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Delivering our shared ambition

A shared ambition to create a lasting, positive legacy

At Anglian Water, our Purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop. The two new reservoirs we're proposing in Lincolnshire and the Cambridgeshire Fens will help us continue to do exactly that.

As well as securing water supply for future generations, they could enhance the environment and support the health, wellbeing and future economic prosperity of our customers.

But we know they can be even more.

Our vision is to create amazing new places where water, people and nature can come together.

These projects represent a significant investment in England's water infrastructure and are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver lasting benefits.

Many of our existing reservoirs, such as Rutland Water and Grafham Water, are great places to explore, a haven for wildlife, and provide opportunities to learn and get closer to nature. Our plan is for the new reservoirs to deliver benefits just like these.

They have the potential to be transformational for nearby communities, supporting healthy lifestyles with access to outdoor space and nature. They have potential to support economic growth and strengthen placemaking opportunities for local areas, creating attractive destinations with recreational activities and diverse opportunities for local businesses. They could also support large-scale nature restoration, and help us protect and enhance the environment.

We're committed to working with communities as the designs develop, and have made sure they have had a say since an early stage in the projects. So far, local people have told us that the reservoirs should deliver local benefits, while being developed in a way that is sensitive to people, place and the environment.

We know that our regulators and local and regional partners also want to make sure the reservoirs deliver wider benefits beyond a resilient supply of water.

That's why we've called this document '**our shared ambition**' – the shared ambition of Anglian Water and Cambridge Water (for the reservoir in the Fens), our customers, local and central government, and wider stakeholders. This shared ambition is at the heart of our goal to create a lasting, positive legacy for our region.

Turning ambition into reality is an important responsibility, and we understand the impact and uncertainty that these long-term projects create for local residents, landowners and surrounding communities.

We are working with all our stakeholders to ensure the reservoirs' wider benefits reflect a variety of needs and aspirations, and to minimise impacts on local communities and the environment during construction.

It takes planning and clear decision making, careful assessment and thoughtful design to achieve all this - not just for the reservoirs themselves, but for the infrastructure needed to operate them.

This document provides more information about how we will do that. It covers our plans and commitments as a business, the direction we are given by regional water resources planning, and government policy which guides our decisions.

> **It's a challenge we will take on with the care and sensitivity it requires, and we look forward to delivering on this shared ambition.**

Robin Price
Director of Quality and Environment

Introduction

We’re investing in two new reservoirs – one in Lincolnshire, and another in the Fens in partnership with Cambridge Water. These major investments present significant social, economic and environmental opportunities for communities and the whole of the East of England.

They’ll secure a reliable supply of water for the future and create new opportunities for the region to thrive. The new reservoirs will allow us to store extra water we need for decades to come, so it’s always on tap when we need it.

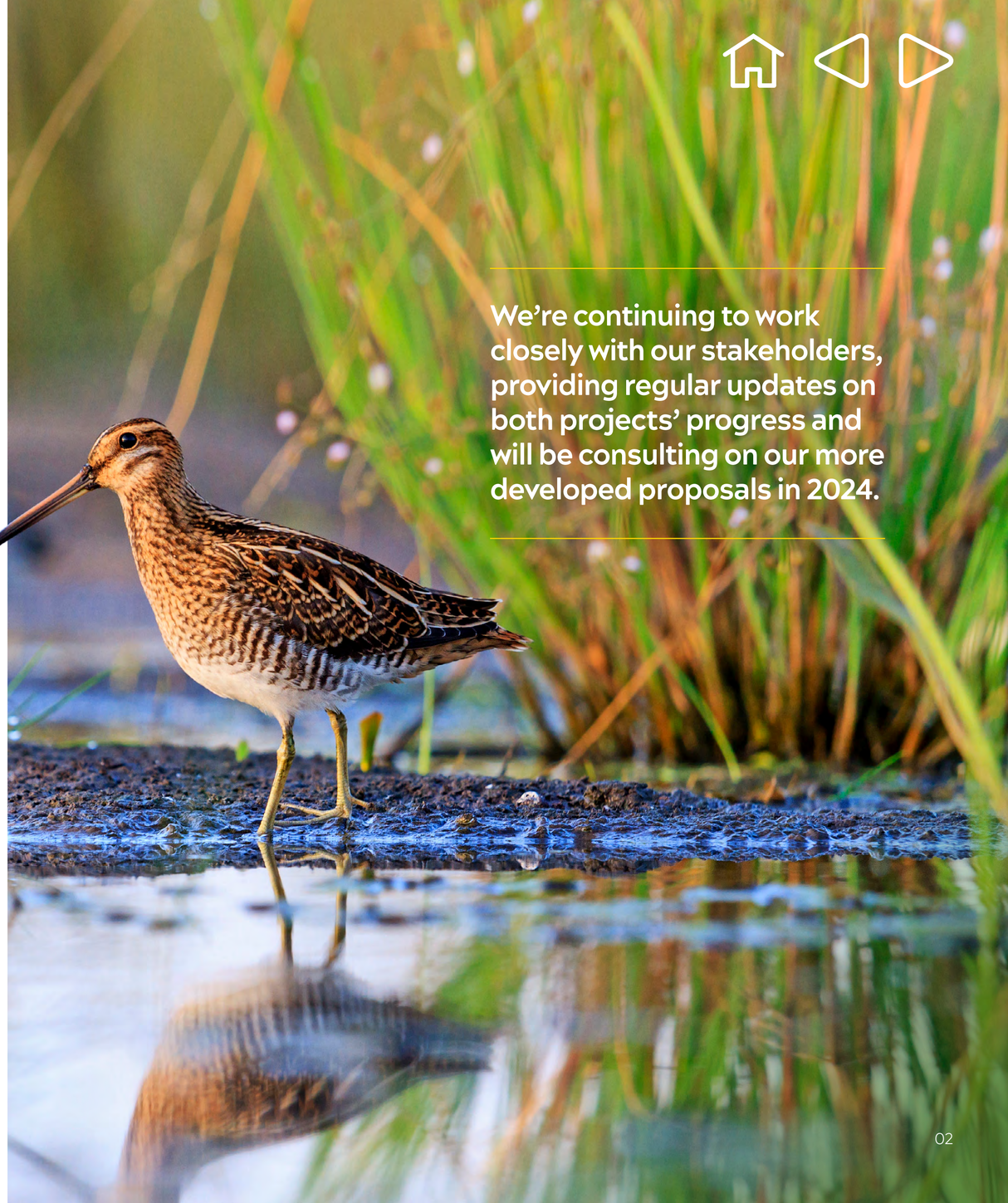
Reservoirs provide a level of resilience, volume of water, and environmental opportunities that are not provided by other resource options such as desalination or water reuse. They also reduce the reliance on groundwater sources, which enables groundwater recovery, such as to chalk streams.

We completed multiple stages of assessments to identify locations that would be suitable for the reservoirs, while reducing impacts on communities and meeting planning and regulatory requirements.

In late 2022, we held our first phase of consultation on the sites we identified for the reservoirs and their early concept designs. Using the feedback we received, we’re now developing more detailed designs.

Find out more about the projects:

- Fens Reservoir
- Lincolnshire Reservoir



We’re continuing to work closely with our stakeholders, providing regular updates on both projects’ progress and will be consulting on our more developed proposals in 2024.

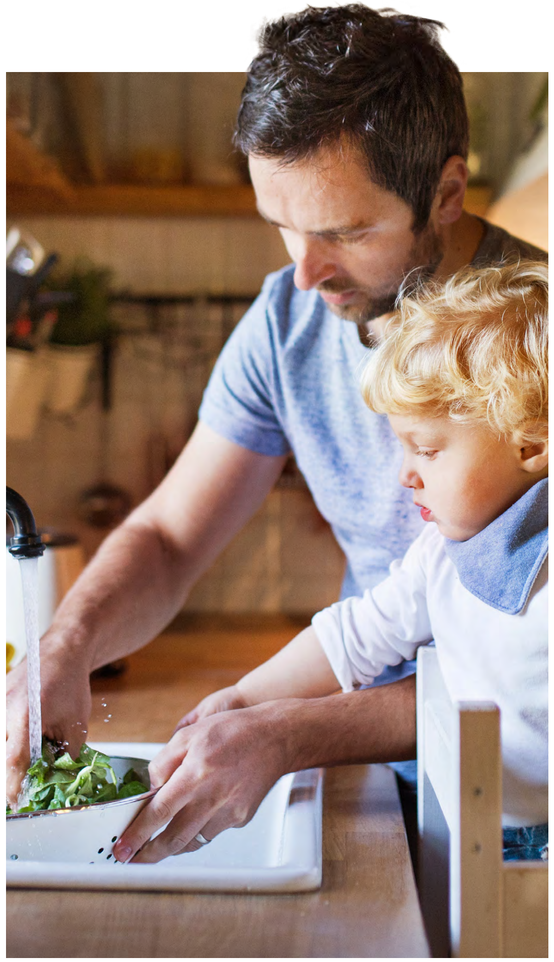
A framework for development

In 2020, the way we planned future water supplies in England was transformed with the National Framework for Water Resources.

This requires water companies and other large water users to collaborate across boundaries and develop plans that consider water needs at a regional level. This joined-up approach makes sure that regional plans fit together to provide a national solution.

There are five regional water resource groups – in our region, it's **Water Resources East (WRE)**. Regional plans set out more detail on the water supplies for the region, including the needs of the environment.

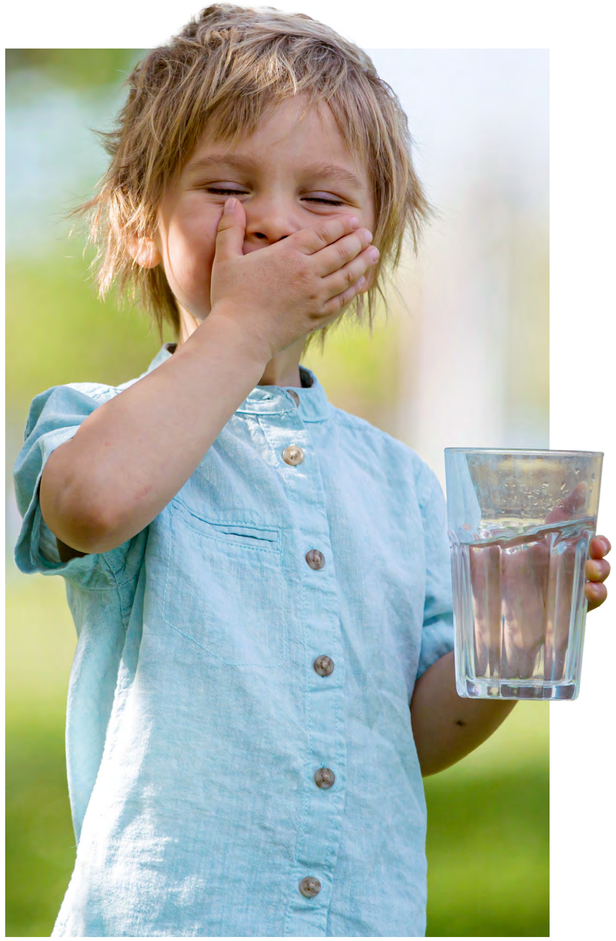
Water companies then develop a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) setting their plans and investments, such as: improving efficiency; addressing leakage; restoring the environment; and building new water resources.



Anglian Water's Water Resources Management Plan identifies the two new reservoirs as crucial investments that we need to make to meet the growing demands on water supplies in the East of England.

Cambridge Water's Water Resources Management Plan also identifies the Fens Reservoir – which we're delivering in partnership – as crucial to meeting its customers' future water needs, and to protecting the environment.

This careful, coordinated planning is all to identify the best options to meet future water needs – options that present the best value to customers, society and the environment. The two new reservoirs are at the heart of our plans to do exactly that.



A thriving future for our region

Most of the region served by Anglian Water and Cambridge Water, including the catchments of the River Witham, River Welland, River Nene and River Great Ouse, drains into the Fens.

This water management system was created in the 17th century to drain water from the Fens into the North Sea as efficiently as possible. The drained marshland became the most productive farming land in the country.

Four centuries later, water needs in the East of England have changed. A growing population means more water is needed to support modern lifestyles and secure a resilient supply for the future. A changing climate means hotter, drier summers. Drought is expected to become increasingly common, and intense rainfall events more frequent.

Chalk streams, one of our most precious habitats, are running dry. And peat is evaporating from dry fenland soil, generating more carbon emissions that are adding further to climate change.

We need a different way to manage water in the Fens. One that allows us to store more water so it's on tap when we need it, protect the environment, manage flood risk and drainage and support our thriving agricultural sector.

The two proposed reservoirs in Lincolnshire and the Fens, together with their wider systems, are at the heart of delivering this transformational change.

Our ambition

In response to a changing climate and the need to live more sustainable lifestyles as populations grow, we need to transform the way water is managed in the East of England.

The Fens Reservoir and Lincolnshire Reservoir will play a central role in this transformation. They'll secure a resilient supply of water to meet the needs of future generations, while helping to protect and restore the environment.

The reservoirs will be a once in a lifetime investment delivering benefits for biodiversity, recreation, health and wellbeing. Subject to funding and support from regional partners, they could also deliver significant wider benefits for the region.

The reservoir projects will be leading examples of great design. We'll develop and deliver them in collaboration with local people, stakeholders, and regulators at every stage to make sure their concerns are addressed, particularly during construction.

We're committed to making sure that both reservoirs inspire local and regional pride, and deliver a positive legacy for the communities and places they become part of.

How we'll get there

We'll hold ourselves to high standards to deliver the ambitions that we, Cambridge Water, our regional partners and our customers, all have for the reservoirs.

This shared ambition – and the commitments we already have as a business – will help us deliver the best possible schemes across the different areas we need to consider, which are outlined here.

Click on each topic to find out more

Local community and place

We want the reservoirs to be local and regional assets. We'll achieve that by engaging with the local community and following national government guidelines for exemplary design.

Socio-economic opportunity

We take our duty to deliver wider benefits to society seriously. The reservoirs are fundamental to our purpose of bringing environmental and social prosperity to our region.

Biodiversity and the environment

We believe caring for all species and habitats is the right thing to do. We're committed to delivering new water resources that leave nature better off than when we found it.

Leisure and recreation

We're committed to unlocking access to the outdoors and water while meeting our duty to protect the environment, encouraging health, wellbeing and social prosperity.

Transport and traffic

A sustainable transport and traffic plan is a key part of our plans. We'll prioritise safe and sustainable routes of access to the reservoirs for all.

Carbon and renewable energy

We have a track record in delivering significant carbon reductions. We'll make sure the reservoirs are operationally net zero from the day they open.

Flood management

Our region is low lying and on the front line of extreme weather patterns. Minimising flood risk will be key to the design of the new reservoirs – and so will building resilience to flooding.

Water quality

We're committed to making sure the reservoirs deliver a sustainable supply of high-quality drinking water that our customers can rely on.

Local community and place

Local community and place

We want the reservoirs to be considered local and regional assets, both to their surroundings and nearby communities. We'll achieve that by engaging with the local community and following national government guidelines for exemplary design.

There are many examples in the UK of well-designed infrastructure becoming a core part of our cultural heritage. The projects of tomorrow should aspire to make the same valued addition.

This is what we aspire to achieve with the reservoirs, and it's why we, alongside other water companies, have committed to achieving excellent design, led by these nationally recognised standards.

We have asked for feedback at an early stage to make sure we are developing designs which are sensitive to the historical and cultural character of their local areas.

Our plan for the reservoirs

We're committed to delivering a positive legacy for the communities and places that the reservoirs affect, with sensitive designs that will inspire local and regional pride when the reservoirs are open. We'll:

- develop designs for the reservoirs that are sympathetic to the surrounding features of the landscape, informed by the knowledge of those who know the area best. We'll make sure our decisions are also guided by local design codes and panels.
- continue engaging with local communities and organisations as part of our feedback process to gain a meaningful understanding of the areas surrounding the proposed reservoir sites.
- consult specialist organisations throughout the entire process to guarantee that our proposals for the reservoirs continue to be assessed by experts as they're developed.
- respect the heritage value of the area, and make sure that the community and specialist stakeholders are engaged through archaeological surveys.
- look to abide by the exemplary levels of good design set out by the National Infrastructure Commission to create an exciting new asset for the region.
- explore opportunities to include educational materials and information on the region's history and surrounding landscape in the amenities available at the reservoirs.

Socio-economic opportunity

Socio-economic opportunity

We take our duty to deliver wider benefits to society seriously. For us, this goes above and beyond the provision of fresh, clean water – we believe that the reservoirs are fundamental to our company purpose of bringing environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve.

Government guidance has noted the potential long term socio-economic opportunities which reservoirs can offer. We're working with Water Resources East and other regional partners, who share our goal of unlocking wider benefits for the communities and businesses the reservoirs will supply.

We're committed to helping communities and the environment flourish. As one of the largest employers in the region, we are passionate about education. For example, our Rutland Water education centre helps pupils to discover the wonders of the natural environment through active learning.

During our phase one consultations, feedback showed enthusiasm for what the reservoirs could do for the region, and asked that we consider all potential opportunities they can offer.

Our plan for the reservoirs

The reservoirs will be rooted in the variety of local needs and opportunities specific to their areas. They have the potential to enable economic benefits, creating job opportunities during construction and operation, while providing new amenities and opportunities for tourism and local business. We'll:

- put socio-economic opportunity at the heart of the development process by working with a wide range of groups and communities to identify locally-relevant options.
- develop a clear roadmap to delivering economic value from planning, through to construction and operation. This could unlock new job opportunities for the local supply chain and create opportunities for local business and tourism.
- consider the educational opportunities which could accompany large-scale water resources infrastructure and explore ways to maximise these.
- assess how improved access to green space, improved infrastructure, recreation and socio-economic opportunities could contribute to the wellbeing of the wider community.
- work with those most affected to understand existing socio-economic conditions in the areas, and account for how the reservoirs' socio-economic impacts align with local planning policies.

Biodiversity and the environment

Biodiversity and the environment

A healthy natural environment is the foundation of a strong economy and prospering communities. We're committed to protecting and enhancing habitats and wildlife across our region, in turn creating a flourishing environment for people and nature.

We rely on the environment to provide the water we supply to customers every day, so we recognise that we have an important role to play in safeguarding it.

We own 47 sites covering almost 40km² – that's equivalent to over 146,000 tennis courts – that are protected by law because they're teeming with wildlife. This includes globally or nationally important wildlife habitats such as Rutland Water.
We work in partnership with national bodies such as the Environment Agency, as well as charities and trusts, to preserve and strengthen our habitats and wildlife.

Whether we're creating new resources such as reservoirs, or changing the way land is managed, we work hard to make sure the natural environment is left in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

During our phase one consultation, it was clear that people wanted to make sure the new reservoirs would support surrounding nature.

Our plan for the reservoirs

Protecting and enhancing nature is central to our design of the reservoirs. We'll make sure this remains the case when they're built, and when they're in operation. We'll:

- support the recovery of sensitive ecosystems, reducing the need to abstract water from sensitive chalkstone and limestone ground water sources.
- undertake Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessments so that we can achieve a minimum of 10 percent BNG.
- explore ways to create new places for wildlife to thrive. This could include creating new habitats such as wetlands, woodlands, wildflower meadows and more, as well as investigating measures to improve soil health.
- undertake ecological surveys to better understand the environment, including the diversity and abundance of different species in the area and how we can protect, conserve and enhance them. This is part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- ensure our aspirations for the environment continue to be shared with other stakeholders. For example, by engaging in Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) work, as well as other strategic plans for the environment.
- work with environmental organisations and charities to explore how we can best deliver our plans and support a flourishing environment. Options include widening drains to enhance surrounding vegetation, or protecting habitats by improving water flows, flood resilience and drainage.

Leisure and recreation

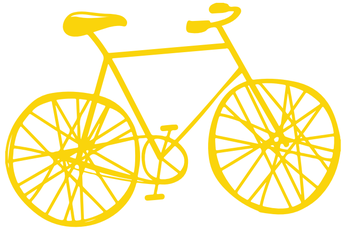
Leisure and recreation

We're committed to creating a place where people have access to the outdoors and water, while meeting our duty to protect the environment. By offering access to a range of recreational activities, we will encourage health, wellbeing and social prosperity.

There's growing evidence that connecting people with green space can deliver positive outcomes for mental health, physical health, social wellbeing and employment. When it comes to planning new water resources, the Government emphasises that reservoirs have great potential for this, through unlocking new accessible green space.

Our existing water parks, such as Rutland Water and Grafham Water, are a great example of what this can look like. They offer a haven for wildlife, a place to relax and get back to nature, and access to exciting activities such as water sports.

Feedback received during our phase one consultation told us how valuable new recreational opportunities could be. It emphasised the importance of allowing recreational activities and habitat preservation to exist side by side.



Our plan for the reservoirs

We'll make amenities which provide access to outdoor space, nature and water central to the reservoirs, ensuring they also support environmental protection. We'll:

- guarantee safe access to the reservoir locations, particularly for local communities.
- collaborate with local communities to make sure our designs reflect their requests for specific facilities wherever we can, while addressing any concerns that might arise.
- follow the National Infrastructure Commission's principles of good design to create outstanding pieces of infrastructure for the region and country. The reservoirs will deliver a lasting positive legacy for the communities and places they affect.
- carefully consider the associated facilities needed to support amenities, such as car parks and restrooms. We'll consult with advisory groups to make any facilities and activities accessible for those with a range of needs and abilities.
- give equal consideration to requests for different activities, so potential benefits can be accessed as widely as possible across different interests, age groups and abilities.

Transport and traffic

Transport and traffic

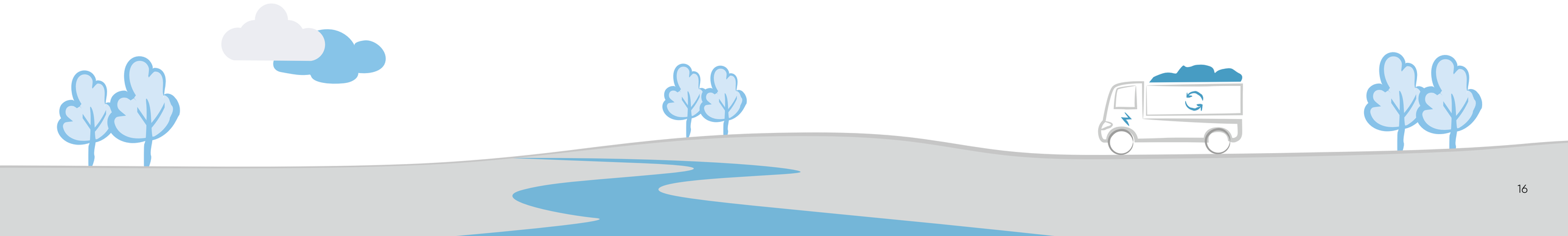
A sustainable transport and traffic plan is a key part of how we'll build and operate the reservoirs. We'll prioritise safe and sustainable routes of access to the reservoirs for all.

During our phase one consultations, your feedback said you want us to think carefully about increased traffic during construction and when the reservoirs are open, and to prioritise safe, sustainable public access.

Our plan for the reservoirs

We are committed to minimising and mitigating the impacts the reservoirs could have on local roads as much as we can. We'll also be looking to improve the existing transport infrastructure local to each reservoir ready for when they open. We'll:

- investigate the use of alternative transport methods such as existing rail or water links to reduce road traffic during construction.
- limit peak hour construction traffic and maximise the use of locally sourced materials as far as possible.
- collaborate with partners to establish safe, secure and sustainable public access to the sites, including new pedestrian and cycle routes.
- look for opportunities to integrate the proposals with any enhanced public transport provision nearby.
- monitor the condition of the existing highway network in conjunction with the local highway authorities.
- minimise as far as possible road closures and temporary diversions.
- agree construction access routes to the sites which will minimise the impact on local communities.



Carbon and renewable energy

Carbon and renewable energy

In 2019, Anglian Water and Cambridge Water joined forces with the water companies in England to make a pledge to reach net zero on operational carbon emissions by 2030.

In the feedback received to our phase one consultation, it was clear that people wanted to understand how we are planning to manage carbon emissions during construction and operation of the reservoirs.

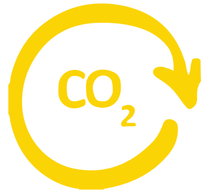
As explained in our Water Resource Management Plan, reservoirs have lower operational carbon emissions than other resources options such as desalination.

We recognise that the construction of the reservoirs will create capital carbon. But, as a business, we have a track record in delivering significant reductions. Not only were we the first water company to set targets for reducing capital carbon, but we were also the first company globally to be certified to PAS 2080, the international standard for managing infrastructure carbon.

Our plan for the reservoirs

Carbon reduction is at the heart of our decision making on the reservoirs and will remain that way as we continue to develop their designs. We'll make sure the reservoirs are operationally net zero from the day they open.

- We're developing plans to reduce our carbon emissions as much as possible. This could be through the materials used for building the reservoirs, and through the scale and type of the infrastructure needed to operate them.
- One of the ways we can reduce our operational carbon emissions is to produce our own renewable energy on or near the reservoirs and the associated infrastructure. We're exploring the types of generation we can use, including solar energy, and where we can locate it.
- We're working with the industry to advance the roll-out of more environmentally-friendly alternatives to fossil fuel. That includes hydrogen and electric vehicles, and the equipment needed to build the reservoirs.
- We'll minimise waste by re-using material excavated from the reservoir sites wherever we can. This will also help reduce traffic movements during construction, which can be a further source of carbon emissions.
- We know that peatland has powerful carbon storage potential, and we'll look at the carbon impacts for every area of land we plan to use and how we'll minimise these impacts. This may include creating new habitats.



Flood management

Flood management

Our region is low lying, on the front line of extreme weather patterns and lies within a few metres of sea level, leaving us vulnerable to flooding. We're making sure the reservoirs' designs result in no change to flooding both now and in the future, while exploring opportunities to minimise flooding to others and provide wider environmental benefits.

During our phase one consultation, you asked us for assurance that the reservoirs wouldn't put surrounding communities and properties at greater risk of flooding. You also wanted to know how we would build resilience and protect places from increasingly extreme flood events in the future.

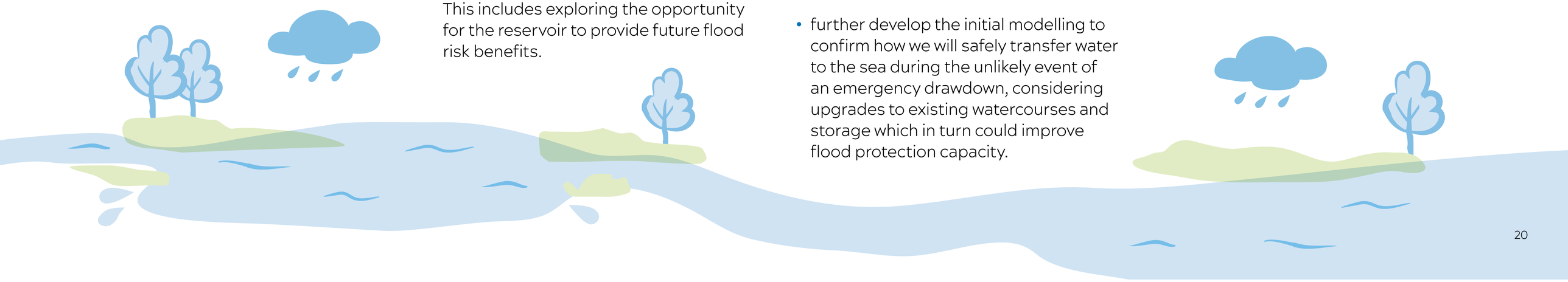
We are working closely with the Flood Authorities who play a fundamental role in managing water and flood risk in the east of England, including the Environment Agency, local councils, and Internal Drainage Boards. We are focussing on how the reservoirs themselves – including how water is transported to and from them – are designed to cause no change in flooding, align with other flood risk management schemes, and explore opportunities to minimise flooding to others.

As well as this, the Water Resources East regional plan explains there is an opportunity for the reservoirs to be part of a much bigger system, enabling wider multi-sector benefits across the area. This includes exploring the opportunity for the reservoir to provide future flood risk benefits.

Our plan for the reservoirs

We will design the reservoirs in a way that minimises changes in flooding and we'll look at the role that the reservoirs play in our wider water system to see where we can improve resilience to flood events. We'll:

- build upon the fine screening carried out during site selection to develop more detailed flood models to make sure any flood risks are carefully considered in the reservoir designs.
- consider climate change over the life of the reservoirs to make sure the reservoir designs are resilient to more extreme weather patterns.
- further develop the initial modelling to confirm how we will safely transfer water to the sea during the unlikely event of an emergency drawdown, considering upgrades to existing watercourses and storage which in turn could improve flood protection capacity.
- adhere to government guidance and legal requirements to limit any potential flood risk during design, construction and operation of the reservoirs, to make sure designs are safe and thoroughly assessed.
- align the emergency drawdown options with opportunities to transport raw water into the reservoirs.
- work with partners to explore the opportunities that the reservoirs may provide to improve future flood risk management for local communities and the wider area.



Water quality

Water quality

Water is our business and we handle it with care – we supply 4.3 million households in the UK with more than 1 billion litres of the highest quality water every day.

The feedback received at our phase one consultation emphasised the importance of water quality to our stakeholders. The impact of climate change on water resources was also an important concern.

The Government's new 'Plan for Water' sets out a framework for managing our water resources to make sure that they're clean and plentiful. It focuses on enhancing the water environment through collaborative planning and targeted investment. The Water Framework Directive aims to protect the quality of the water environment, and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations aim to make sure that water supplies are safe for customers.

Plus, the Water Resources East regional plan outlines the need to reduce abstraction from environmentally sensitive areas such as aquifers and chalk streams.

We're committed to delivering a sustainable supply of high-quality drinking water that our customers can rely on. It remains a core part of our – and Cambridge Water's – Water Resources Management Plan, and is one of the drivers behind our proposed water management solutions.

River health is essential, not only to the communities we serve, but also to our ability to provide water. Our Get River Positive Plan outlines our partnership approach to reducing environmental harm and enhancing the water environment.

Our plan for the reservoirs

Both reservoirs will play a central role in transforming the water security of the region, delivering a long-lasting, resilient and wholesome water supply to meet the needs of people and the environment. We'll:

- continue to build a detailed understanding of water source catchments to inform any potential water quality risks, benefits, and opportunities.
- review our data and continue monitoring water quality to make sure our design proposals are robust and potential impacts are understood and mitigated appropriately.
- work alongside regional organisations and independent regulators to ensure our plans are appropriate and comply with drinking water safety planning requirements.
- model a variety of different scenarios, such as for climate change scenarios, throughout the development of our proposals to inform and optimise the reservoir designs.

Delivering a shared ambition

We'll continue building on all the work we've done to date to achieve our ambition to create two places where water, people and nature can come together.

That includes continuing to work with our stakeholders, communities and regulators along the journey too. Local people and stakeholders have an important role in influencing how the reservoirs are developed and designed.

The reservoirs are recognised as being strategic regional assets, so much so that they qualify as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).

This is mainly due to the size of the schemes and the number of properties they'll be able to supply. We'll therefore follow the procedures set out in the Planning Act 2008, which provides the framework for how major projects are developed and consented. The permission is called a Development Consent Order (DCO).

We'll continue to consult with local people, affected landowners and stakeholders to gather feedback to help shape our proposals before we submit the applications for the DCOs.

As we move forward with these two important reservoirs, you can keep up to date with progress on the project websites:

- Fens Reservoir
- Lincolnshire Reservoir