



Meeting note

Project name	Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation (CWWTPR)
File reference	WW01003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	29 June 2022
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

Anglian Water ('the Applicant') explained that they had conducted site visits to the existing Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant with landowners and other interested parties to help them to understand how different odour units and odour sources can be perceived.

The Inspectorate queried the Applicant's approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as it is not currently a requirement for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Applicant advised that Anglian Water has a commitment of a minimum 10% target for projects across the business. As per the previous meeting, the result is approximately 20% for the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Applicant explained that the most up to date metrics have been used in the BNG calculations, and that it had shared this with the Local Authority Ecology Officers and Natural England.

Statement of Common Ground Update

The Applicant has held Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) workshop meetings with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge County Council and Cambridge City Council to assist with the Local Impact Report (LIR).

The workshop meetings covered Ecology, Landscape and Heritage, Environmental Health, Carbon, Public Health and Communities, Public Rights of Way and Water Technology.



First drafts of the SoCG are currently with or being sent out to other technical stakeholders although discussions continue and agreements are yet to be made. The Applicant is seeking initial responses and amendments by the end of July 2022.

Technical stakeholders include,

- The Environment Agency
- National Highways
- Natural England
- The Internal Drainage Board
- The National Trust
- UKPN
- Cadent Gas
- Historic England
- The Cam Conservators

The Applicant stated that the Cam Conservators are appointed as the navigation authority. The Inspectorate queried whether agreements will be in place with the Cam Conservators ahead of submission. The Applicant advised that they will seek to conclude a SoCG with the Cam Conservators.

Phase Three Consultation – 24 February 2022 to 27 April 2022

The Applicant stated that the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was made available online and was well received.

Overall, feedback during phase three consultation was slightly less numerous than in phase two but the Applicant believes this is down to there being a greater level of local engagement at this stage.

During phase 3 consultation, the Applicant received 890 items of feedback, with 122 attendees across community consultation events and 16 attendees to a community webinar. The virtual exhibition received 540 views, while the digital engagement platform had 1608 visitors.

Key areas of feedback received were,

- Requests for further data on items such as the decommissioning of the existing facility;
- Requests for the use of sustainable materials;
- Suggestions for further mitigation of odour, such as tree planting and requests for further modelling to be conducted;
- Feedback on selected vehicle access to the site and comments on proposed traffic management measures;
- Feedback on proposed management measures, including monitoring, compliance and communication throughout;



- Suggestions for additional planting and screening, including increased screening height and early timing of planting during the construction phase;
- The relationship between the use of recreational facilities and odour mitigation; and
- Mixed feedback on the frequency of use and access to the Discovery Centre.

Improvements to Visual Impact

The Applicant stated that following on from the previous design freeze the heights of the proposed WWTP structures and buildings had been reduced by reducing the finished ground level from between 0.5 to 1 metres below current ground level. The Applicant is continuing to consider ways in which the heights of the tallest items of plant might be reduced in response to the consultation feedback received, the conclusions of this will be explained in the application.

Further to the above, the Applicant also made a number of design changes in response to the feedback received at Phase 3 as follows,

- The woodland has been made rectilinear to reflect local landscape character, while retaining glades.
- Initial planting is to now include semi-mature and heavy standard trees
- Scrapes are to be added to the base for planting Birch and Black Poplar trees.

The Inspectorate queried if there are any areas that the Applicant may not be able to reach an agreement with stakeholders on. The Applicant advised that water quality may be an area of contention, specifically Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), however the Applicant advised that they believe they have made good progress on identifying and addressing issues.

The Inspectorate queried whether there has been progress with other licenses and consents (for example, discharge permits). The Applicant advised that the Environment Agency is working on a 1 year timeframe to consider a permit once the permit application has been received. The Applicant has submitted the permit application to the Environment Agency for the final effluent discharge consent for the new facility. The Applicant is engaged with the Environment Agency to ensure that they are able to provide any further information required.

The Applicant advised that they have also submitted an Environmental Permit application in December 2021 for an Industrial Emissions Directive permit for the existing Cambridge WWTP. This is as a result of changes made to the directive in 2021 which brought a number of new activities under the Directive that previously had been regulated by the Environmental Permitting Regulations. The Applicant will include a “consents and other permits” register within the DCO application which will cover all construction and operational consents and permits sought both within the power of the DCO and outside it.

Review of the DCO review questionnaire



The Inspectorate and the Applicant discussed the DCO review questionnaire received and clarified some of the questions that have been posed to The Inspectorate.

Next steps

The Applicant is proposing to run a targeted consultation to address minor changes in the proposed project order limits, which is due to start on 4 July 2022. Due to the minor nature of the changes, the Applicant is proposing that the statutory 28 day period will be sufficient.

The planned consultation mainly relates to access arrangements or extending areas subject to access rights or acquisitions and some category 3 persons will now be category 1.

The Applicant stated that the DCO design is now frozen, however they will continue to engage with stakeholders moving forwards. The Applicant also confirmed the DCO application will be digital and will confirm this in writing.

A live tracker of all documentation through examination phase will be used and this will include a section which links to the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS) paragraphs.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be in September 2022.