

# Our proposed new reservoir in Lincolnshire

Helpringham Parish Council briefing  
3 September 2025



# Agenda



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## Project recap

Overview and consultation feedback

**Kelly, Ben, Roxy**

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## Our recent work

How we're developing our proposals further

**Hugh, Simon, Ben**

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## Engagement update

Further consultation and engagement plans

**Kelly**

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## Questions

Project team and Parish Council

## Project team members

Kelly (Stakeholder Lead)

Roxy (Consultation)

Liam (Consultation)

Hugh (Lands)

Ben (Design & Engineering)

Simon (Environment)

# Our proposals



## Water sources infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to collect water from each source. This includes equipment to take in water flows, pump the water and, where needed, treatment facilities to remove impurities and manage water quality.





This also includes underground pipelines to transfer water to the reservoir, and the routes to transfer water into the reservoir using existing open channel waterways.

## The reservoir site

Our emerging design for the reservoir and its embankments, including our ideas for where recreation, wildlife, nature and features could be located, and how we would operate the reservoir.

This also includes areas of land in the vicinity of the reservoir we could need for environmental mitigation, construction, or for other works related to the reservoir, based on our early stage work.

### Key

-  The proposed reservoir
-  Water sources
-  Supply points
-  Water Treatment Works

# What the project includes

River Trent

Abstraction infrastructure (pumping station and, if needed, treatment facilities) and water transfer to the River Witham via the Fosdyke

River Witham

Abstraction infrastructure (pumping station and, if needed, treatment facilities) and water transfer to the South Forty Foot Drain

South Forty Foot Drain

Proposed new reservoir

Inlet

Pumping station

Helpingham South Beck

Outlet

Water treatment works

Underground pipeline and break pressure tank to transfer water to Wilsthorpe connection point

Service reservoir into AW supply

Underground pipeline to transfer water to Chesterton connection point

Service reservoir into AW supply

## Water supply infrastructure

The infrastructure we need to treat the water stored at the reservoir and supply it to homes and businesses. This includes a new water treatment works located at the reservoir, and the underground pipelines to transfer the treated water to Anglian Water connection points for supply.

We may need to build a new service reservoir at each connection point to help us put the water into the supply network.

# Our vision - supporting thriving communities and nature



## People



**The Lincolnshire Reservoir will be at the heart of a revitalised countryside.**

Areas within and around it will be opened for public use, and leisure opportunities created on the water and in the surrounding landscape. New connections will be provided from nearby villages, so that people can access and enjoy water and nature.

The reservoir will promote a change to more regenerative land management, and diverse opportunities for local people, agriculture and businesses.

## Nature



**The reservoir will be thoughtfully designed to respect and reveal the local area's rich character and heritage.**

It will help the environment to thrive and to increase the presence and diversity of local wildlife.

## Water

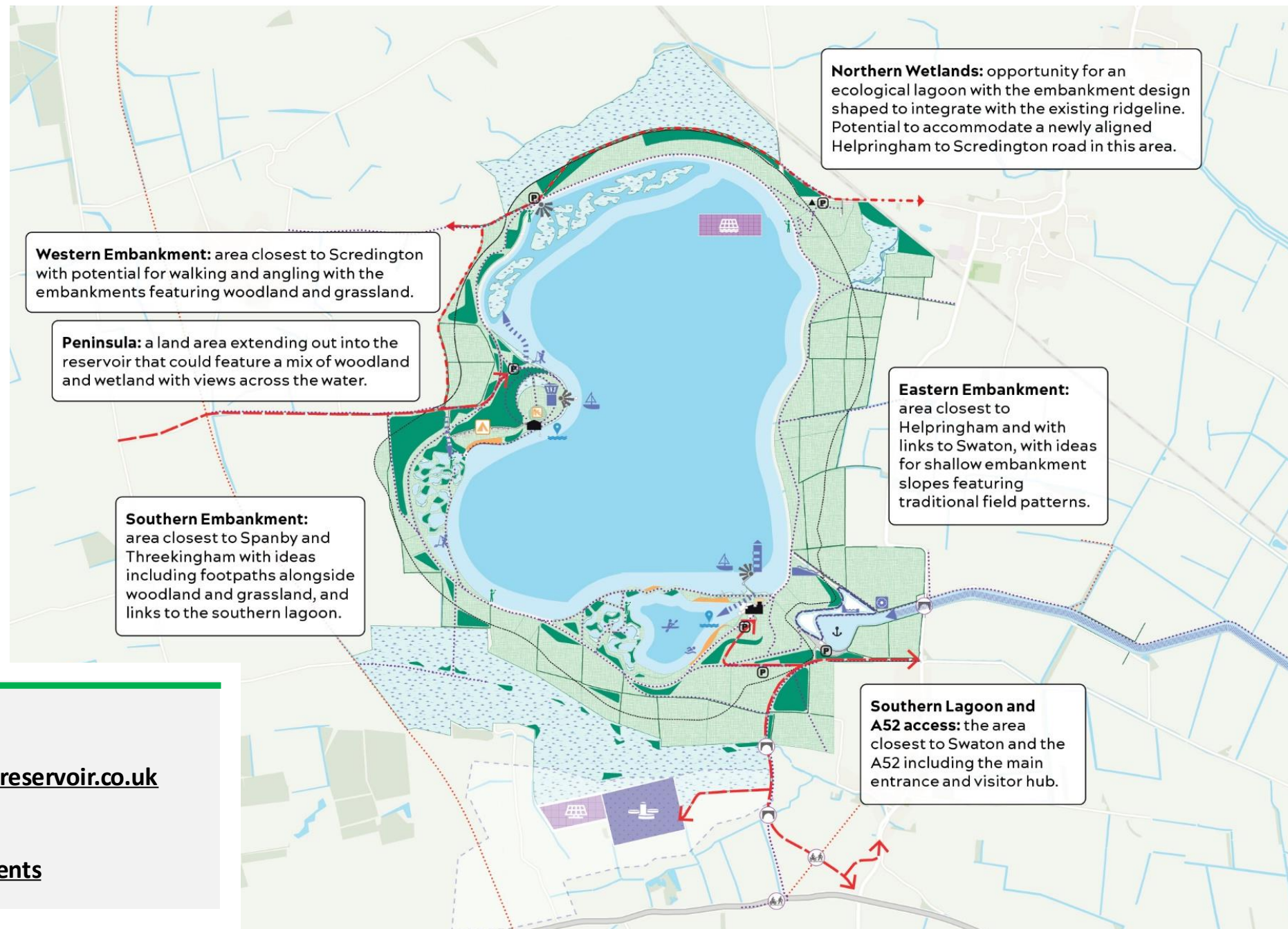


**The reservoir will secure a resilient supply of water for people across Lincolnshire and the surrounding areas for decades to come.**

It will mean less water taken from sensitive groundwater sources, replenishing the environment and helping springs to flow.

It will protect water supplies for agriculture, while helping people and nature to reconnect.

# The emerging design



View our proposals in more detail:

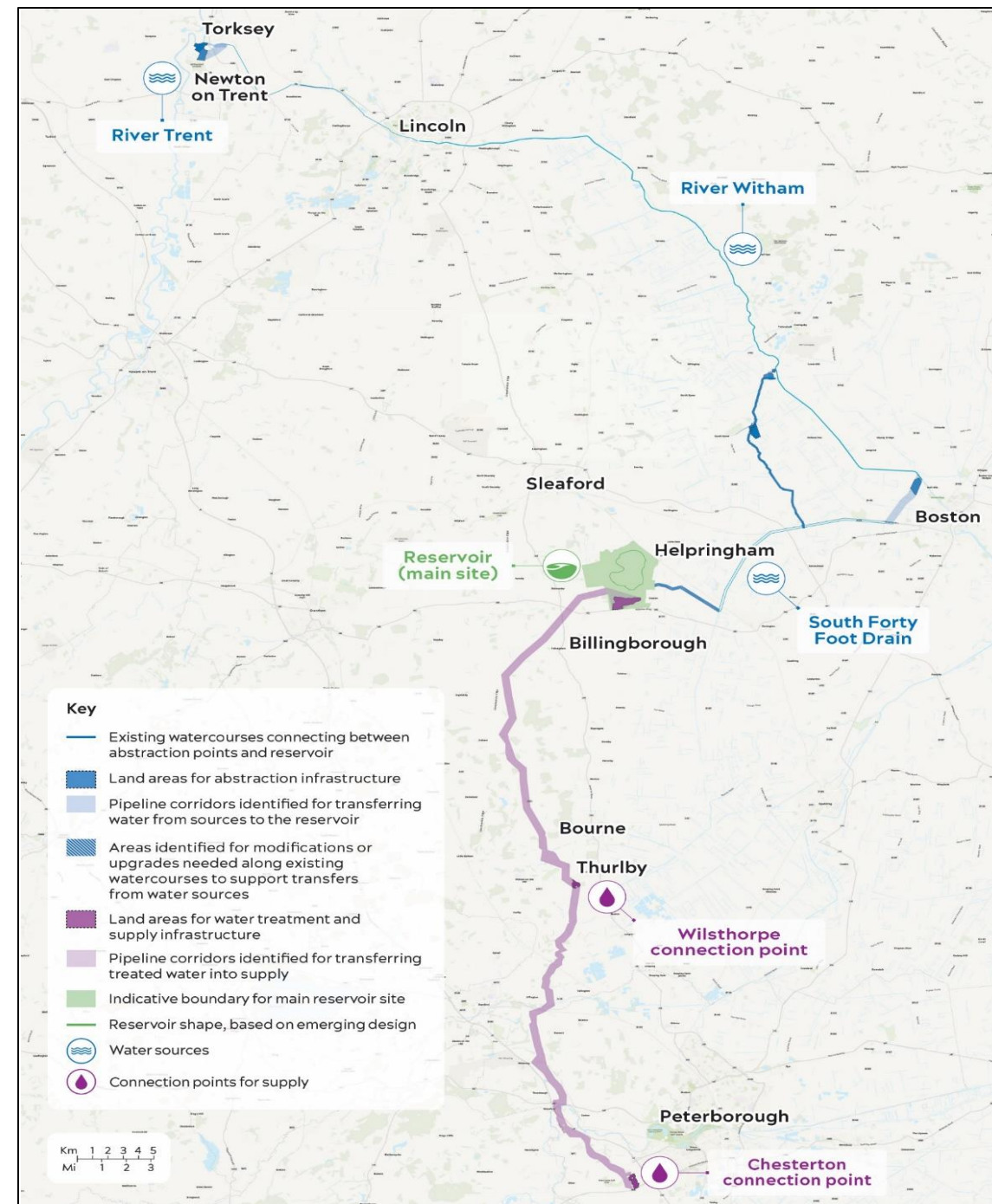
- Interactive map: [projectmap.lincsreservoir.co.uk](http://projectmap.lincsreservoir.co.uk)
- Main site design brochure: [www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents](http://www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents)

# Getting water to and from the reservoir

- **Water sources infrastructure** – drawing water from sources when it's available and transferring it to the reservoir
- **Water supply infrastructure** – treating the water stored at the reservoir and transferring it into our supply networks

More info

View our proposals in more detail on our interactive map:  
[Projectmap.lincsreservoir.co.uk](https://projectmap.lincsreservoir.co.uk)



# Why the project temporarily paused

Both of our new reservoirs in Lincolnshire and in the Cambridgeshire Fens are a key part of our latest Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) which sets out when each reservoir is needed.

To ensure we deliver that plan, while also managing impacts on customer bills over the next five to 10 years, we reviewed some of the timings for the reservoir in Lincolnshire in late 2024.

**Our target for the reservoir to be in supply by 2039 at the earliest remains the same, but the pre-application phase has been extended by approximately two years.**

- additional consultation in spring 2026
- statutory consultation in 2027
- application for development consent planned for submission in late 2028/29





# Phase two consultation



# Our phase two consultation



Emerging design for the main reservoir site

Areas of land in the vicinity of the main reservoir site

Water sources infrastructure

Water supply infrastructure

Supporting information

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Our phase two consultation ran from **30 May until 9 August 2024**. We asked for feedback on:



**More info**

For more information, read the guide to our proposals and phase two consultation brochure: [www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents](http://www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents)

# What people told us

Many people were positive about the opportunities it could bring for people, nature and the environment:

“The overall vision of providing a water source and a valuable recreation resource should appeal to many people”

“This project could bring educational opportunities”



As we develop our proposals further, people want us to think carefully about:

- Effects on place and communities
- Roads and transport
- Agriculture and the local economy
- The natural environment
- Integration with the existing water network and watercourses

# What you told us



Comments	Our response
You raised concerns about <b>the value of the consultation process</b>	<p>The feedback we receive is key to making sure we develop our proposals in a way that helps to keep impacts as low as possible and create benefits for people and nature.</p> <p>We're now planning an additional phase of consultation in Spring 2026, where we will provide more information on early-stage topics that we were not able to share detail on during our phase two consultation.</p>
You raised concerns about <b>potential disruption to agricultural land</b>	<p>We've noted your comments, and they are being considered alongside all the feedback we received as we develop our proposals further.</p> <p>Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be a key part of how we develop plans for the reservoir and is central to the planning process that we are following. This will include a socio-economic impact assessment which will identify any impacts to agriculture and help us best assess ways to manage these.</p>
You raised concerns regarding <b>potential flooding</b> in Helpringham, <b>due to heavy rain</b> and the <b>potential danger to existing drains</b>	<p>We're committed to making sure the project won't worsen existing flood risks.</p>

## More info

For more information, read the summary of our phase two consultation feedback: [www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents](http://www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/documents)

# Developing our proposals



# Survey activity



## Started in spring 2025

- **Ground investigations** including boreholes and trial pits
- **Archaeological trial trenching** to assess heritage impacts across the site
- **Non-intrusive survey** walkovers to observe environmental factors
- **New temporary works compound** off Mareham Lane with meeting space

**This is not a sign of construction work starting.**

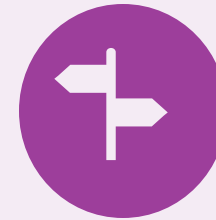
# What to expect from us



Disruption **low-level** and kept to a minimum.



**Permission** from landowners in advance.



**Keeping roads clean** where our vehicles are using them for access.



**Taking care** not to disturb wildlife.



**We contacted you in April** with information about the surveys.

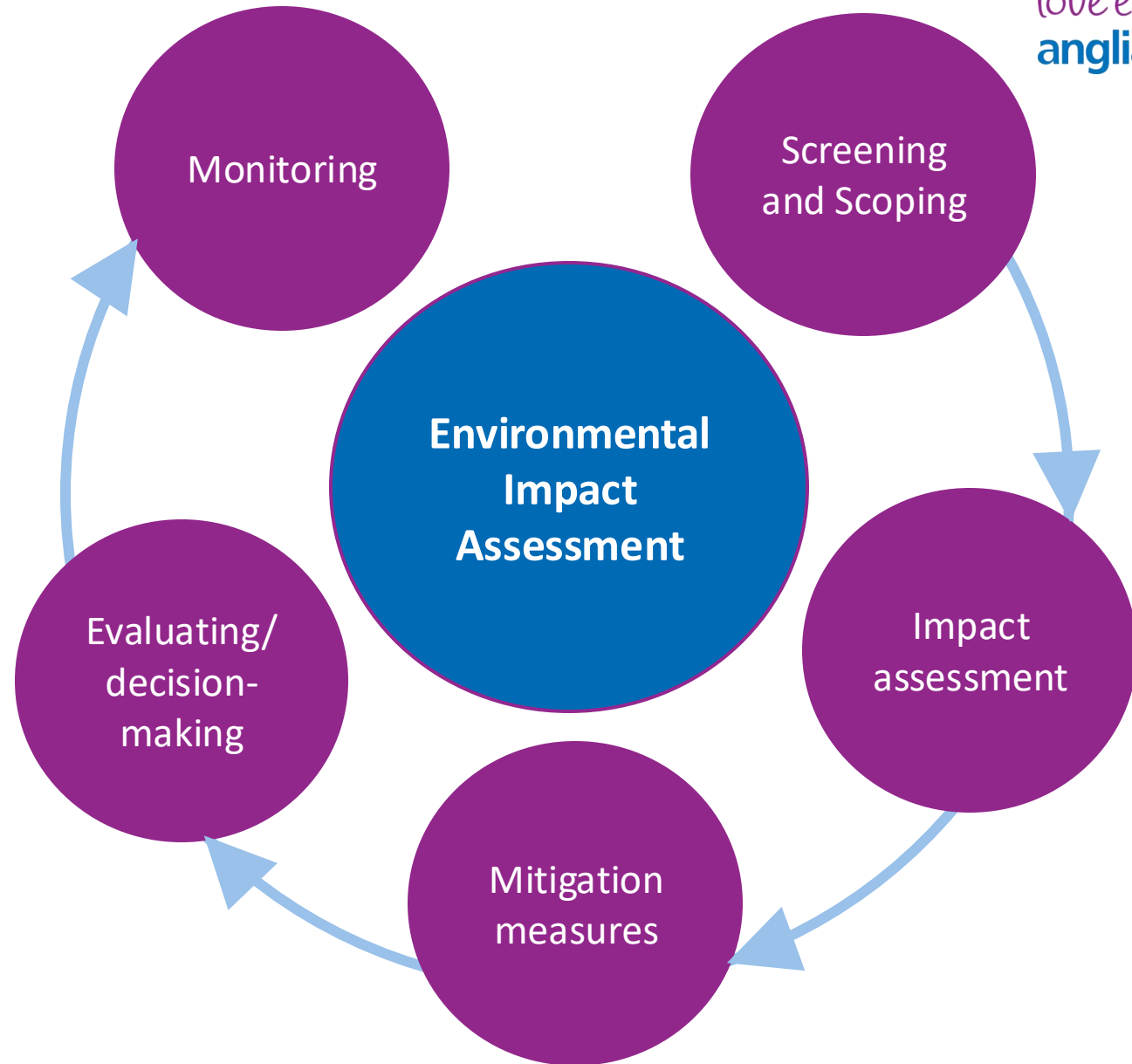
# Environmental Impact Assessment





# The EIA process

Gathering and analysing data to understand current environmental conditions and to identify likely significant effects of the project on these conditions, in both positive and negative terms.



# Managing flood risk



Flooding in Swaton. Photo credit: Swaton Resident

- Designing **sustainable drainage systems** to the reservoir embankment and new development features (such as access roads, tracks, and Water Treatment Works) to manage surface water runoff to existing greenfield runoff rates.
- Reducing areas draining towards local communities, by **capturing run-off** in the reservoir instead.
- Pursuing **opportunities to create new wetlands and flood storage features** to slow down surface water runoff, maintain floodplain storage, and prevent increased flood risk.

# Next steps



# Consultation and engagement plans

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We're now intending to hold an additional phase of consultation in **Spring 2026** where we will provide an update on our proposals and more detailed information on areas we know are important to people.

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We are continuing to engage with communities between now on then, so people can find out more about how we're developing our proposals.



We'll be providing you with the resources you need to help keep the community informed.



# Lincolnshire Reservoir - indicative timeline



## The development timeline



Please note: this timeline is indicative and may change as our proposals develop.



# Questions

**A proposed reservoir in Lincolnshire**

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