

Suffolk Water Supply Projects

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Securing Water for the Future

Suffolk is one of the driest regions in the UK and is officially classed as a **Serious Water Stressed Area**. The Suffolk Water Supply Projects are being developed to ensure a reliable, sustainable water supply for around **300,000 people**, now and in the future.

Growing demand, combined with reduced groundwater abstraction, means new water sources and infrastructure are needed to avoid future shortages.

What Is the SWRTS Project?

SWRTS stands for **Suffolk Water Recycling, Transfer, and Storage**.

It is a long-term programme that will recycle water, move it where it is needed, and store it for use during dry periods.

Key Elements of the Project

Advanced Water Recycling

A new **Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP)** will treat wastewater to a very high standard.

- Up to **16.8 million litres per day** will be treated
- Around **10.6 million litres per day** of recycled water will be returned to the **River Waveney** to support river flows and water supplies

Pipelines and Network Improvements

- Approximately **60 km of strategic pipelines**
- Around **20 km of local distribution pipework**
- Connections to water networks, storage reservoirs, and **Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station**

Water Storage

- Two new service reservoirs at **Lodgewood** and **Eye**, each with a capacity of **15 million litres**
- A proposed **North Suffolk Reservoir** with a capacity of over **30,000 million litres**, filled during winter using surplus water from the River Waveney

Sea Outfall

A long sea outfall will safely discharge any remaining waste streams offshore, in line with environmental standards.

Site Selection and Design

Potential sites and pipeline routes have been assessed through several stages. These assessments consider:

- Environmental protection
- Flood risk
- Planning policy
- Existing land use and infrastructure

Some areas have been ruled out due to constraints such as protected habitats, floodplains, contaminated land, and major utility infrastructure.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

We are committed to engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the project.

Who we are consulting

- Local residents and landowners
- Local authorities and regulators
- Environmental organisations and community groups
- Schools, faith groups, and special interest groups

How to get involved

- Public events and exhibitions across Suffolk
- Online webinars and information sessions
- Project brochures, maps, and Q&A documents
- Online feedback forms, email, and freepost responses

Public consultation events are being held at **eight locations across Suffolk**, with additional events planned in **Saxmundham** and **Thrandeston**.

The current consultation closed on 10 December 2025.

Project Timeline

- **Non-statutory public consultation:** October – December 2025
- **Scoping consultation:** Mid to late 2026
- **Statutory public consultation:** Mid 2027
- **Development Consent Order (DCO) application:** Early to mid 2028

A **Development Consent Order (DCO)** is the planning approval required for nationally significant infrastructure projects.

Challenges and Considerations

The project must carefully balance:

- Environmental protection
- Engineering and construction requirements
- Planning and land constraints
- Flood risk and existing utilities

These factors are being addressed through detailed design, assessment, and consultation.

What Happens Next?

- Review and respond to consultation feedback
- Refine site locations and pipeline routes
- Continue environmental and technical assessments
- Prepare the Development Consent Order application

There will throughout the project be further opportunities for consultation via the Parish Council

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