

[REDACTED]

From: EIR
Sent: 21 January 2026 15:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: Waterbeach Pre Application for new WRC redacted.pdf; PREAP 2019 09 05 WRC Preapplication Response redacted.pdf; DM2 Presentation - SEW-11239 Waterbeach 18Mar19 Redacted.pdf

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about Waterbeach, which we received on 19 December 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

- 1. Where the information is published for the comprehensive review undertaken by Anglian Water, which informed the Planning Statement submitted within its DCO application, between the standalone Waterbeach plant, endorsed as being the most environmentally sustainable solution and the pipeline now proposed?**
- 2. Please provide a high-level overview of the timeline of Anglian Water review activities for the pipeline between the Water Cycle Study in 2014 and the Planning Statement**
- 3. Why, as recorded in a number of Environmental Agency and Cambridge County Council communications, did Anglian Water seek an area of 15/20 Hectares within its review?**

EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information

Please find attached:

- Waterbeach Pre Application for new WRC redacted.pdf
- PREAP 2019 09 05 WRC Preapplication Response redacted.pdf
- DM2 Presentation – SEW-12239 Waterbeach 18Mar19 Redacted.pdf

Item 1 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided as an attachment and below.

The Denny St Francis Water Cycle Study published in December 2012 first identified the Waterbeach New Town growth and the need for foul drainage solutions. The development comprised over 11,000 dwellings and other associated uses. 11,000 new dwellings equates to approximately 24,000 Population Equivalent (PE) in waste water terms for treatment. This exceeded the available capacity at the existing Waterbeach WRC.

Anglian Water worked with South Cambridge District Council as the determining authority, the Environment Agency (EA), Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) (as the relevant waste planning authority for planning applications), the Ely IDB and both developers of the Waterbeach New Town site to identify a foul water strategy for it to include estimated planning permission grant dates and build out rates to identify when the new treatment capacity was required.

In May 2019 Urban and Civic (U&C) received resolution to grant planning permission for 6,500 units (subject to section 106 agreement).

Royal London Waterbeach (RLW) Estates (now Waterbeach Development Company) received resolution to grant 4,500 units later in January 2021.

To meet this demand AWS identified a need for funding within its AMP 7 business plan for a new Waterbeach WRC to the east of the existing site. Interim capacity management as the development came forward was to utilise the existing Waterbeach WRC with RLW connecting to it and for U&C connecting to the Cambridge Research Park to utilise capacity at this site.

In order to ensure progress prior to AMP 7 becoming available, the design and development of this WRC as a growth scheme was funded through underwritings from both U&C and RLW. This design work continued until August 2019. Attached is the design details as at March 2019 (redacted to remove commercially sensitive figures).

In parallel to the design of the new WRC, AWS prepared a planning application for the WRC. In May 2019 AWS submitted a pre-application for planning advice for a new Water Recycling Centre (WRC), pipeline and pumping station (on the existing WRC) to CCC. This Application identified a need for a site of approximately 10 hectares to serve a 30,000-population equivalent (to include Waterbeach New Town and the existing foul flows from the existing Waterbeach village).

The response to this application was received on 9 September 2019 and a copy is attached. It stated that AWS had not demonstrated that the site was the most suitable location in terms of flooding. CCC requested a robust sequential test (area to be determined by the Council) was to be undertaken to demonstrate there were no other feasible sites in locations which were less likely to be affected by flooding. The EA had similar concerns and advised that pumping wastewater flows to Milton WRC was the only feasible and deliverable option.

As a result of this response from CCC, and the objection to the new WRC location from the EA, no further work was undertaken, with focus then switching to a pump-away solution Confirmation of this governance decision from the Head of Asset Management was communicated on 1 October 2019. No further action was taken by AWS to advance the planning application or design of the new Waterbeach WRC.

During the development of the Cambridge Relocation DCO submission, the need to accommodate the Waterbeach flows was addressed, with two possible scenarios advanced; connection to the existing works at Milton, and/or connection to the proposed Cambridge Relocation project; the downstream connection destination of the pipeline being dependent on approvals and timing of the Relocation project.

On 18 January 2021, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs included the Waterbeach pipeline within his direction pursuant to an application under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008. That meant the pipeline was part of the nationally significant infrastructure project which included a new WRC for Cambridge. Thereafter AWS developed the pipeline proposal endorsed by the EA as the most suitable means for the treatment of new wastewater at Milton WRC arising from the Waterbeach New Town Development.

Item 2 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

We would be grateful if confirmation could be given as to which planning mechanism should be shown on the timeline. Between the decision on 1 October 2019 and the subsequent direction under section 35 by the SoS, the Waterbeach pipeline progressed as part of the Development Consent Order process which is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The pipeline is now progressing through the statutory powers contained in the Water Industry Act 1991. It is Permitted Development and so is not subject to an EIA.

Broadly, Anglian Water can confirm;

Sept 2020 Anglian Water raise project to deliver growth at Waterbeach. Scope to convey all flows from existing Waterbeach WRC and proposed capacity for proposed development Cambridge WRC. Completion by 31/12/2024. Route options for pipeline form part of DCO Pre Application Consultation.

April 2021 An ROV (Risk, Opportunity & Value) meeting was held to review options to pump away all flows to Cambridge STC (Cowley Road). Two routes were examined:

1. Heading east via Cambridge Research Park
2. Heading west via Horningsea

Option 2 was selected – as ultimately had a shorter and less complex route.

August 2023 - Following a review of development build rates there is available capacity at Waterbeach WRC to postpone scheme delivery into AMP8 (2025-30). Design to continue in AMP7 with build moved to AMP8.

Item 3 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

The Design DM2 refers to an assumed 30 acres (approximately 12 hectares) for the new Waterbeach WRC. This is in line with industry practice for a WRC of this type and population equivalent.

Personal data and non-environmental information have been redacted from the information provided.

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General Counsel, Anglian Water Services, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this email, please contact us via EIR@anglianwater.co.uk .

Yours sincerely

EIR Team

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