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 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.

A further model scenario was requested to provide comparative scenario with either the baseline adjusted to include future growth or the proposed adjusted to remove future growth. The baseline with future growth option was chosen.

As with the original submission flow calculations from AW's sewer model were not provided. However, the reported peak values match those applied to the model. The Waterbeach outfall inflow has also been included.

High

The Updated FRA is not agreed and is under review by the Environment Agency.

Model results for this additional 'baseline future' scenario are acceptable to the EA. A full review of the updated FRA and this additional model scenario is now sought and this is intended to be available to the EA for 11 March 2024.

The Environment Agency have advised that it has concerns that the modelling and FRA indicate there will be an increase in flood risk to third party land and properties downstream of the site when future planned growth in the catchment up to the year 2050 is included. The EA has advised that a mitigation strategy must be included in the FRA to ensure there is no increase in flood risk downstream of the site in the future" (as discussed and agreed in meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February).

The Applicant's position remains that relocating the waste water treatment plant will not significantly increase flood risk. The modelling supporting the FRA shows, through the "Existing with Growth" model runs, that any additional flooding arising in the 2040s would occur regardless of the relocation of the WWTP.

A mitigation strategy was considered following the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March and the mitigation pathway that the Applicant is proposing is set out in the Applicants Position Statement submitted at Deadline 6.

The Applicant believes that future flood risk arising from increased waste water flows in combination with comparatively rare storm events cannot be the sole responsibility of sewage undertakers; to do so would inflict significant additional expense on customers through the development of disproportionately sized infrastructure. It is preferable to manage flood risk upstream, rather than downstream at the "last line of defence". The future levels of waste water flows are best managed at source, through the planning system and in accordance with planning policy; for example, through the application of *Grampian* type conditions in respect of drainage schemes for new developments, through appropriate separation of surface water drainage and/or through policies for

enhanced maximum per capita consumption levels for dwellings in local plans, which are then implemented through development management.		
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.	Low	Meeting 30 March 2022
Drainage Strategy 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.	Low	Meeting 9 December 2022 and letter dated 21 December 2022
Storm Water Management Proposals  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.	Low	Jeremy Hay email dated 25 April 2022 to Kathryn Taylor.
Industrial Emission Permit  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 enhanced pre-application has now been submitted and accepted by the EA.	Low	This permit application will now follow the appropriate process within the National Permitting Team.

Outline Water Quality Monitoring Plan (App Doc Ref 5.4.20.3) [REP4-044] 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 'The scope and duration of borehole water level and quality monitoring will be agreed with all relevant stakeholder before works commence'. The finalised version has been shared with The Environment Agency at Deadline 1 for final agreement and this is now agreed	Low	Agreed
The Parties have discussed if the mechanism for securing the monitoring plan within the DCO and Requirement 22 is appropriate and this is now agreed	Low	
<b>Discharge Point</b> 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.	Low	Email Katie Baxter to Mark Taylor 8.12.20
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.	Low	Working Group for Water Quality held on 14 October 2021.  Meeting 16 November 2023.
The Applicant has considered scour in the Water Resources Chapter of the ES, Appendix Outfall CFD Report (App Doc Ref 5.4.20.7) [REP4-036]		
Private Boreholes 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.	Low	Meeting 10 June 2022

Water Framework Directive  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.	Low	Email from Kathryn Taylor to Keira Murphy dated 12 April and email from Keira Murphy to Kathryn Taylor dated 29 April 2022
Biodiversity and Ecology  The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the proposed species for surveys and scoping assessment, the indicative design proposals for consultation and initial landscape and ecology proposals for consultation.	Low	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.	Low	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.	Low	Biodiversity TWG 3 February 2022
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree the biodiversity assessment criteria, baseline data and proposed mitigation.	Low	Biodiversity TWG 26 April 2022
Decommissioning 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.	Low	Meeting 10 June 2022
The Applicant and the Environment Agency agree that Appendix 2.3 Outline Decommissioning Plan (April 2023) [REP 4-044) 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		Letter Environment Agency to the Applicant dated 26 May 2023.

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.  Consents and other Permits  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	Low	Email Kiera Murphy to Kathryn Taylor 7 March 2023.
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.  PRA  The PRA has been reviewed by the EA along with the supporting Con Sim modelling.	Low	The EA has now further comments on the PRA.
Construction dewatering Consents and permits and impoundment license The Environment Agency has recommended that the Applicant issue the requests for dewatering permits and impoundment license at this stage rather than at the point of construction. These Applications have now been 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.		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 have been provided. The Applicant

has confirmed that water efficiency standards will be met. The EA does not have any outstanding concerns regarding impacts to water resources from the Proposed Development.

## 3 Matters still under discussion

Table 3.1: details the summary and status of matters still under discussion

Matter	Actions
Biodiversity and river bank impacts	Review of this and resolution will be added to
Minimising impacts to the grazing marsh and river bank and the final net gain calculation for those habitats are being considered.	November monthly meeting 16 November 2023.
	A reedbed system at the outfall would be
	beneficial. The EA consider it a missed
	opportunity to create habitat if it is not proposed
	The BNG calculations and the proposals to purchase further off site river units (secured within Requirement 9) is agreed.
Design and Engineering Proposals	
The Applicant and the Environment Agency continue to discuss the	Request in Section 42 Response and letter dated
design/engineering proposals for the shaft and tunnels.	21 December 2022.
Primary groundwater protection mitigation measures for the shafts and	The Environment Agency have no further
pipelines are set out in table 2.6 of the Draft Water Resources Chapter 5.2.20.	comments on the design proposals.

Matter Actions

#### CoCP

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).

Updates to CoCP and CEMP to be shared with Environment Agency as appropriate to confirm they are adequate and will be managed through the discharge of requirements and the water quality monitoring management plan [REP4-044]

# 4 Agreement on this SoCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly agreed by:

Name:	Mark Malcom
Signature:	
Position:	Programme Director Major Infrastructure
On behalf of:	Anglian Water Services Limited
Date:	11/04/2024
Name:	Neville Benn
Signature:	
-	
Position:	Planning Specialist
On behalf of:	The Environment Agency
Date:	11/04/2024

# **Appendix 1**

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

Date	<b>Details</b>
January 2018 – July	Informal discussions between the Applicant and the Environment Agency to identify background to the project, current position with the
2019	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	Meeting between the Applicant and the Environment Agency to introduce the project. Discussion around topics and issues that will
2019	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	The Applicant produced and submitted to the Environment Agency an overview of the potential impacts on surface water and
3 Nov 2020	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	0 7 11 0
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	The Applicant presented and shared with the Environment Agency information for discussion on storm management proposals to detail
2021	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	<b>Details</b>
6 January	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,
2022	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 "Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project – Network modelling Report – Spills to the watercourse" to the Environment Agency for final review and any further comment.
KT to check dates with	The Applicant and the Environment Agency hold monthly meetings regarding new IED requirements to identify timing of IED application and assessment of containment requirements.
KR/SR [April 2021 –	Application completed 22 December 2021. Application submitted by the Applicant January 2022 to the Environment Agency with expectation for duly made status summer 2022
December 2022]	
15 August	Outline Drainage Strategy shared with Environment Agency and comments received. Recommendations for Sustainable Drainage System and
2022	infiltration SUDs provided.
9 December	TWG meeting to discuss revised Water Resources Chapter of Environmental Statement, WFD Scoping Report, Drainage Strategy, Flood Risk
2022	Assessment and Outfall Drawings - preview provided prior to Development Consent Order submission.



# Get in touch

#### You can contact us by:



Emailing at info@cwwtpr.com



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



Writing to us at Freepost: CWWTPR



Visiting our website at 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/cambridge-waste-water-treatment-plant-relocation/

