

SUFFOLK WATER RECYCLING, TRANSFER AND STORAGE PROJECT

You Said Report
March 2026

Prepared by



Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Purpose of this document	6
3.	Natural Environment	8
4.	Planning	12
5.	Impacts on Residents	16
6.	Key Sites and Associated Infrastructure	20
7.	Consultation and Customer Engagement	23
8.	Land Use and Agriculture	26
9.	Conclusion and Next Steps	29

Note to Reader: Development Consent Order, Consultation Terminology Update

During the preparation of this report, the Government has made several changes to its consultation approach for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). These changes included a new classification for what was previously referred to as 'statutory' and 'non-statutory' consultation.

While detailed guidance has yet to be published, the Project has decided to adopt the terms 'Early consultation' and 'Main consultation' to describe the two primary phases of engagement.

In the context of this report and for full transparency, the following terms will be used throughout:

Early consultation replaces what was previously called 'non-statutory consultation', while Main consultation will replace what was previously called 'statutory consultation'.

Despite the removal of formal consultation requirements, the Project has committed to two key stages of structured public consultation.

The first, delivered in Winter 2025, provided communities and stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback on initial design proposals, while a further consultation stage is anticipated in Summer 2027. This consultation will allow feedback on the Project's refined design proposals.

Engagement will continue throughout the Project's design and development. The Project team will work closely with local communities, stakeholders and technical and regulatory bodies to ensure feedback is considered and, where possible, reflected in the proposals.



1. Introduction

Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) would like to thank everyone who took part in the Winter 2025 Consultation for the Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer and Storage (SWRTS) Project.

The consultation sought your views on early proposals for:

1. A new Advanced Water Recycling Plant,
2. A network of strategic pipelines and
3. Service reservoirs, designed to secure long-term, reliable water supplies for the region.

East Anglia has been classified as a *Seriously Water Stressed Area* by the Environment Agency. The SWRTS Project forms part of Essex & Suffolk Water's wider plans to improve drought resilience, protect the natural environment and support sustainable growth across Suffolk.

During the consultation, we heard from residents, landowners, community groups, local authorities and technical and regulatory bodies at a series of public events, and through written submissions, online feedback and meetings. Respondents showed a strong interest in the Project and an informed understanding of both the proposals and the wider planning context.

This You Said Report summarises the main themes raised during the consultation period. It provides an overview of the feedback received and highlights the issues respondents consider most relevant as the Project continues to develop.

All responses have been reviewed by the Project's engineering, environmental, and planning teams. Your feedback will inform route refinement, site selection and ongoing environmental assessment as the Project progresses towards a Preferred Option Announcement and the submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Thank you again for your valuable contributions. Your participation continues to shape the Project in meaningful ways, and we look forward to working closely with you as the SWRTS Project proposals develop, with further opportunities for engagement and consultation taking place as the Project progresses towards the DCO submission stage.



Our Consultation by Numbers



977

**EVENT
ATTENDEES**



17.5K

**WEBSITE
VIEWS**



300+

**MAILING LIST
SIGN UPS**



400+

**FEEDBACK
RESPONSES**



10

**PUBLIC
CONSULTATION
EVENTS**



70K+

**CONSULTATION
LEAFLETS
POSTED**



131

**PARISH
COUNCILS
ENGAGED
WITH**



2K+

**LANDOWNERS
ENGAGED
WITH**



9

**CONSULTATION
HUBS**

2. Purpose of this document

This document summarises the feedback received during the Early Consultation Period, undertaken in Winter 2025 for the SWRTS Project. It has been structured around the main themes raised by respondents. The report themes are as follows:

✓ Natural Environment

✓ Planning

✓ Impacts on Residents

✓ Key Sites & Associated Infrastructure

✓ Consultation & Customer Engagement

✓ Land Use & Agriculture

This thematic structure helps to present feedback clearly while reflecting the breadth and complexity of issues raised. This document explains the main themes raised during consultation and how these are informing the ongoing development of the Project. This report also highlights how different groups commented on particular themes, highlighting the different observations and requests from the wider community (members of the public who shared their feedback with us), potentially impacted landowners (such as farmers who own land around our proposed sites and/or pipeline corridor options), and prescribed consultees (the organisations, regulators and groups that legally must be consulted).

It provides a foundation for the Project team to lay out the actions taken or planned in response to respondent feedback. This will be presented in the full Winter 2025 Consultation Feedback Report, including a “You Said / We Did” summary, will be published alongside the Preferred Option Announcement in Summer 2026.

These documents will explain in greater detail how feedback received during consultation has informed the development of the Project and influenced emerging design and decision-making.

More detailed technical and environmental information will be provided through forthcoming Project documentation, including:

- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- The Environmental Statement (ES) submitted as part of the DCO application
- Consultation and engagement reporting prepared to support the DCO application

This document is intended to provide a high-level overview of the consultation outcomes and emerging Project direction. It is not intended to:

- Present detailed technical assessments or survey results
- Set out the final design, mitigation or compensation measures
- Establish formal Project positions ahead of the DCO application
- Pre-empt the conclusions of ongoing environmental and technical studies.

This report should be read as a high-level account of consultation feedback at this early stage of the Project. It is intended to keep communities and stakeholders informed and provide transparency into the consultation process, demonstrating how early engagement helps shape the proposals as they move towards the formal application stage. The structure of this report reflects the main themes raised during consultation and does not indicate the relative weight or frequency of responses.



3. Natural Environment

The potential impact on the natural environment was raised by respondents as an important consideration during the Early Consultation. Feedback related to ecology, landscape and visual impacts, water quality & flooding, geology & soils, and built heritage & archaeology. Respondents often drew on local knowledge of the surrounding landscape and environmental features when providing comments.

Comments focused on how the proposed options would interact with existing environmental features and constraints. Feedback consisted of a mixture of concerns, observations, suggestions, and positive comments, providing insight into the matters which respondents consider important to ongoing design development and environmental impact assessment.



Ecology

Respondents commented on the potential interaction between the proposed options, wildlife and habitats. This included interest in how the Project may affect existing ecological features and connectivity. Some respondents referenced specific locations or features perceived to be environmentally sensitive, such as watercourses, valleys or established habitats ranging from domestic properties to the Broads and sought clarity on how ecological considerations have informed option development.

Alongside these comments, respondents acknowledged that ecological effects are a standard consideration for infrastructure projects of this nature. These contributions notwithstanding, many identified the importance of avoiding damage to sensitive habitats as a priority. Respondents highlighted the importance of appropriate assessment, mitigation and habitat management, including minimising disturbance where practicable, protecting existing habitats, and considering opportunities to maintain or enhance biodiversity as part of the Project. Several respondents recognised the potential for environmental enhancements and Biodiversity Net Gain to be delivered alongside the Project on the basis that they are meaningful, locally focused and supported by long-term management.



Landscape & Visual

Landscape and visual considerations were raised by some respondents, expressly how the proposed options may sit within the existing landscape. Feedback expressed interest in how the Project would respond to local landscape features, views and topography, and how design and routing could minimise change to landscape character.

Several responses acknowledged that landscape effects will vary depending on location and route option and suggested that this could be mitigated with careful design and screening. Moreover, respondents demonstrated a belief that reinstatement could play an important role in reducing visual effects. These comments reflect an expectation that landscape considerations will continue to inform route refinement, site selection, detailed design and highlight how important landscape is to respondents. Many responses also stressed the need to avoid unnecessary loss of trees and hedgerows, protect valued views and tranquil rural settings, and ensure any mitigation and reinstatement is clear and maintained over the long term.



Environmental Water Quality

Environmental water quality was raised by respondents in relation to potential interactions with watercourses, groundwater and drainage features, particularly the River Waveney and connected river systems. Comments focused on the importance of protecting existing water environments during construction and operation and ensuring that appropriate controls are in place to manage runoff, discharges and accidental pollution.

Some respondents sought reassurance that water quality considerations will be addressed through detailed assessment and regulatory controls. Other responses acknowledged that water quality impacts can be managed effectively through established construction practices and environmental management measures when appropriately designed and implemented.



Geology & Soils

A number of respondents commented on geology and soils. There was specific interest in how construction activities may interact with existing ground conditions and agricultural soils. Feedback in this area included concerns about soil handling and reinstatement, potential ground movement or subsidence, and suggestions that good soil management could minimise longer-term effects.

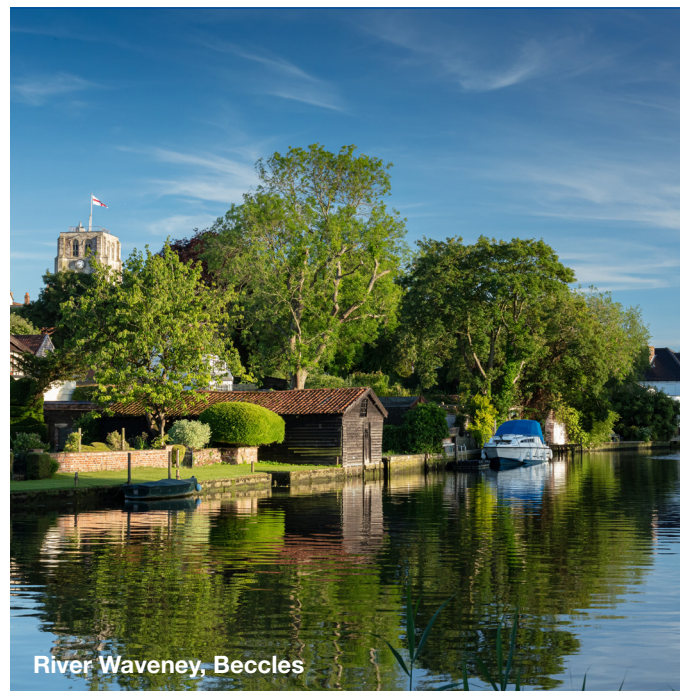
Some respondents noted that ground conditions and soils are a relevant consideration for construction planning and land restoration. They highlighted the importance of appropriate survey work and management measures to inform design and construction methodologies.



Built Heritage & Archaeology

Some respondents raised comments relating to built heritage and archaeological considerations, including the presence of designated and non-designated heritage assets within the wider study area. Feedback concentrated on the importance of understanding baseline conditions, protecting known assets, and appropriately managing the potential for encountering unknown archaeological remains during construction.

A number of respondents acknowledged that heritage considerations are routinely addressed through assessment and mitigation within infrastructure projects. These comments reflect an expectation that built heritage and archaeological matters will be considered through appropriate survey, assessment and management processes as the project progresses.



River Waveney, Beccles



Flood Risks/Leaks

Flood risk and the potential for leaks were raised by respondents. This was primarily done in relation to environmental protection of land and rivers, infrastructure resilience and concerns around the impact on water supply. Feedback focused on the importance of robust design, flood monitoring and management to minimise risks during construction and operation.

Respondents acknowledged that flood risk and leakage are standard considerations for water infrastructure projects and highlighted the role of assessment, regulation and good practice in managing these issues.

Flood impacts directly related to the Project

Respondents raised concerns about flood risk directly related to the Project. Where pipeline or service reservoir options may interact with pre-existing issues, comments focused on the importance of robust design, flood monitoring and management to minimise risks during construction and operation.

Leaks which are preexisting issues (not just for ESW) and other water companies

Respondents commented on pre-existing issues in the region related to flooding and leakage, including from existing water infrastructure, other developments and weather and climate-related flood risk. Comments indicated an expectation to acknowledge these issues where they relate to this Project, in particular, flooding of highways and land.

River levels

Concern for river levels was raised in the feedback, with specific reference to tidal surges in the winter months and flood water causing pressure on riverbanks.



“any legacy package ... must deliver genuine environmental enhancement and visible improvements to local quality of life”

- Wider Community

HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Members of the wider community frequently referenced local environmental features, including habitats, landscapes and water environments, when commenting on the proposals. These responses often reflected place-based knowledge and an interest in how environmental considerations have influenced option development and could be addressed through design and mitigation. Feedback raised from domestic properties to the Broads and the River Waveney.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

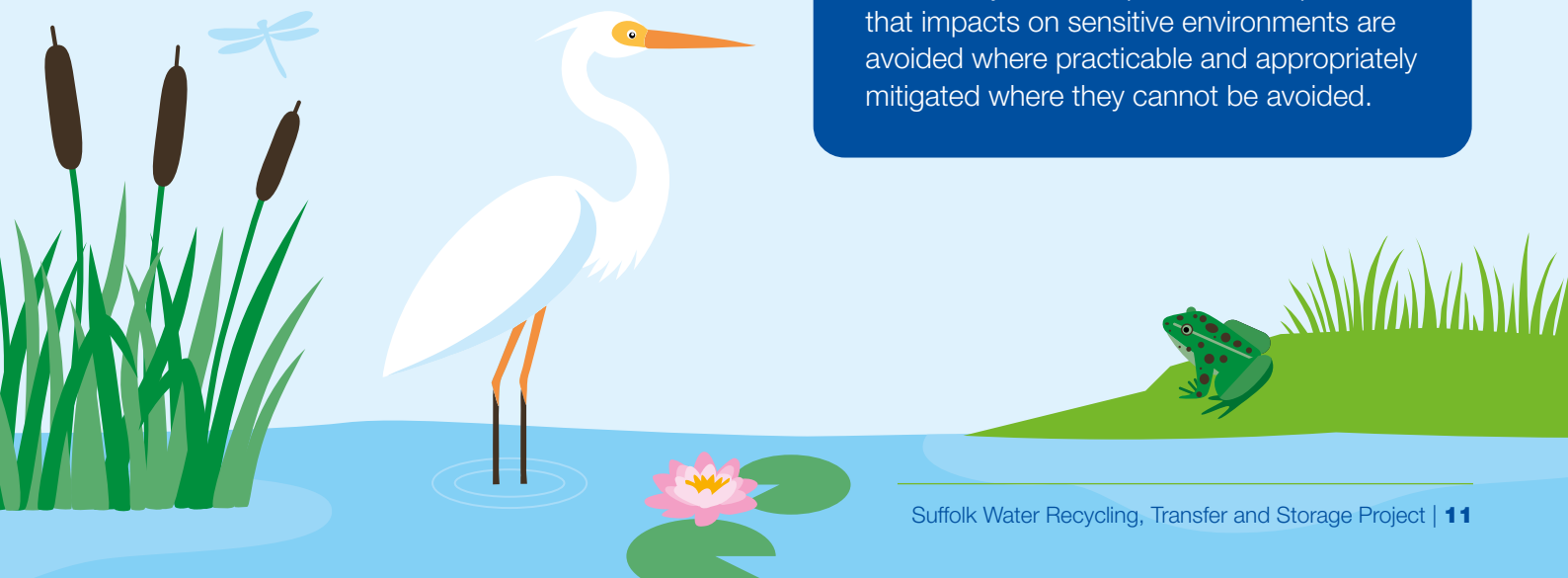
Landowner feedback addressed natural environment topics primarily in relation to land management, soils, habitats and practical interactions between the Project and the land. Comments tended to be site-specific and focused on how environmental effects could be managed through construction practices, reinstatement and long-term management.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees commented on the natural environment within the context of policy, designated sites, protected species, heritage assets and environmental regulation. These responses emphasised the importance of a robust evidence base and compliance with relevant legislative and policy requirements as the project progresses through further assessment.

SUMMARY

The feedback received indicates that the natural environment is an important consideration for respondents and forms a key part of how the proposals are understood and assessed. Comments covered a range of topics, including ecology, landscape and visual, water quality and flooding, geology and soils, built heritage and archaeology, and included observations, concerns, suggestions and requests for further clarity. The feedback highlighted the importance of ongoing assessment, design refinement and environmental management as the Project develops, with an expectation that impacts on sensitive environments are avoided where practicable and appropriately mitigated where they cannot be avoided.



4. Planning

Planning-related matters were raised by respondents during the Early Consultation, and included comments on the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, relevant planning policy, the relationship between the Project and other major infrastructure proposals, existing planning applications in the area, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and the options appraisal process. Feedback included questions, observations, and suggestions, which reflected an interest in how the Project is being developed within the wider planning and regulatory context.



Consenting Process

Development Consent Order (DCO) Process

Respondents commented on the DCO process. This included queries on how the process operates, opportunities for ongoing engagement, and how consultation feedback will inform Project development. Respondents sought clarification on the stages of the DCO process and the role of consultation in decision-making.

Respondents also acknowledged the use of the DCO process for projects of national significance and recognised the structured approach it provides for assessment, examination, and decision-making. The comments indicated an interest in transparency and clarity around how the Project will progress through the planning system under the DCO consenting regime.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Respondents also commented on the EIA process, including questions about scope, methodology and how environmental effects will be assessed and reported by ESW. Feedback centred on understanding how environmental information is gathered, how consultation feedback informs assessment, and how potential effects are identified and evaluated.

Respondents acknowledged that the EIA process provides a structured framework for assessing environmental effects, including carbon emissions and impact on landscapes, and expressed interest in how the assessment will be refined as the Project develops. Comments made by respondents reflected an expectation that environmental matters will be addressed transparently through established assessment processes.



“The process appears comprehensive and in line with what would be expected at this stage of the DCO process.”

- Potentially impacted landowner



Planning Policy

Respondents raised questions about planning policy, including how national and local policy considerations apply to the Project. Feedback in this area focused on understanding how policy requirements will be addressed and align with local planning policy through the optioneering process, environmental assessments and subsequent DCO application. Respondents noted the importance of demonstrating compliance with both national and local planning policy through assessment and evidence. Respondents highlighted the importance of engaging with Development Plans during optioneering and when undertaking the environmental impact assessment to ensure planning allocations and safeguarded areas are duly considered.

Coordination with other projects

The relationship between the Project and other projects of national significance and construction activities in the area was raised by respondents. Feedback focused on how multiple projects may interact with this Project, with specific interest in relation to timing, construction activity, and potential cumulative impacts.

Respondents expressed interest in how cumulative effects arising from this Project in combination with other projects of national significance and construction activities will be identified, assessed and mitigated. These comments align with the Project's approach to undertaking cumulative impact assessments, informed by ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders and the development of appropriate environmental surveys and assessment methodologies.

Feedback in this area reflected an expectation that cumulative effects will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and addressed through established assessment

frameworks as the Project progresses and in coordination with the other projects of national significance.

The specific other DCO projects were cited as follows:

- **Scottish Power Renewables, East Anglia ONE, East Anglia TWO, East Anglia THREE (EA1/2/3):** Respondents pointed to the potential cumulative effects arising from this Project in combination with existing and future construction of the Scottish Power Renewables projects, particularly around construction timelines. Feedback also acknowledged the importance of collaboration with Scottish Power Renewables.
- **LionLink:** Respondents commented on the interaction between the Project and LionLink, in particular its onshore cable corridors and the potential cumulative construction impacts.
- **Sea Link:** Respondents raised questions about the overlap between the Project and Sea Link, in relation to localised geography and timelines. Respondents highlighted the importance of coherent coordination with Sea Link and other projects of national significance.
- **Sizewell C:** The potential cumulative impact arising from this Project in combination with Sizewell C, was raised by respondents. Specifically, respondents raised questions about the impact on communities, water supply and local utility services.
- **Solar Projects:** Respondents commented on the potential cumulative effects resulting from interaction with solar projects across the region. Responses indicated an interest in a collaborative relationship with other projects.



Planning Applications

Existing and proposed planning applications were referenced by respondents when commenting on the Project. Feedback focused on how the Project relates to other development proposals and how combined effects may be considered.

Feedback responses indicated an interest in how the Project fits within the broader pattern of development and how interactions with other proposals will be understood through the planning and assessment process.



Options Appraisal Process

Respondents commented on the options appraisal process, including interest in how alternative options have been identified, compared and refined. Feedback focused on the criteria used for appraisal and the balance between environmental, technical and community considerations.

Respondents also acknowledged the complexity of option development for large infrastructure projects and highlighted the importance of clear explanation and evidence to support decision-making. The feedback reflected interest in transparency and traceability of decisions as the Project progresses.

“Project activity should be co-ordinated with other NSIPs (e.g. Norwich to Tilbury) to minimise disruption.”

- Wider Community



HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Members of the wider community raised questions about the planning process, including how decisions are made, how feedback is used, and how the Project relates to other developments in the area. These responses sought reassurance and clarity, with emphasis placed on coordination with other projects of national significance and existing planning applications.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees commented on planning matters in relation to policy compliance, cumulative effects, assessment methodologies and the robustness of the planning and EIA approach. These responses emphasised the importance of clear alignment with relevant planning policy and statutory requirements.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

Landowner feedback focused on how the DCO process and planning policy apply to land interests, including how land requirements, rights and timing are managed within the planning framework. Furthermore, a desire was expressed to obtain clarity and certainty on the progression of the Project. Respondents also commented on the relationship with other projects of national significance, specifically on potential cumulative effects, with interest in how coordination will play out as the Project progresses.

SUMMARY

The feedback demonstrated that respondents are interested in how the Project is being progressed through the planning system and how it relates to other developments in the region. Comments highlighted the importance of clarity around the DCO process, policy compliance, and transparency in the EIA and options appraisal approaches. Feedback also indicated an expectation that cumulative effects, including interaction with other projects of national significance and construction activity in the area, will be considered through established assessment frameworks as the Project progresses.



5. Impacts on Residents

Respondents raised concerns about the different ways they could be impacted by the Project, with construction activity, timescales, traffic and transport, noise and air quality, and wider considerations relating to wellbeing, local businesses, and local amenities being particularly important to people. Feedback included questions, observations, expressions of concern and practical suggestions, reflecting interest in how the Project may interact with communities and land interests during construction and operation.



Construction

A number of respondents commented on construction activities, including the scale, nature and location of works. Feedback focused on potential disruptions during construction, including temporary effects on access, working hours, and construction traffic on rural roads.

Further potential opportunities for improvement through careful restoration of roads and verges, land and plant reinstatement, and management of temporary infrastructure for construction were also raised by respondents.

Accompanying these comments, respondents acknowledged that construction impacts are a temporary and necessary element of infrastructure delivery. Suggestions were made regarding the importance of construction planning. These suggestions included clear communication and the use of good practice measures to manage disruption. Furthermore, suggestions surrounding the coordination of construction access arrangements with other construction sites in the region were provided, underpinned by the suggestion that the Project is receptive to the time of year when work may take place to reduce impact on seasonal agricultural cycles. These responses indicate an expectation that construction effects will be carefully planned and managed as the Project develops.



Timescales

Some respondents raised questions about Project timescales, including the duration of construction and the sequencing of works. Feedback indicated interest in understanding how long construction activities may last in specific locations and how timing may interact with other construction activities in the region.

A number of responses highlighted the value of clear and timely information on programme and phasing to help residents and landowners plan and prepare for construction activity.

Comments were also received regarding the timing of future consultations and opportunities to learn more about the Project, as well as the lifespan of the infrastructure.

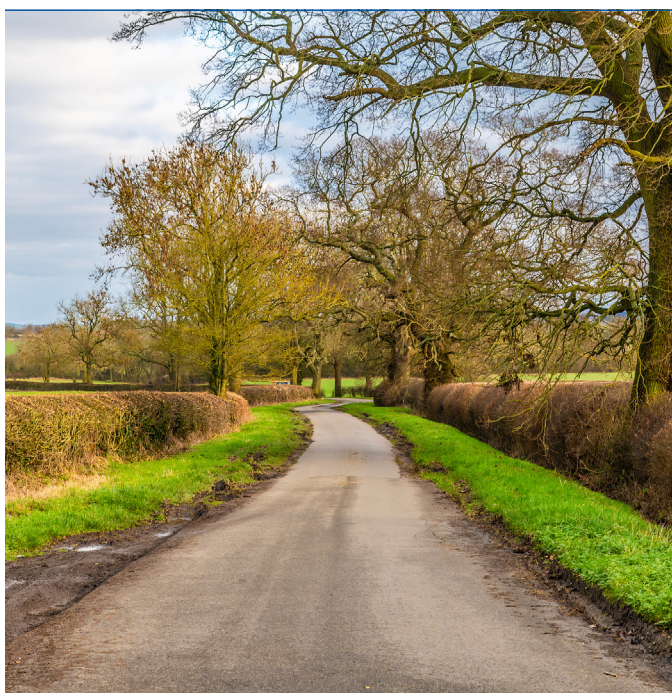




Traffic and Transport

Considerations about traffic and transport were raised by respondents in relation to construction traffic but also highlighting that access routes and potential effects on local roads are a key concern. Respondents discussed the potential for increased vehicle movements, road safety issues and congestion, especially in rural areas or locations with limited road capacity.

Certain respondents made constructive suggestions, including reflections on various routing strategies, traffic management measures and alignment with other construction activities. Responses also highlighted opportunities to consider active travel, such as walking and cycling, in relation to access arrangements and longer-term benefits. It also became apparent through the feedback that protecting Suffolk's network of Quiet Lanes is important to people.



Noise

Concerns about the noise around construction activities was a key theme outlined by respondents. Feedback focused on potential disturbance, especially where works may take place near residential areas, graveyards and places of worship, or other sensitive receptors.

Some responses acknowledged that noise effects can be managed through construction controls and best practice, and highlighted the importance of appropriate mitigation, monitoring and communication to reduce disruption during construction periods.

Respondents also highlighted the potential for new infrastructure, referencing the Advanced Water Recycling Plant, the production of noise when it is operational, and requested more information on this aspect of the design as the Project progresses.



Air Quality

Air quality considerations were raised by some respondents, highlighting potential effects from dust, emissions and construction traffic. Feedback in this area reflected a desire for reassurance that air quality impacts will be assessed and managed through established construction and environmental controls. Further feedback stressed the importance of location when assessing air quality, with the aim of protecting designated sites and frequently touristed areas.

Other responses noted that air quality effects are typically temporary during construction and can be effectively addressed through appropriate mitigation when informed by assessment.



Socioeconomics, Tourism and Health

Respondents commented on potential effects on local communities, businesses and tourism, particularly in relation to construction activity, access and visitor experience. Feedback in this area focused on minimising disruption where possible and on considering local economic activity and health as part of construction planning.

A small number of responses also acknowledged the potential for infrastructure projects to deliver indirect economic benefits, including local training and employment where possible and the facilitation of business growth in the areas that will be supplied by the proposed new infrastructure, including Blythe and Hartismere.

Respondents commented on potential effects on public amenities, wellbeing and health, including access to recreational spaces, community facilities and the character of the area. A number of responses reflected concerns about disruption and change during construction, particularly when multiple activities may occur in the area at the same time. With these comments, respondents sought assurance that access to, and enjoyment of, their local amenities and natural spaces will not be significantly affected by either construction or permanent infrastructure.

Feedback also included interest in understanding how community impacts will be considered holistically, including mental wellbeing and quality of life, as part of the Project's ongoing development and in light of other projects of national significance in the area.

Alongside these comments, some respondents acknowledged that temporary disruption can be managed through careful planning while requesting that any longer-term disruptions to the area are communicated clearly and well in advance.

“local jobs for local people... set up apprenticeship schemes... I want to see the road network repaired after all the construction traffic has moved on.”

- Wider Community



HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Members of the wider community focused on day-to-day effects, including construction activity, traffic, noise and access to local amenities. These responses often reflected interest in how disruption will be managed and communicated rather than opposition to the Project in principle.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

Landowners raised issues regarding construction, land use, access, and reinstatement. Feedback tended to be site-specific and focused on practical considerations associated with land management and ongoing use.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees commented on community and land impacts primarily in relation to assessment methodologies, cumulative effects and compliance with relevant standards and guidance.

SUMMARY

The feedback indicates that impacts on local residents are an important consideration for respondents, particularly given the wide range of indirect impacts resulting from construction activity and temporary disruption. Comments included concerns, observations and constructive suggestions, highlighting the importance of clear information, careful planning and ongoing engagement as the Project progresses.



6. Key Sites and Associated Infrastructure

Respondents to the Early Consultation raised a range of issues relating to key sites and associated infrastructure. These included comments on the proposed pipeline corridors, long sea outfall and the site selection process for the Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP) and service reservoirs. Feedback centred on how these elements of the Project have been identified and developed, and how their location and design may interact with local communities, land use and the surrounding environment.



Service Reservoirs

A number of respondents commented on the proposed service reservoirs, including location, scale and relationship to the surrounding area. Feedback included questions about how the sites were selected and how potential effects on nearby land uses and receptors would be considered.

A number of responses highlighted the importance of design, screening and integration with the surrounding landscape to reduce potential effects. Feedback commonly focused on reducing visual prominence and ensuring the service reservoir reflects the rural setting through appropriate landscaping and building design. These comments are indicative of an interest in how the service reservoirs will be designed and assessed as the Project progresses.

Regarding the Central Service Reservoir, respondents commented on the proximity of the sites to existing water infrastructure at Lodgewood Water Tower and siting within agricultural land, whilst also raising concerns about heritage assets in the area and providing insights about the potential unsuitability of small, local roads for construction traffic at some options

Respondents in and around Thrandeston raised site-specific issues in relation to the potential locations for the Western Service Reservoir, including construction activity, landscape effects and interaction with the local community, built heritage assets, as well as access arrangements and the use of rural roads. These comments reflected interest in how potential service reservoir sites have been identified and how local considerations are taken into account as part of the site selection and appraisal process.

The Project recognises the importance of ongoing and responsive engagement with local communities, including new challenges and concerns identified through the consultation process. Measures are being put in place to continue discussions with community representatives to better understand local concerns and inform the ongoing development and assessment of the proposals. This engagement will support further refinement of design, assessment and mitigation as the Project progresses.



Example of 12 megalitre landscaped service reservoir built by Essex & Suffolk Water



Pipeline Corridors

Pipeline corridors were a key element of the Project that was consulted on. Comments related to routing, construction activity and interaction with land use. Respondents made further contributions regarding potential disruption to key junctions and routes and the ability to maintain access to homes, farms and businesses.

Some responses included practical suggestions regarding routing refinement, construction methodology and reinstatement, reflecting an interest in minimising temporary disruption and maintaining land functionality following construction. Further concerns were raised about routes passing close to residential properties or environmentally and historically sensitive areas, and about interactions with existing utilities such as water supplies and high-pressure gas mains. These comments indicated an expectation that pipeline routing and construction will continue to be refined through continuous assessment and engagement.



Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP)

The site selection process for the Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP) was touched upon by respondents. Feedback focused on the rationale for site selection, the consideration of alternatives, and the potential effects of the AWRP on nearby communities and land uses.

Respondents raised concerns regarding potential odour impacts on the existing settlements given the presence of significant tourist accommodation of regional importance and the reliance of the local economy on maintaining a high-quality visitor environment.

Comments also related to temporary and permanent access arrangements to the site, as well as the compatibility of the proposed development with local planning policy, particularly in relation to its location on an allocated employment site.



Long Sea Outfall

Respondents commented on the proposed long sea outfall, including its location, construction and potential interaction with the marine and coastal environment. Feedback focused on environmental considerations, construction activity alongside requests for clearer information on the purpose of the outfall and the nature and quality of any discharge.

Several responses acknowledged that marine infrastructure is subject to established regulatory controls and assessment requirements, although some respondents expressed concern about the principle of marine discharge and its potential long-term effects on the marine environment. These comments reflect an interest in how marine and coastal issues, including cumulative effects over time, will be addressed as the Project progresses.

HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Members of the wider community commented on key sites and infrastructure primarily in relation to proximity, scale and potential effects on local areas. Feedback often reflected interest in how site selection and design decisions have been informed by local context, with some respondents expressing preferences for locations that avoid homes and use existing routes.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees commented on key sites and infrastructure in relation to assessment requirements, site selection processes and compliance with relevant planning and environmental considerations, including how proposals fit with existing infrastructure, local land uses, future development plans and practical construction issues.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

Landowner responses focused on practical considerations related to land management. These included land take, access, construction activity and reinstatement of land and existing infrastructure associated with the construction of key infrastructure. Comments were typically site-specific and related to existing land uses, future development plans and ongoing land management, with landowners occasionally proposing alternative locations or routes to reduce impacts.

SUMMARY

The feedback highlights that key sites and associated infrastructure are of interest to respondents. Areas of specific relevance include site selection, routing and local effects. Comments included questions, observations and suggestions, emphasising the importance of clear explanation of why options have been chosen, ongoing engagement and further refinement as the Project develops.

7. Consultation and Customer Engagement

The consultation itself and how stakeholders were notified was an area raised by respondents during the Early period. This feedback further involved comments on the need for the Project, overarching principles of the Project and attitudes towards water recycling. Feedback took the form of questions, observations, and suggestions. This reflected an interest in the consultation process and the broader context and purpose of the Project.



Winter 2025 Consultation

Comments were provided on the consultation process. These comments included how information was presented, the opportunities to participate, and how feedback would be used to inform the Project. Respondents sought clarification on consultation stages and expressed a desire to know the next steps, while others provided suggestions on how engagement could be improved and, in some instances, broadened.

Alongside these comments, respondents acknowledged the range of engagement activities undertaken and the availability of information during the consultation period. Feedback in this area reflected an interest in transparency, accessibility and ongoing dialogue as the Project progresses.



Project Finance

The area of project finance was mentioned by respondents. It included questions regarding funding, costs and how the Project is being financed. Feedback reflected an interest in understanding how investment decisions are made and how costs may relate to customers and the wider public.

Respondents acknowledged that funding arrangements for large infrastructure projects are complex and subject to regulatory processes and highlighted the importance of clear dissemination of information as the Project progresses.





Water Recycling, Principle of Development, and Needs Case

Respondents commented on the principle of the development, including views on water recycling and the need for additional water infrastructure. Feedback included general support for water recycling as part of a diversified portfolio of supply solutions, with respondents identifying it as a practical and credible way to increase clean water in Suffolk.

Respondents expressed an appreciation for the need of the Project given that Suffolk has been classified as a Seriously Water Stressed Area by the Environment Agency. Feedback acknowledged the role of the Project within long-term water resource planning and resilience, and the Project as a means of addressing this.

Alongside these comments, principles of water recycling were recognised as part of a broader portfolio of solutions. This reflects a number of responses that recognised that increasing supplies of clean water is desirable for Suffolk and that water recycling is a viable method of achieving this.



Engagement

Respondents commented more broadly on customer and stakeholder engagement during the consultation, including the importance of clear, timely and accessible communication. Feedback included suggestions for continued engagement with local communities, landowners and stakeholders as the Project develops, especially where proposals may evolve over time.

These comments indicated an expectation that engagement will continue beyond the Early consultation stage and that feedback will help inform future design development and assessment.



“I think that infrastructure projects are necessary but they need to be sympathetically applied with local community and especially environmentally interests/considerations and support, at their heart.”

- Potentially impacted landowner

HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Members of the wider community commented on the consultation process, how they were engaged with as part of the process, Project rationale and broader issues such as funding, water recycling and the needs case. These responses reflected a desire for transparent, timely, and regular engagement and communication. Customers asked for simple explanations of proposals rather than technical detail to make information easier to understand and engage with.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees commented on the consultation and how stakeholders were informed and updated about the consultation. Respondents also offered constructive suggestions for evidence gathering and collaborative working to ensure all risks are appropriately considered during the design and delivery of the Project.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

Landowners commented on engagement in relation to direct communication, clarity around proposals and ongoing dialogue as the Project develops.

SUMMARY

The feedback demonstrated that respondents are interested in both how the Project is being developed through consultation and how future engagement will be carried out. Comments highlighted the importance of transparent consultation, clear communication and continued engagement as the Project progresses, alongside interest in the Project's purpose, funding and approach to managing risks.



8. Land Use and Agriculture

Land use and agriculture were raised primarily by potentially affected landowners, with comments focusing on how construction and permanent infrastructure may interact with farming operations, land management and access.

Feedback included interest in soil handling, reinstatement and the maintenance of land functionality following construction in addition to protecting the diversified elements of farming in the area. This feedback reflects an expectation that agricultural land use will be carefully considered throughout design development, construction planning, and land management practices, and that this can be achieved through ongoing on-site engagement.



Agricultural Land

Respondents commented on a broad range of effects on farmland and farm businesses, including temporary loss of productive arable land, fragmentation of holdings, risks to regenerative farming systems, disruption to drainage and topsoil, and welfare impacts on livestock such as horses and cattle during construction. Several requested that any works be aligned with seasonal agricultural demands and the agricultural calendar, kept within field boundaries, and supported by robust construction controls to minimise damage.

“We would expect that the pipeline corridor is kept to the minimum width required in order to minimise the impact on our landholdings.”

- Potentially impacted landowner



Compensation and property prices

As previously highlighted, there are many other major infrastructure projects in the area. As a result, residents and landowners expressed sustained anxiety about property values, marketability and future development prospects, citing examples of planning blight, withdrawn offers, and the potential sterilisation of allocated growth areas. Respondents sought further information regarding potential compulsory purchase via a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), and transparency on what land is needed permanently versus temporarily. Respondents also requested clear information on compensation where values or livelihoods may be impacted. Feedback indicated an expectation for early clarity, practical assurances, and fair redress in the case that losses were to occur.





Landowner Engagement

Comments were received from landowners who felt they were engaged too close to the consultation or only via written requests for survey licences. Respondents called for earlier, face-to-face liaison, dedicated local contacts, prompt responses, and advance notice of any activity undertaken by the Project team. Practical delivery points included keeping access open to farmyards and driveways,

agreeing safe designs for any above-ground apparatus in grazed fields, and coordinating specialist requirements such as Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) surveys and works licences where the pipeline crosses navigable waterways. Respondents were seen to seek a more transparent, predictable process with on-site meetings to tailor mitigation to local constraints.



HOW DIFFERENT AUDIENCES RESPONDED

WIDER COMMUNITY

Comments from the wider community focused on property devaluation and disruption to farming businesses with some constructive ideas for early engagement and broader water-saving initiatives.

PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

Prescribed consultees emphasised policy and regulatory assessments underpinning productive land in the area and its protection.

POTENTIALLY IMPACTED LANDOWNERS

Potentially impacted landowners focused on operational viability, namely protecting productive land (including arable land, orchards and diversified farming practices), maintaining access, aligning works with cropping and livestock cycles, safeguarding drainage and soil health. Respondents raised concerns but were also advisory and solutions-oriented where coordination would be of mutual benefit.

SUMMARY

Comments regarding agriculture and land use highlighted a consistent need for early, transparent, and locally responsive engagement to address concerns about agricultural disruption, land functionality, and long-term property impacts. Respondents provided constructive suggestions based on local knowledge and understanding of the area.

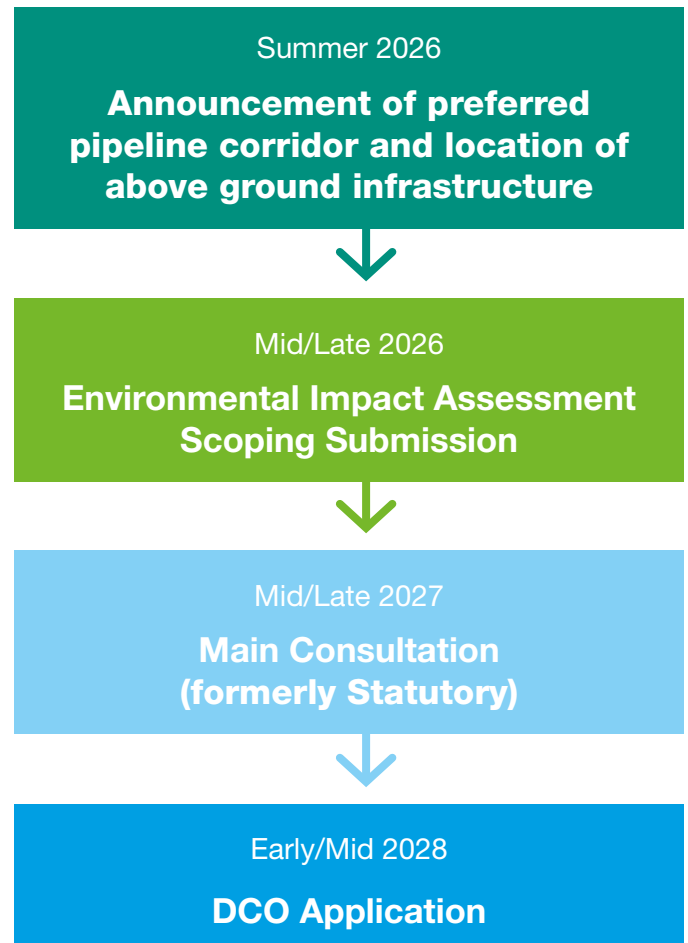


9. Conclusion and Next Steps

It is clear from the feedback received at the Early consultation stage that our stakeholders have readily engaged at an early phase. The “You Said” Report reflects the diverse range of feedback that has been received and lays it out in such a way that it can be efficiently and effectively addressed by the various technical cohorts within the Project team, including the engagement, engineering, environmental and planning teams.

The feedback received during consultation will continue to inform the refinement of the Project as design development and environmental assessment progress.

This will then be set out in the Winter 2025 Consultation Report alongside the Preferred Option Announcement, which will be published in Summer 2026.



Keeping in touch with the SWRTS Project

To stay informed about the Project, please visit www.suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk for the latest news, updates and key documents, including future Project materials and technical reports as they are published.

You can also register on the website to receive email updates directly to your inbox, ensuring you are notified of upcoming consultation events, new information releases and opportunities to provide feedback.

If you have a specific question about the Project, you can ask the team directly by emailing swsp@nwl.co.uk. We are committed to maintaining clear, transparent and ongoing dialogue as the Project progresses through development and the DCO process.