



Water Framework Directive Assessment (RAPID Gate Two)

South Lincolnshire Reservoir

November 2022

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Executive summary

This Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment supports the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) that accompanies the gate two submission to the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) for the South Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR) Strategic Resource Option (SRO). This report presents the findings of the WFD assessment for all the scheme elements including: abstraction, conveyance including pumps, storage, treatment and distribution into supply and the reservoir.

The two-stage WFD assessment follows the approach outlined in the All Company Working Group (ACWG) framework for undertaking WFD assessments for SROs (ACWG, 2020).

Level 1 assessment identified 24 waterbodies which could potentially be affected by the scheme. Following the Level 1 assessment, seven of these waterbodies were identified as requiring further assessment, due to the potential effects on the WFD waterbodies.

The findings from the Level 2 assessment are:

- A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Swaton Drains (ID: GB105030056515) has been identified. Within the reservoir footprint over 2.5km of open channel would be lost, along with 28% of the catchment. The loss of open channel would impact on habitat, flow and hydromorphology in this waterbody.
- A potential minor localised risk (no risk of deterioration) to the South Beck (ID: GB105030056520) has been identified from the loss of open watercourse and loss of up to 4% of open watercourse within the catchment due to the presence of the reservoir. This loss of catchment and watercourses would impact on habitat, flow and hydromorphology in this waterbody.
- A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Trent from Soar to Beck (ID: GB104028053110) was identified as a result of the new surface water abstraction. Abstraction rates are expected to be <10% of the total volume of the Trent catchment and the change in flow and velocity has the potential to impact biological elements. Further investigation is required to determine the full extent of the impacts. A potential adverse risk was also identified due to potential for changes in water quality due to the surface water abstraction.
- A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant (ID: GB105030056780) has been identified as a result of the discharge from the Trent from Soar to Beck. A high-level water quality assessment of the proposed transfer was conducted, it concludes there is an expected 69% increase in ammonia.
- A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain (ID: GB105030062370) and the Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain (ID: GB205030062425) have been identified as a result of the discharge into the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant (ID: GB105030056780). A high-level water quality assessment concludes there is an expected 46% increase in phosphate by the time it reaches both catchments.
- A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Lower Witham conf Bain to Grand Sluice (ID: GB205030062426) has been identified as a result of the discharge from the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant (ID: GB105030056780). A high-level water quality assessment, concludes there is an expected 46% increase in phosphate by the time it reaches the catchment. A potential adverse effect (risk of deterioration) was also identified for biological status elements due to the transfer of water from

upstream and subsequent abstraction at this waterbody leading to changes in water velocity and level, which could impact on biological status elements.

Further WFD assessment will be required during the next stages of project development (i.e. for gate three and beyond) to improve the levels of certainty for the WFD related risks outlined in this assessment, and to identify mitigation where required.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This report supports the Environmental Appraisal for the scheme as part of the South Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR) Strategic Resource Option (SRO) gate two submission to the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID). It presents the findings of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment of the scheme.

1.2 South Lincolnshire Reservoir

A new strategic reservoir in Lincolnshire, referred to as the South Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR), has been proposed for development as one of several nationally strategic water resource options required to address increasing deficits in public water supply. The scheme is being promoted by Anglian Water and is being progressed through the fast-tracked delivery framework overseen by the Regulatory Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID).

The SLR has previously progressed through gate one in 2021, the first opportunity to check progress on investigations and development of solutions in the gated process and is now at gate two. Gate two is intended to look at solutions in more detail, with focus on ensuring that funding for continued investigation and development of solutions is aligned to water resources planning.

This report presents a scheme wide WFD assessment including: abstraction, conveyance including pumps, storage, treatment and distribution into supply and the reservoir.

1.3 Scheme overview

The proposed reservoir site is located in the South Lincolnshire area. It is located approximately 7km southeast of the town of Sleaford, between the settlements of Swaton, Screddington and Helpringham in the North Kesteven District Council area. At its greatest dimensions the reservoir is approximately 2.6km wide and 3.2km long to the embankment toe. This is based on the initial concept design and is subject to further work at gate three.

It is proposed that water will be abstracted from the River Witham, from a location assumed to be between Chapel Hill and Langrick Bridge. It is proposed that flow in the River Witham will be supported via a transfer from the River Trent. The intake is currently assumed to be near Newark-on-Trent and transferred to River Witham near Claypole.

Further details on the scheme are set out in Section 2.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 Approach to WFD assessment for SROs

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is transposed into law for England and Wales through *The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003* and updated in 2017¹.

The WFD requires all waterbodies (both surface and groundwater) to achieve 'good status or potential'. The Directive also requires that waterbodies experience no deterioration in status or

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/made>

potential. Good status/potential is a function of good ecological status/potential (biological, physico-chemical and hydromorphological elements and specific pollutants) and good chemical status (Priority Substances and Priority Hazardous Substances).

The All Company Working Group (ACWG)² has developed a consistent framework for undertaking WFD assessments for SROs to demonstrate that options will not cause deterioration in status/potential of any WFD waterbodies. The assessment considers mitigation that would need to be put in place to protect waterbody status/potential. The assessment also considers WFD future objectives to ensure the option would not preclude affected WFD waterbodies from reaching good status/potential.

Two stages of assessment are completed under the ACWG WFD approach, an initial Level 1 basic screening and a Level 2 detailed impact screening. These are conducted/reported using a spreadsheet assessment tool which is automated based on option information for Level 1 and expert judgment for Level 2.

This report includes the WFD assessment of the reservoir footprint, abstractions, discharges, and transfers associated with the potential reservoir.

1.4.2 Level 1 – basic screening

Level 1 assessment follows these steps:

- Identify affected waterbodies
- Review SRO option information
- Identify possible impacts
- Apply 'embedded' mitigation measures
- Calculate screening score (using a 6-point scale - see Table 1.1) to 'screen out' waterbodies and options with no or minor localised (no risk of deterioration) potential impacts from further assessment (score of 1 or less).

The process involves the identification of all activities involved in construction, operation and decommissioning for the SRO and identification of all WFD waterbodies which these activities may affect.

Following this, each activity is automatically assigned an impact score using the predetermined scores, as outlined in Table 1.1. The scores assumes some basic embedded mitigation is applied. If these mitigation measures do not apply or further measures are included in the design, then the impact score can be reassessed and the score manually updated. The mean and maximum impact score is then calculated for each waterbody. If the maximum impact is 1 or less, then the waterbody is not to be considered further and no further action is needed. If the maximum impact score is greater than 1 (i.e. there is the potential for deterioration at a waterbody scale) then the waterbody is taken forward into the level 2 assessment.

The outcomes of the Level 1 assessment are summarised in Section 5.1 and Appendix A. Where waterbodies and option impacts were 'screened in', they have been taken forward to the Level 2 assessment.

² All Company Working Group (Nov 2020). Water Framework Directive: Consistent framework for undertaking no deterioration assessments

Table 1.1: Impact scoring system used for WFD assessment

Impact	Score	Description
Very beneficial	-2	Impacts that, taken on their own, have the potential to lead to the improvement in the ecological status or potential of a WFD quality element for the entire waterbody.
Beneficial	-1	Impacts that, when taken on their own, have the potential to lead to a minor localised or temporary improvement that does not affect the overall WFD status of the waterbody or any quality elements.
No/minimal	0	No measurable change in the quality of the water environment or the ability for target WFD objectives to be achieved.
Low	1	Impacts that, when taken on their own, have the potential to lead to a minor localised, short-term and fully reversible effects on one or more of the quality elements but would not result in the lowering of WFD status. Impacts would be very unlikely to prevent any target WFD objectives from being achieved.
Medium	2	Impacts that, when taken on their own, have the potential to lead to a widespread or prolonged effect on the quality of the water environment that may result in the temporary reduction in WFD status. Impacts have the potential to prevent target WFD objectives from being achieved.
High	3	Impacts when taken on their own have the potential to lead to a significant effect and permanent deterioration of WFD status. Potential for high impact on preventing target WFD objectives from being achieved.

1.4.3 Level 2 – detailed impact assessment

The second stage of WFD assessment has been completed for waterbodies in the scheme that were screened in at Level 1, following the next steps:

- Waterbody scale detailed assessment of impacts to each WFD quality element (biological quality elements, hydromorphological supporting elements, physio-chemical quality elements, priority hazardous substances, priority substances and specific pollutants) of the footprint of the proposed site³.
- Assessment of data confidence level and design certainty – confidence levels are assigned for each assessment, based on professional judgement of the quality and availability of both physical data and design information about the option at the time of assessment. Requirements for further investigations, data and/or design information required in order to raise the level of confidence for future gates is listed in the WFD assessment (Level 2 summary).
- Identification of further mitigation needs.
- Assessment of impacts after mitigation (scoring on a 6-point scale).
- Identification of activities to improve the certainty of assessment outcomes.

The outcomes of the Level 2 assessments are summarised in Section 5.2 and Appendix B.

1.4.4 WFD for gate three and beyond

Where waterbodies and option impacts have been identified, recommendations have been made for mitigation and increasing the confidence in the assessment. This is expected to be through increasing the level of detail available during later stages of the development of the scheme and for subsequent gateways if the option is progressed. Both the Level 1 and 2 WFD assessment will be updated at gate three following updated design information.

³ Gate one assessed all activities associated with the SLR SRO, however a change in scope has resulted in the WFD only assessing the reservoir footprint only.

It is noted that the Cycle 3 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are due to be published in 2022, which may bring about changes in the baseline status and objectives for waterbodies. Where necessary, changes will need to be accounted for in updates to the WFD assessments.

1.5 Assumptions and limitations

Due to the level design information at this stage the WFD assessment has the following limitations and assumptions:

- The ACWG approach uses WFD 2015 data, as it is the current officially reported baseline in the Anglian region RBMP Cycle 2 (2015-2021)⁴. The RBMPs are anticipated to be updated in 2022, and 2019 WFD baseline data released in late 2020 would then become the new baseline. For consistency, the 2015 data has been used at Gate 1 and 2; but it is acknowledged that this will need to be updated to the 2019 status, once the RBMPs are published (proposed for gate three).
- Where there is no data available for the WFD element, this has not been assessed as part of the Level 2 WFD assessment.
- Decommissioning of the reservoir and transfers have not been assessed as part of the gate two assessment.
- It is assumed the Water Treatment Works (WTW) will only treat water from the reservoir and will not discharge to a local watercourse.
- It is assumed bund will contain a core of low permeability material, which will limit connection between the reservoir and local watercourses, excluding where formal discharges maybe present.
- If dewatering is required, a permit will need to be obtained from the EA. It is assumed the permit will cover water quality to ensure it is suitable to discharges into the watercourses.
- The geographical extent of the WFD assessment has been limited to waterbodies where construction activities are taking place.
- This assessment only takes into account the waterbody where the abstraction is located on the River Trent and River Witham. Consideration of the impacts on waterbodies downstream and the associated impacts of the abstraction will be included during the next stages of project development, following further investigation.
- This option includes a transfer of water between the River Trent and River Witham. Water is discharged into the River Witham, and then abstracted further downstream from the River Witham to supply the SLR. This assessment considers all the River Witham waterbodies between the abstraction and discharge locations.
- At the time of writing, the emergency draw down design has not been completed as multiple options are under consideration. The emergency draw down has therefore been excluded from this WFD assessment. It is expected that this will be included within the WFD assessment at the gate three once the design has been finalised.

⁴ Environment Agency (2016) Anglian RBMP. Available at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

2 Scheme Description

2.1 Scheme overview

The SLR scheme includes the development of a new embanked raw water reservoir for water storage for public water supply. It also comprises abstractions from the River Witham and River Trent, raw water transfers, treatment works, and distribution into supply.

Key scheme parameters include:

- River Trent maximum abstraction and transfer flow to River Witham: 300MI/d (Megalitres per day)
- River Witham maximum abstraction and transfer flow to reservoir: 400MI/d
- Reservoir total capacity: 55MCM
- Reservoir usable volume: 50MCM
- Treatment distribution flow⁵: 150MI/d

2.1.1 Reservoir overview

The proposed reservoir site is shown in Figure 2.1, and is located approximately 7km southeast of the town of Sleaford, between the settlements of Swaton, Screddington and Helpringham in the North Kesteven District Council area. South Kesteven District Council's administrative boundary is approximately 100m south of the polygon, south of the A52 Holland Road. The Peterborough to Lincoln railway line runs along the north-eastern boundary with the North Beck watercourse situated just north of the site boundary.

An indicative concept plan has been developed for the scheme. This indicative concept has been established to provide reference for cost and carbon estimation in gate two. The summary provisional details are provided below, but much work is still required to develop the scheme and the final details will develop accordingly.

The provisional reservoir parameters are as follows:

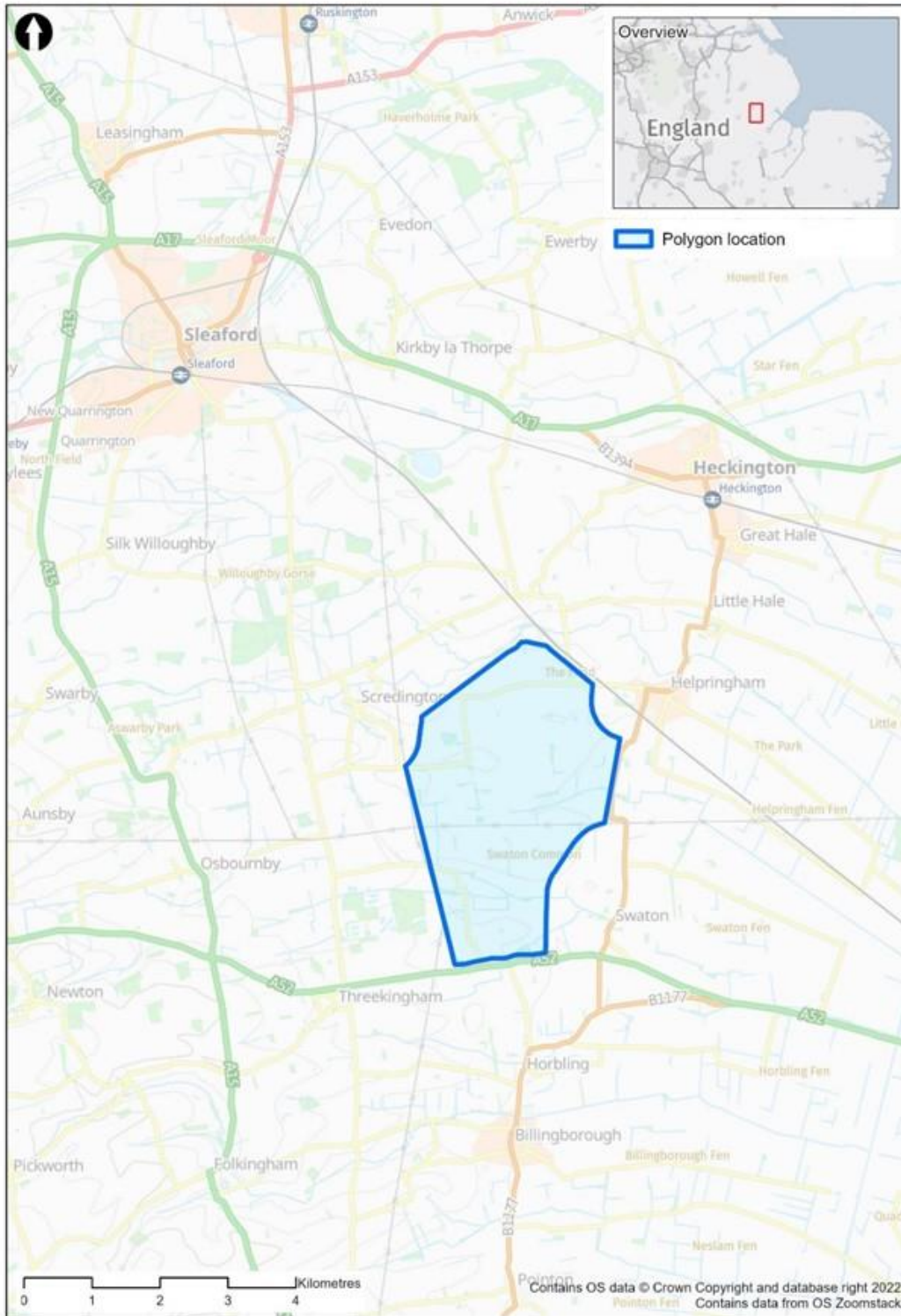
- At its greatest dimensions the reservoir is 2.6km wide and 3.2km long to the embankment toe.
- The embankment crest is estimated at 26m AOD making the embankment an average of 14m above the existing ground level at the toe, a maximum of 15.1m and a minimum of 3.7m above existing ground levels.
- The total perimeter length of the crest is approximately 8.5km and the estimated reservoir surface area is 4.8km².

The reservoir would include key infrastructure necessary for its safe operation, including intake and outtake structures; drawdown facilities; a spillway and water sampling facilities. The reservoir will also be expected to provide benefits beyond public water supply. Opportunities to incorporate facilities to enable recreation (such as a visitor centre and parking), infrastructure to improve health and wellbeing (such as multi-use footpaths, quiet areas and leisure opportunities) and careful design to enhance and encourage biodiversity are planned and will be developed further, with the features that would deliver these wider benefits being subject to further assessment and consultation. Landscaping would be carefully designed surrounding the

⁵ The proposed capacity of the water treatment works and transfer pipelines has been updated since this assessment was completed. The figures quoted in the gate two report include a scheme deployable output of 166MI/d and works capacity up to 180MI/d. These changes are not anticipated to have any material impact on the completed assessments.

reservoir to minimise the visual impact of the reservoir whilst ensuring it sits within the existing landscape and delivers wider recreational and biodiversity benefits.

Figure 2.1: Site context map



2.1.2 Raw water abstraction and transfers

It is proposed that water will be abstracted from the River Witham. The abstraction location has currently been assumed, for indicative purposes, to be at an intake between Chapel Hill and Langrick Bridge. The precise abstraction location will be identified following further detailed work (including stakeholder engagement) for gate three. The current design includes the transfer of water into the reservoir by about 18km of 1600mm (millimetres) diameter steel pipeline.

However, the precise abstraction location will be identified following further detailed work (including stakeholder engagement) for gate three. The proposed abstraction rate from the River Witham is up to 400MI/d when flows allow. This is subject to further assessment undertaken in collaboration with the Environment Agency (EA) to develop an abstraction rate which is licensable. The associated abstraction licence is expected to stipulate a minimum flow and minimum water level requirement at the point of abstraction below which it would not be possible to abstract. Abstraction to fill the reservoir would only be possible during high flow periods.

It is proposed that flows in the River Witham would be supported via a transfer from the River Trent. Up to 300MI/d would be abstracted from the River Trent, with an intake currently assumed for indicative purposes to be located near Newark-on-Trent (although, as with the River Witham abstraction, the precise abstraction location will be identified following further detailed work for gate three) and transferred by about 10km of 1400mm diameter steel pipeline to the River Witham near Claypole. Without mitigation, there is a risk of INNS transferring between catchments (see EAR).

The current design includes the transfer of water into the reservoir by about 18km of 1600mm (millimetres) diameter steel pipeline. The potential for the raw water transfer to the reservoir from the River Witham into the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) and then into the reservoir, using open channel, to deliver additional benefits has been identified as an opportunity. This opportunity is being investigated further and will be confirmed during the next stage of project development.

Further work is planned for the next stage to confirm the locations of the abstraction points and routes for the transfers. This will involve landowner engagement, environmental surveys, and preliminary ground investigations. The information provided in this report and accompanying appendices are assumptions based on indicative locations only at this stage. The indicative transfer routes for are shown in Figure 2.2.

The abstraction facilities are expected to comprise an intake structure, a transfer pumping station (TPS) and pipeline.

2.1.3 Water treatment and potable transfers

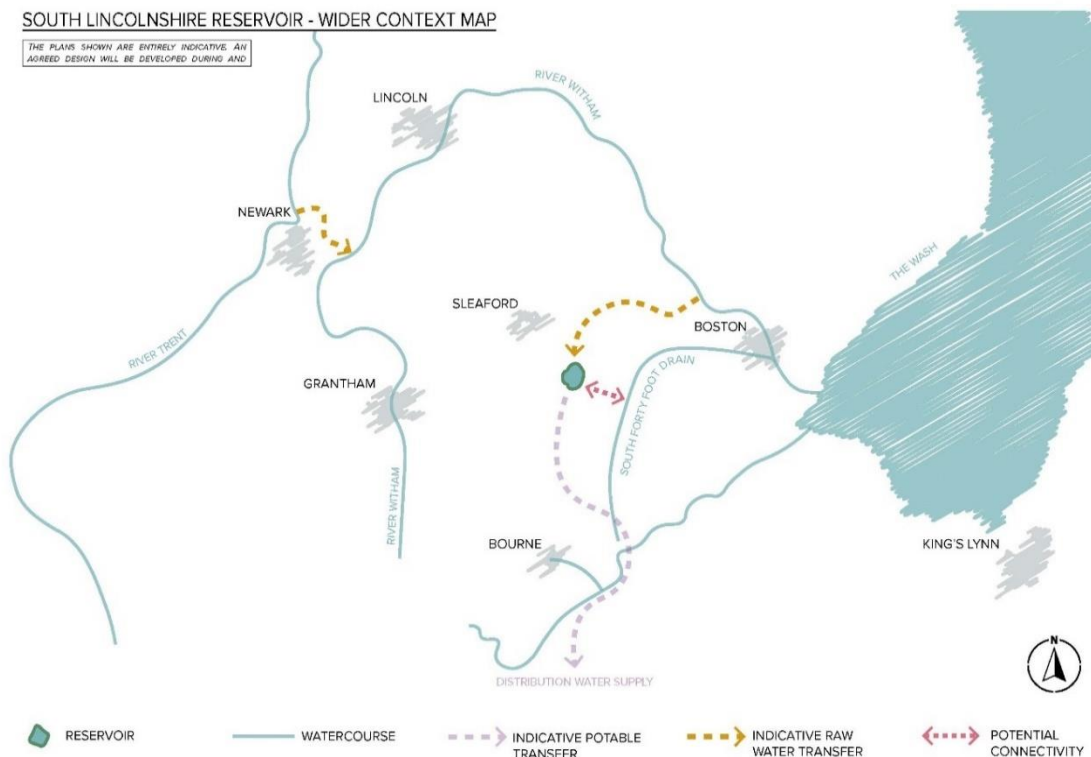
Stored water will subsequently be abstracted from the reservoir and treated to a potable quality. It is proposed that a WTW is located on land adjacent to the reservoir with a peak throughput capacity of 180MI/d.

It is proposed that the treated water will be transferred by an approximate 37km 1100mm diameter steel pipeline into the potable supply network by an existing Anglian Water Service Reservoir. The reservoir is to supply over 500,000 homes in Lincolnshire and the south-west of the Anglian region.

Further work is planned for the next stage to confirm the routes for the transfers involving landowner engagement, environmental surveys, and preliminary ground investigations. The information provided in this report and accompanying appendices are assumptions based on indicative locations only at this stage.

See Figure 2.2 for an illustration of indicative proposed transfer corridor locations.

Figure 2.2 Proposed transfer corridors



2.1.4 Summary of operation and use

Development and operation of the reservoir will be subject to the Reservoirs Act 1975 (as amended by the Floods and Water Management Act 2010). The embankments and associated water retaining elements of the reservoir will need to be maintained and supervised in accordance with the Act to maintain public safety.

Provision of emergency drawdown must be designed in accordance with the Reservoirs Act. The proposed solution at this stage is to discharge to the SFFD, but this is to be further modelled and confirmed as part of the next stage of development. Although the risk of needing to fully drawdown the reservoir is very low, there is a need for regular testing and maintenance to confirm functionality. This will involve the opening and testing of relevant valves and gates. Test flows are envisaged to be held in a pond to avoid disruption and to enable water to be returned to the reservoir.

The operation and maintenance of the water treatment works and the distribution water supply system inclusive of distribution pump stations are expected to be in constant regular use according to water supply demand. The water supply components will need regular inspections and maintenance activities in accordance with the requirements of the respectively installed equipment.

2.1.5 Associated infrastructure and features

It is proposed that there will be a need for associated infrastructure and other features such as environmental mitigation to minimise the impacts of the reservoir, as well as enhancement opportunities. The location and design of the additional infrastructure has not been established and will therefore need to be confirmed at the next phase of scheme development.

3 Changes since gate one

A site selection process has been undertaken to determine the proposed site for the SLR SRO option, which has been put forward to the RAPID gate two submission. This process has identified and assessed potential site locations against the following criteria: planning, community, environmental, economic and technical criteria (constraints and opportunities). The iterative approach was aligned with relevant legislation and national and local planning policy, including the draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure. Local planning authorities and statutory stakeholders have been consulted on the methodology, and local stakeholders have been engaged through the South Lincolnshire Water Partnership.

Following completion of the gate one WFD assessment in 2021, the proposed reservoir location has been selected, and further design development work has continued. This has allowed the list of waterbodies requiring further WFD assessment to be refined for gate two.

Reservoir and transfers

- South Beck GB105030056520
- Swaton Drains GB105030056515

Transfers only

- Brook Drain (including Marholm Brook) - GB105031050595
- The Fleet Upper Catchment (tributary of Trent) - GB104028053430
- Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain - GB205030051515
- Ousemere Lode - GB105030056490
- Slough Dyke Catchment (tributary of Trent) - GB104028053111
- Billingborough Lode - GB105030056480
- Pointon Lode - GB105030051555
- Old Beck - GB105030051540
- Glen - GB105031050720
- Vernatt's Drain - GB205031050705
- Welland confluence of Gwash to confluence of Greatford Cut - GB105031050600
- Welland confluence of Greatford Cut to tidal - GB205031050685
- Maxey Cut - GB205031050595
- Lower Trent Erewash (Secondary Combined) groundwater body - GB40402G990300
- Witham Lias groundwater body - GB40502G401400
- Cornbrash groundwater body - GB40502G445000

Abstraction only

- Trent from Soar to The Beck - GB104028053110

Discharge only

- Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant- GB105030056780

Abstraction and transfer of discharged water from the abstraction at the River Trent

- Lower Witham – conf Bain to Grand Sluice - GB205030062426

Transfer of discharged water from the abstraction at the River Trent

- Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain - GB105030062370
- Witham – conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain - GB205030062425

4 Supporting Technical Assessment

This section summarises supporting technical assessments that have influenced the gate two assessment. Ongoing workstreams, baseline data collection and analysis during gate two include, but not limited to, selection of the proposed site (as stated in Section 3), and hydraulic and hydro-ecology survey, modelling and monitoring.

4.1 Gate one assessment

Mott MacDonald carried out a Level 1 and Level 2 WFD Assessment for gate one in 2021, which assessed the risk of deterioration or impeding achieving 'Good status' to a WFD waterbody based on various SLR options that were outlined in the optioneering phase. The findings indicated that there were precautionary WFD compliance risks associated with the abstractions and intakes.

4.2 Preferred site selection

In June 2022, strategic assessments were carried out on the short list of four location options to help identify the proposed site. These assessments considered only the reservoir footprints and were based on the preliminary design information available at the time. The assessment for the proposed site has been used as the basis for this latest proposed site assessment.

4.3 Level 1 WFD assessment for transfers

The transfers considered consists of:

- Construction of a pipeline, approximately 10km in length to transfer water from River Trent to River Witham
- Construction of a pipeline, approximately 18km in length, to transfer water from River Witham to South Lincolnshire reservoir
- Construction of a pipeline, approximately 37km in length to transfer water from South Lincolnshire reservoir to Water Treatment Works in Peterborough

The following assumptions were made in the assessment of this transfer route:

- Operation and maintenance of the transfers were omitted from this assessment as the design and operation of the transfers is yet to be determined. An assessment of which will be undertaken at a later design stage.
- Regarding the construction methods of the transfers, trenchless construction methods will be employed when crossing main rivers, watercourses, and watercourse links. The remaining lengths will be installed using trenching and laying methods.
- If the watercourse needs to be temporarily diverted, appropriate measures will be in place to protect ecology and watercourse will be returned to its natural state.
- It is assumed that appropriate precautions will be taken when working in the channels of watercourses, to appropriately manage flood risk and the potential for deposition of silt or release of other forms of suspended material or pollution within the water column.

Based on these assumptions made, the transfers do not have the potential to cause deterioration to WFD status within waterbodies that interface with the transfer network. Therefore, none of the waterbody catchments required a Level 2 assessment, where the transfer is the sole design element (see Section 5.1).

4.4 Hydro-ecology

Mott MacDonald carried out an informal Stage 2 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)⁶ in June 2022 and concluded that no residual effects remain on designated sites for the construction phase of the scheme at The Wash SPA/Ramsar Site and The Wash and Norfolk Coast SAC, assuming that all proposed mitigation is implemented. However, adverse effects for the operational phase cannot be ruled out, as the potential adverse effects of increased sedimentation and changes in water levels and flows and are currently unknown.

In June 2022, Mott MacDonald carried out a Hydro-ecology study to consider implications on aquatic habitats and species. This study concluded the following:

- The abstractions would only result in significant flow reduction during high-discharge periods in winter. Summer flows during high-discharge periods would not be significantly affected. On the basis of current modelled scenarios, water transfer from the River Trent would result in dramatic flow increases in the River Trent, throughout the year, with proportionately greater impact in the summer. The increase would be most pronounced at the point of transfer into the River Witham, and the effect would be reduced with distance downstream.
- Changes in flow because of the scheme have the potential to impact water depths and velocities at barriers along the watercourse, ultimately rendering barriers less passable for all of the fish species identified in this study.
- For aquatic communities, the impacts are pronounced at Claypole and gradually reducing in magnitude with distance from the discharge point. There is potential for a reduced impact on fish species further downstream of the discharge point as the results from the hydrological analysis suggest the increase in flow will be significantly reduced in comparison to the baseline.

4.5 Water quality modelling

Mott MacDonald conducted Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modelling of phosphorus. This study concluded that:

- Transferring water from the River Trent to the River Witham to support flow and abstraction in the River Witham results in higher orthophosphate concentrations at the River Trent (Langrick Bridge) abstraction point.
- Transferring water from the River Trent to the River Witham during the summer results in a greater increase in phosphorus load at River Trent (Langrick Bridge) than transferring at the same rate during autumn and winter. This is a result of reduced dilution of phosphorus, mostly from point sources during the summer when flows are lower in both the River Trent and River Witham.

⁶ Mott MacDonald, 2022. SLR Reservoir Informal Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), June 2022.

5 WFD Assessment

5.1 Level 1 assessment

Table 5.1 provides the colour-coding matrix applied to identify if waterbodies are screened in or out of further assessment. Further information on WFD classification and the approach adopted can be found in *ACWG, WFD: Consistent framework for undertaking no deterioration assessments, Nov 2020*⁷.

Table 5.1: Level 1 WFD screening classification

Green – Passes Level 1 WFD, no further assessment (score 1 or less)
Amber – Level 1 WFD score greater than 1, screened in for Level 2

A WFD assessment has been produced for the scheme. Table 5.2 provides a summary of the gate two Level 1 WFD assessment and provides context relating to the waterbodies affected. Of the WFD waterbodies that have been identified, full details are included in Appendix A.

⁷ ACWG (2020). Water Framework Directive: Consistent framework for undertaking no deterioration assessments, November 2020.

Table 5.2: Level 1 WFD assessment summary (waterbody screening)

Waterbody ID	Maximum impact score / screening outcome	Comment
GB105030056515 - Swaton Drains	3	Headwaters of the main watercourse is located within the reservoir footprint, leading to the loss of a significant percentage of the catchment and several open channels. A new transfer will be located within this catchment. A new WTW will be located within this catchment.
GB105030056520 - South Beck	3	Reservoir located in this waterbody, leading to the loss of catchment and several open channels. Main watercourse located downstream of the reservoir. A new transfer will be located within this catchment.
GB104028053110 – Trent from Soar to Beck	3	A new surface abstraction, intake structure and pipeline will be located within this catchment, leading to reductions in flow in this water course
GB105030056780 – Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	3	A new discharge and transfer will be located within this catchment, leading to the potential for changes in flow and water quality.
GB104028053111 – Slough Dyke Catchment (trib of Trent)	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105030062370- Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	2	Discharge in upstream catchment, leading to the potential for changes in flow and water quality.
GB205030062425 – Witham – conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	2	Discharge in upstream catchment, leading to the potential for changes in flow and water quality.
GB205030062426 – Lower Witham – conf Bain to Grand Sluice	3	Discharge in upstream catchment, leading to the potential for changes in flow and water quality. A new surface water abstraction will also be located within this catchment..
GB104028053430 – The Fleet Upper Catchment (trib of Trent)	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB205030051515 – Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105030056490 – Ousemere Lode	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105030056480 – Billingborough Lode	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.

Waterbody ID	Maximum impact score / screening outcome	Comment
GB105030051555 – Pointon Lode	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105030051540 – Old Beck	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105031050720 - Glen	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB205031050705 – Vernatt’s Drain	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105031050600 – Welland – conf Greatford Cut	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB205031050595 – Maxey Cut	1	A new intake structure and transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB105031050595 – Brook Drain (including Marholm Brook)	1	A new transfer and storage reservoir will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB205031050685 – Welland – conf Greatford Cut to tidal	1	A new transfer will be located within this catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB40502G445000 – Cornbrash	1	A new transfer will be located within this groundwater body catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB40402G990300 – Lower Trent Erewash – Secondary Combined	1	A new intake structure and transfer will be located within this groundwater body catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.
GB40502G401400 – Witham Lias	1	A new transfer will be located within this groundwater body catchment. No significant impacts anticipated.

Level 1 assessment identified 24 waterbodies which could potentially be affected by the scheme. Following the Level 1 assessment, seven of these waterbodies were identified as requiring further assessment, due to the potential effects on the WFD waterbodies.

The following WFD surface water bodies were assessed at Level 2:

- GB105030056515 – Swaton Drains
- GB105030056520 – South Beck
- GB104028053110 – Trent from Soar to Beck
- GB105030056780 – Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant
- GB105030062370 - Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain
- GB205030062425 – Witham – conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain
- GB205030062426 – Lower Witham – conf Bain to Grand Sluice

5.2 Level 2 WFD Assessment

5.2.1 Assessment methodology

The second stage of the WFD assessment has been completed for the SLR scheme for waterbodies that were screened in at Level 1. Further information on WFD classification and the approach adopted can be found in *ACWG, WFD: Consistent framework for undertaking no deterioration assessments, Nov 2020*. This assessment will be updated as design progresses and a full WFD assessment will be completed for consenting.

Table 5.3 provides a summary of WFD confidence levels used to inform the Level 2 assessment.

Table 5.3: Explanation of WFD confidence levels, based on ACWG methodology

Confidence Level	Description
Low	Gate one and two - Limited data and evidence available, based mainly or completely on expert judgement with many assumptions. Preliminary design information only, detailed information on location/routes, construction methods etc not yet available.
Medium	Gate two - Some data and evidence available, based partially on expert judgement with some assumptions. Design progressed but some assumptions made on construction methods etc.
High	Gate three and four - Lots of good data and evidence are available, minimal assumptions. Design advanced minimal assumptions needed.

Table 5.4 provides a description of the risk of deterioration between status classes, compromising waterbody objectives, and assisting future attainment of waterbody objectives. Each WFD supporting element has been assessed against the potential risk as a result of the activity occurring.

Table 5.4: Description of WFD risk levels/outcomes

Deterioration between status classes	Compromises waterbody objectives	Assists attainment of waterbody objectives
Yes = activities have a clear potential to cause deterioration of WFD status	Yes = activities clearly conflict with delivery of future improvements in WFD status	No = activities unlikely to contribute to achieving 'Good' status or potential
Possible = activities could cause deterioration of WFD status but unclear extent/level of effect	Possible = activities conflict with future improvements in WFD status but unclear extent/level of effect	Possible = activities could contribute to achieving 'Good' status or potential but unclear extent/level of effect
No = activities unlikely to pose any risk of deterioration in status	No = activities unlikely to pose any risk of deterioration in status	Yes = activities could directly contribute to achieving 'Good' status or potential

Uncertain = insufficient information or evidence to assess

Source: ACWG, 2020.

5.2.2 Standard mitigation and good practice

Construction activities will be managed by good practice construction measures to be included within an CEMP for the scheme in accordance with Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Guidelines. Guidance on good practice in relation to pollution prevention and water management is set out in CIRIA's 'Environmental good practice on site'⁸, CIRIA's 'Control of water pollution from linear construction projects; Technical Guidance'⁹ and the withdrawn EA's 'Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution'¹⁰, Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG)5 'Works and maintenance in or near water', PPG6 'Working at Construction and Demolition Sites', PPG7 'The safe operation of refuelling facilities', and PPG13 'Vehicle washing and cleaning'¹¹. Whilst the EA PPGs were formally withdrawn in 2015, the information still provides useful guidance. It is assumed the reservoir will include adequate drainage to accommodate potential changes in surface water run-off and water control.

5.2.3 Summary of results/outcomes

The following WFD surface water bodies were assessed at Level 2:

- GB105030056515 – Swaton Drains
- GB105030056520 – South Beck
- GB104028053110 – Trent from Soar to Beck
- GB105030056780 – Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant
- GB105030062370 - Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain
- GB205030062425 – Witham – conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain
- GB205030062426 – Lower Witham – conf Bain to Grand Sluice

The Level 2 WFD assessment for the two waterbodies which the reservoir will be located in: Swaton Drains and South Beck, identified deterioration risks to hydromorphological supporting elements, in addition to geomorphological conditions (not as assessed as part of the WFD). These are primarily due to potential risks associated with the loss of open watercourses, which could potentially be mitigated by the realignment of some watercourses and/or alternative

⁸ Audus, Charles and Evans (2010) Environmental Good Practice on Site (Third Edition) (C692).

⁹ Murnane, Heap and Swain (2006) Control of water pollution from linear construction projects; Technical Guidance.

¹⁰ Environment Agency (2017) Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protect-groundwater-and-prevent-groundwater-pollution/protect-groundwater-and-prevent-groundwater-pollution> (Last accessed March 2022).

¹¹ The Environment Agency PPGs were formally withdrawn on 17 December 2015; however, they nonetheless provide clear and useful good practice advice. The archived PPGs are available at: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328090931/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/39083.aspx>.

mitigation (e.g., in-channel improvements). However, further assessment and mitigation design would be required to confirm, and the assessment remains as at risk of deterioration until this work is complete.

The assessment for the remaining five waterbodies identified possible deterioration risks to flow, water quality and biological status elements due to the abstractions and discharges. However, further assessment would be required to confirm the impact and to identify appropriate WFD mitigation.

A summary of the Level 2 WFD assessment is included in Table 5.5. Detailed outputs are presented in Appendix B.

Impacts on downstream waterbodies, including the Wash and Humber estuaries have not been considered at this stage. They will be considered during the next stages of project development.

5.2.3.1 South Beck

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Construction and operation of a new reservoir
- Construction and operation of new SLR treatment works to supply connection point flow conveyance

A potential minor localised risk (no risk of deterioration) to the South Beck was identified from the loss of open watercourse and loss of up to 4% of open watercourse within the catchment due to the presence of the reservoir. This loss of catchment and watercourses could impact on habitat, flow and hydromorphology within this waterbody catchment.

At this stage, it is assumed the construction of the pipeline will not involve in-channel modifications to the watercourse. Construction methods will involve trenchless activities and therefore the impact on the watercourse catchment as a result of the transfer is expected to be negligible.

5.2.3.2 Swaton Drains

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Construction and operation of a new reservoir
- Construction and operation of a new pipeline
- Construction and operation of a new Water Treatment Works (WTW), set back from the watercourse
- Construction and operation of a new small storage reservoir (set back from the watercourse)

A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Swaton Drains was identified, as a result of the reservoir footprint. This would result in loss of up to 2.5km of open channel, along with 28% of the catchment. The loss of catchment and open channel would lead to major adverse effects (risk of deterioration) on habitat, flow, hydromorphology and mitigation measures assessment in this waterbody. Mitigation could include realigning and diverting any substantial watercourses. Similarly, river restoration (in-channel and/or floodplain reconnection and riparian improvements/NFM) could also be considered to offset loss of habitat and impacts on hydromorphology. Consideration could be given to providing compensatory flows from the reservoir to Swaton Drains to support flows, though implications on water quality and INNS would need to be considered. However, until further assessment and design has included suitable mitigation a risk of deterioration remains.

At this stage it is assumed the construction of the pipeline will not involve in-channel modifications to a watercourse. Construction methods will involve trenchless activities and therefore the impact on the watercourse catchment as a result of the transfer is expected to be negligible.

The new WTW will be set back from the watercourse, therefore the construction impacts are expected to be negligible.

5.2.3.3 Trent from Soar to Beck

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Construction and operation of a new surface water abstraction
- Construction and operation of a new river intake structure
- Construction and operation of a new pipeline

An amber adverse risk (potential risk of deterioration) to the Trent from Soar to Beck was identified as a result of the new surface water abstraction. Abstraction rates are expected to be <10% of the total volume of the Trent catchment and the change in flow and velocity has the potential to impact biological elements. Further investigation is required to determine the full extent of the impacts. An amber adverse risk (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified due to potential for changes in water quality due to the surface water abstraction. The abstraction could result in a change in the physio-chemical conditions due to reduced dilution downstream.

At this stage it is assumed the construction of the pipeline will not involve in-channel modifications to the watercourse. Construction methods will involve trenchless activities and therefore the impact on the watercourse catchment as a result of the transfer is expected to be negligible.

5.2.3.4 Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Construction and operation of a new discharge and outfall structure
- Construction and operation of a new inter river flow conveyance, Trent to Witham transfer

A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant was identified as a result of the discharge from the Trent from Soar to Beck. A high-level water quality assessment of the indicative transfer was conducted, it concludes there is an expected 69% increase in ammonia concentrations. The RBMP Cycle 2 status of ammonia is currently 'High'. The expected increase in ammonia concentration has the potential to lead to a major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) on the water quality. There is an expected increase 17% in phosphate concentrations, with a Cycle 2 classification of 'High' and 'Moderate'. This is expected to have an amber adverse risk (potential risk of deterioration). It is recommended additional water quality modelling analysis should be undertaken to assist in determining the appropriate mitigation measures.

An amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified for biological status elements due to change in flow velocity and volume. The discharge into this waterbody will lead to changes in water velocity and levels, which could impact on biological status elements. It is recommended hydroecology analysis is carried out to better understand the impact of the discharge on flow velocity and levels, and therefore on biological status elements.

The transfer via the River Witham will only be operated during wetter periods and no impact is anticipated on dry/drought conditions within the river. At this stage it is assumed the construction of the pipeline will not involve in-channel modifications to the watercourse.

Construction methods will involve trenchless activities and therefore the impact on the watercourse catchment as a result of the transfer is expected to be negligible.

The INNS treatment planned on the abstraction from the River Trent will ensure there is no risk for transfer of INNS into the River Witham from the River Trent.

5.2.3.5 Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Transfer of discharged water from the River Trent abstraction

A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain was identified as a result of changes in water quality due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream River Witham waterbody (Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant). A high- level water quality assessment, concludes there is the potential for a 46% increase in phosphate in the Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain catchment, due to the upstream discharge from the River Trent. On a precautionary basis this is assessed as a major adverse effect (risk of deterioration). Similarly, the following other potential changes in water quality have been assessed:

- Potential increase in ammonia concentration (7%) which is assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)
- Potential 4% increase in pH, assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)
- Potential 1% increase in temperature, assessed as a negligible effect
- Potential decrease of 2% in Dissolved Oxygen assessed as a negligible effect

Further investigation is required to determine the actually likely changes in water quality and the potential impact of these changes on biological status elements.

Finally, an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified for biological status elements due to change in flow velocity and volume. The discharge into this waterbody will lead to changes in water velocity and levels, which could impact on biological status elements. It is recommended hydroecological analysis is carried out to better understand the impact of the discharge on flow velocity and levels, and therefore on biological status elements. The transfer via the River Witham will only be operated during wetter periods and no impact is anticipated on dry/drought conditions within the river.

5.2.3.6 Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Transfer of discharged water down River Witham from the River Trent abstraction

A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain was identified as a result of changes in water quality due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream River Witham waterbody (Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant). A high- level water quality assessment, concludes there is the potential for a 46% increase in phosphate in the Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain catchment, due to the upstream discharge from the River Trent. On a precautionary basis this is assessed as a major adverse effect (risk of deterioration). Similarly, the following other potential changes in water quality have been assessed:

- Potential increase in ammonia concentration (7%) which is assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)

- Potential 4% increase in pH, assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)
- Potential 1% increase in temperature, assessed as a negligible effect
- Potential decrease of 2% in Dissolved Oxygen assessed as a negligible effect

Further investigation is required to determine the actually likely changes in water quality and the potential impact of these changes on biological status elements.

Finally, an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified for biological status elements due to change in flow velocity and volume. The discharge into this waterbody will lead to changes in water velocity and levels, which could impact on biological status elements. It is recommended hydroecological analysis is carried out to better understand the impact of the discharge on flow velocity and levels, and therefore on biological status elements. The transfer via the River Witham will only be operated during wetter periods and no impact is anticipated on dry/drought conditions within the river.

5.2.3.7 Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice

The following elements are located within this catchment:

- Transfer of discharged water down River Witham from the River Trent abstraction
- Construction and operation of a new surface water abstraction on the River Witham
- Construction and operation of a new river intake structure
- Construction and operation of a new River Witham to SLR flow conveyance pipeline

A potential major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice was identified as a result of changes in water quality due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream River Witham waterbody (Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant). A high-level water quality assessment, concludes there is the potential for a 46% increase in phosphate in the Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice catchment, due to the upstream discharge from the River Trent. On a precautionary basis this is assessed as a major adverse effect (risk of deterioration). Similarly, the following other potential changes in water quality have been assessed:

- Potential increase in ammonia concentration (7%) which is assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)
- Potential 4% increase in pH, assessed as an amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration)
- Potential 1% increase in temperature, assessed as a negligible effect
- Potential decrease of 2% in dissolved oxygen assessed as a negligible effect

Further investigation is required to determine the actually likely changes in water quality and the potential impact of these changes on biological status elements.

An amber adverse effect (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified for biological status elements due to change in flow velocity and volume. The discharge and subsequent abstraction at this waterbody will lead to changes in water velocity and level, which could impact on biological status elements. It is recommended hydroecological analysis is carried out to better understand the impact of the discharge and abstraction on flow velocity and levels, and therefore on biological status elements.

At this stage it is assumed the construction of the pipeline will not involve in-channel modifications to the watercourse. Construction methods will involve trenchless activities. Therefore, the impact on the watercourse catchment as a result of the transfer is expected to be negligible.

5.2.4 Summary

Table 5.5 provides a summary of all the WFD waterbodies screened in at Level 1 and 2 of the WFD Assessment.

Table 5.5: Summary of WFD waterbodies affected

Waterbody ID	Maximum Impact Score (Level 1)	Maximum Impact Score (Level 2)	Deterioration between status classes	Impediments to GES/GEP	Compromises waterbody objectives	Assists attainment of water body objectives
GB105030056515 - Swaton Drains	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB105030056520 - South Beck	3	1	No	No	No	No
GB104028053110 - Trent from Soar to Beck	3	2	No	No	No	No
GB105030056780 - Witham - conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB105030062370 - Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB205030062425 - Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB205030062426 - Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB104028053111 - Slough Dyke Catchment (trib of Trent)	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB104028053430 - The Fleet Upper Catchment (trib of Trent)	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB205030051515 - Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105030056490 - Ousemere Lode	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105030056480-Billingborough Lode	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105030051555 - Pointon Lode	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

GB105030051540 -Old Beck GB105030051540 - -Old Beck	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105031050720 - Glen	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB205031050705 - Vernatt's Drain	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105031050600 - Welland - conf Gwash to conf Greatford Cut	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB205031050595 - Maxey Cut	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB105031050595 - Brook Drain (including Marholm Brook)	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB205031050685 - Welland - conf Greatford Cut to tidal	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB40502G445000 - Cornbrash	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB40402G990300 - Lower Trent Erewash - Secondary Combined	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GB40502G401400 - Witham Lias	1	Level 2 assessment not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.3 Risk of deterioration

A major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Swaton Drains (ID: GB105030056515) has been identified. Within the reservoir footprint over 2.5km of open channel would be lost, along with 28% of the catchment. The loss of open channel would impact on habitat, flow and hydromorphology in this waterbody. Mitigation would include provision of new open water channels and providing compensatory flows from the reservoir to Swaton Drains. However, implications on water quality and INNS would to be considered. Similarly, river restoration (in-channel and/or floodplain reconnection and riparian improvements/NFM) could also be considered to offset loss of habitat and impacts on hydromorphology.

An amber adverse risk (potential risk of deterioration) to the Trent from Soar to Beck was identified as a result of the new surface water abstraction. Abstraction rates are expected to be <10% of the total volume of the Trent catchment and the change in flow and velocity has the potential to impact biological elements. Further investigation is required to determine the full extent of the impacts. An amber adverse risk (potential risk of deterioration) was also identified due to potential for changes in water quality due to the surface water abstraction. The abstraction could result in a change in the physico-chemical conditions due to reduced dilution downstream.

A major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant (ID: GB105030056780) has been identified as a result of the discharge from the Trent from Soar to Beck. A high-level water quality assessment of the indicative transfer was conducted, it concludes there is an expected 69% increase in ammonia. As of the RBMP Cycle 2 the status of ammonia is 'High', this increase in ammonia has the potential to cause a significant effect on the water quality. In combination with an increase in the other physico-chemicals, this has the potential to decrease the chemical status from 'Moderate' to 'Poor'. It is recommended additional water quality modelling analysis should be undertaken to assist in determining proportionate mitigation measures.

Major adverse risk (risk of deterioration) to the Witham – conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain (ID: GB105030062370) and the Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain (ID: GB205030062425) have been identified as a result of the discharge from the Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant (ID: GB105030056780). A high-level water quality assessment concludes an expected 46% increase in phosphate by the time it reaches both catchments. Within the catchments, phosphate levels are expected to be lower. However, further investigation is required to determine the predicted percentage change. It is recommended additional water quality modelling analysis should be undertaken to assist in determining the proportionate mitigation measures.

If this scheme is taken forward, it is possible that an exemption would need to be sought under Regulation 19 of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 (WFD Regulations 2017) in respect of potential deterioration in status of one or more waterbodies. Further investigation is required to fully quantify the impacts and identify possible mitigation.

5.4 In-combination effects

An initial in-combination effects assessment has been undertaken as part of the gate two WFD report. The SLR SRO is being considered as a major supply-side option in the Water Resources East (WRE) Regional Plan and Anglian Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (dWRMP24). If the scheme is selected, it will be subject to further in-combination and in-combination effects assessment with the other selected options, neighbouring water company plans and neighbouring regional plans. Until the WRE Best Value Regional Plan has been

developed, it is not known when the scheme would be implemented, and therefore which other developments it could act in-combination with.

There is the potential for in-combination impacts on The Wash as a result of the SLR and Fens reservoir schemes. Further work will be undertaken during the next stages of project development to determine the extent of potential in-combination effects on The Wash, following the outcome of the ongoing hydrological assessments. Similarly, there are potential in-combination effects as a result of SLR and Minworth SRO on the River Trent. Further work will be undertaken at during the next stages of project development to identify the potential in-combination effects, based on the ongoing hydrological assessments (assuming Minworth SRO is taken forward to gate three).

For the purpose of this assessment only Local Development Frameworks, Development Consent Orders (DCOs) for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, Hybrid Bills, Relevant Transport and Works Act Orders and relevant planning applications or allocations have been considered.

A search of the committed developments identified 24 within the search radius of 10km. The search concluded no committed developments would be impacted as a result of the SLR scheme, due to their locations not being hydrologically connected.

A search of major planning applications identified 17 within the search radius of relevance to WFD. The search concluded one major planning application had the potential of being impacted by the scheme. The development¹² is to facilitate the Viking Link electrical interconnector with an approximate capacity of 1400 megawatts (MW) extending from Revising, Jutland (Denmark) to Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire (United Kingdom). Works include installations of up to six onshore high voltage cables, link pillars along the cable route, drainage mitigation and fibre optic cable. In relation to the SLR scheme, the cables intersect the River Witham between the SLR abstraction and discharge locations. The cables also intersect the transfer route between the River Witham and the A17. The Environmental Impact Assessment for this project states the construction of the cables will involve trenchless activities (i.e. Horizontal Directional Drilling) of the watercourse crossings. The activities associated with this construction method could lead to an increase in turbid run-off and spillages/leaks of fuel, oil or other pollutants; with the potential to impact on the water quality in the receiving the watercourses. Additionally, there could be an increase in soil erosion, along the exposed cable trenches. This has the potential to turbid (sediment laden) run-off affecting the nearby watercourses. Mitigation for The Viking Link Project includes areas of risk of spillage to be bunded or otherwise isolated to minimise the risk of hazardous substances entering the local watercourses, any surface water flowing into the trenches, will be pumped via settling tanks to remove sediment and potential contaminants before being discharged back into the watercourse, as well Environment Agency (EA) standard good practice measures (such as PPGs). Use of this mitigation would lead to minor adverse effects that are not significant. It is anticipated with effective mitigation from both the SLR scheme and the development, this will have a minor localised risk (no risk of deterioration) on the affected watercourses.

In addition, 3 mineral allocations were identified within the same waterbodies as SLR (see Table 5.6). SLR involves the installation of new transfers, with associated below ground structures for crossings in these waterbodies. Each of the mineral extraction sites may require dewatering to allow extraction of sand and gravel. Therefore, for all three of these projects there is the potential for in-combination effects due to impacts on river flows, from reduced baseflow from groundwater. However, the scale of works associated with SLR is likely to be small and temporary. Within suitable mitigation in place (such as the discharge of dewatering into local watercourses), it is anticipated that construction of SLR will not increase the risk of deterioration

¹² National Grid (2017) Viking Link. Available at: [viewDocument\(shalland.gov.uk\)](http://viewDocument(shalland.gov.uk))

in the water bodies associated with these mineral allocation projects. Further information is required on each of the mineral allocation projects to confirm this.

Table 5.6: Mineral allocation projects in same water bodies as SLR

Project name	Description	Waterbody impacted
Baston No.2 Quarry Phase 2, Langtoft	Hanson Aggregates Quarry with proposed 2025 extension of existing site for 37 additional hectares of sand and gravel extraction	GB205031050705: Vernatt's Drain
Land off Main Road, Maxey	Potential sand and gravel at site across 33 hectares of land in Maxey	GB205031050595: Maxey Cut
West Deeping Development Brief	36.1 hectare extension to existing King Street Quarry for 2027	GB105031050600: Welland – conf Gwash to conf Greatford Cut

Overall, it is assessed that there will be no in-combination effects due to the SLR project and other committed developments or major planning applications.

5.5 Requirements to improve confidence

The following requirements have been identified in the WFD assessment to improve confidence in the assessment of the surface water bodies:

- On-going refinement of the design in consultation with a WFD specialist.
- Land drainage and site drainage design, to understand which watercourses will be diverted/realigned and which are lost.
- Request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including HWMB measures where relevant) from the EA to understand the impact of the scheme, and to identify opportunities to improve the water body as part of the scheme.
- Update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs, once published.
- It is recommended that a hydrology study is undertaken to understand the potential reduction in catchment area, impacts on flow and therefore biological status elements for South Beck and Swaton Drains waterbodies.
- A hydrology study is recommended to understand potential impacts of reduced flow in the Trent from Sour to The Beck catchment on the hydrological regime and water quality (including both continuous and spot sample water quality monitoring).
- It is recommended additional water quality monitoring (both continuous and spot monitoring) is carried out on the four Witham waterbodies. This data should then be used in further water quality analysis to determine the effects of the discharge from the River Trent on water quality and therefore biology.
- It is recommended hydraulic modelling analysis is undertaken to determine the effects of the increase in flow volume and velocity on the four Witham waterbodies as a result of the discharge.
- Development of WFD mitigation to offset impacts of the scheme.
- Completion of full WFD assessment for consenting stage.

5.6 Mitigation measures

Potential mitigation measures have been suggested for each individual waterbody and scheme activity based on the risk that it poses. The potential mitigation measures should be considered further as design progresses.

Potential mitigation measures for the surface water bodies are set out below:

- Watercourses should be realigned around the reservoir footprint, where reasonably practicable, to re-provide lost habitat and flow into the main rivers.
- Channel modifications should seek to offer the change to incorporate environmental gain by widening drains to allow fringe vegetation to be retained or berms to be constructed, subject to financial burdens during construction, land take and maintenance.¹³
- Considerations to avoid deterioration to hydromorphological determinants including how the flow and quantity of water changes over time.
- Intake structures should be fitted with appropriate fish / eel screens.
- INNS treatment for the transfer from the River Trent to the River Witham.
- If required, consideration of potential water quality treatment of water from River Trent before discharge to River Witham, if additional investigation into nutrient loads indicates a risk of WFD deterioration in water quality.
- Potential low flow releases from the reservoir into local watercourses to help maintain flow (if further investigation suggest this is needed).
- Industry good practice measures including PPG's.¹⁴
- Ensure all works carried out in accordance with guidance provided by the regulator, the EA, for working on/or near water.¹⁵
- Consideration of mitigation options in line with guidance provided in 'A Guide to Management Strategies and Mitigation Measures for Achieving Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies'.¹⁶

A geomorphological walkover should be undertaken at future project stages to understand the status of each watercourse and identify potential suitable mitigation.

This environmental appraisal has highlighted that some uncertainties and risks remain that will need resolving. For WFD, a detailed strategy to develop a robust evidence base to inform subsequent assessments, and potentially derogation tests, will need to be developed in consultation with the regulators.

¹³ https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/Guide_GEP_Fenland_Water_Bodies_web.pdf

¹⁴ Although PPG's are considered to be out of date, they remain good practices for the industry and should be used as embedded mitigation when applicable.

¹⁵ Environment Agency, Protecting and improving the water environment. Water Framework Directive compliance of physical works on or near rivers

¹⁶ Mayer, L., Moodie, I., Carson, C., Vines, K., Nunns, M., Hall, K., Redding, M., Sharman, P. & Bonney, S. (2017) Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies: A Guide to Management Strategies and Mitigation Measures for achieving Good Ecological Potential in Fenland Waterbodies. Association of Drainage Authorities & Environment Agency

6 Conclusions

6.1 Conclusion

For the assessment of the SLR scheme, a WFD assessment has been developed to assess the potential for WFD risks as a result of the scheme. The Level 1 assessment indicated that 24 surface waterbodies, with seven of them requiring further assessment.

Level 2 WFD assessments were completed for seven waterbodies and the findings indicate that there are precautionary WFD compliance risks associated with all seven of these waterbodies are set out in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1: Summary of Level 2 WFD assessment results

Waterbody name	Waterbody ID	Maximum impact score (Level 2)	Potential impact score post mitigation (Level 2)
Swaton Drains	GB105030056515	3 (major adverse)	3 (major adverse)
South Beck	GB105030056520	2 (amber adverse)	2 (amber adverse)
Trent from Soar to Beck	GB104028053110	2 (amber adverse)	2 (amber adverse)
Witham – conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	GB105030056780	3 (major adverse)	3 (major adverse)
Witham conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	GB105030062370	2 (amber adverse)	3 (major adverse)
Witham – conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	GB205030062425	2 (amber adverse)	3 (major adverse)
Lower Witham – conf Bain to Grand Sluice	GB205030062426	3 (major adverse)	3 (major adverse)

The risks identified with the surface water bodies are due to the loss of catchment area and open watercourses, particularly associated with larger channel and decrease in the water quality. Mitigation could include realignment/diversion of the watercourses around the reservoir, but further assessment and design is needed to finalise mitigation needs.

It is possible that an exemption would need to be sought under Regulation 19 of the Water Environment (WFD) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 (WFD Regulations 2017) in respect of potential deterioration in status of one or more waterbodies. Further investigation will be required to fully quantify the impact, identify possible mitigation and determine the need for any potential exemption.

6.2 Recommendations

Area for future focus include:

- Consultation with the EA to present and discuss key WFD risks and proposed approach to improving certainty of assessment.
- Collation and review of Heavily Modified Waterbody (HMWB) and mitigation measures information from the EA to understand impact of the scheme and also to identify opportunities to improve the water body as part of the scheme.
- Update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs, once published.

- Land drainage and site drainage design to understand which watercourses will be diverted/realigned and which are lost.
- A hydrology study to understand potential impacts of reduced flow in the Trent from Sour to The Beck catchment on the hydrological regime and water quality (including both continuous and spot sample water quality monitoring).
- Additional water quality monitoring (both continuous and spot monitoring) is carried out on the four Witham waterbodies. This data should then be used in further water quality analysis to determine the effects of the discharge from the River Trent on water quality and therefore biology.
- It is recommended additional water quality modelling analysis should be undertaken to assist in determining the appropriate mitigation measures.
- It is recommended hydraulic modelling analysis is undertaken to determine the effects of the increase in flow volume and velocity on the four Witham waterbodies as a result of the discharge.
- Development of WFD mitigation to offset impacts of the scheme.
- Identify further work or modelling required to demonstrate compliance into during the next stages of project development.
- Completion of full WFD assessment for consenting stage.

A. Level 1 WFD assessment

Impacted Waterbody ID	Impacted Waterbody Name	Waterbody type	Overall waterbody Classification	Overall waterbody Objective	Number of activities assessed	Count of activities scoring major benefit score	Count of activities scoring minor benefit score	Count of activities scoring minimal impact score	Count of activities scoring minor local impact score	Count of activities scoring medium impact score	Count of activities scoring high impact score	Level 1 max score	Level 1 mean score	Carry through to level 2 assessment?
GB105030056520	South Beck	River	Poor in 2015	Moderate by 2027	13	0	0	2	8	1	2	3	1.23	YES
GB105030056515	Swaton Drains	River	Moderate in 2015	Good by 2027	12	0	0	2	7	1	2	3	1.25	YES
GB104028053110	Trent from Soar to The Beck	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	9	0	0	1	6	1	1	3	1.22	YES
GB105030056780	Witham - conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	9	0	0	2	6	0	1	3	1.00	YES
GB104028053111	Slough Dyke Catchment (trib of Trent)	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB104028053430	The Fleet Upper Catchment (trib of Trent)	River	Bad in 2015	Poor by 2027	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB205030051515	Black Sluice IDB draining to the South Forty Foot Drain	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105030056490	Ousemere Lode	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105030056480	Billingborough Lode	River	Moderate in 2015	Good by 2027	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105030051555	Pointon Lode	River	Moderate in 2015	Good by 2027	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105030051540	Old Beck	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105031050720	Glen	River	Moderate in 2015	Good by 2027	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB205031050705	Vernatt's Drain	River	Moderate in 2015	Good by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB105031050600	Welland - conf Gwash to conf Greatford Cut	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB205031050595	Maxey Cut	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	6	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	0.83	NO
GB105031050595	Brook Drain (including Marholm Brook)	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	1	0.67	NO
GB205031050685	Welland - conf Greatford Cut to tidal	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	0.80	NO
GB40502G445000	Cornbrash	GroundWater	Poor in 2015	Poor in 2015	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1.00	NO
GB40402G990300	Lower Trent Erewash - Secondary Combined	GroundWater	Poor in 2015	Good by 2027	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1.00	NO
GB40502G401400	Witham Lias U	GroundWater	Good by 2015	Good by 2027	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1.00	NO
GB105030062370	Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.00	YES
GB205030062425	Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.00	YES
GB205030062426	Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice	River	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	5	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	1.60	YES

Waterbody requires level 2 WFD assessment	Medium	2	Impacts that, when taken on their own, have the potential to lead to a widespread or prolonged effect on the quality of the water environment that may result in the temporary reduction in WFD status. Impacts have the potential to prevent water WFD objectives from being achieved.
	High	3	Impacts, when taken on their own, have the potential to lead to a significant effect and permanent deterioration of WFD status. Potential for high impact on preventing target WFD objectives from being achieved.

B. Level 2 WFD assessments

GB40402G990300	Lower Trent Erewash - Secondary Combined	GroundWaterBody	1	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required
GB40502G401400	Witham Lias U	GroundWaterBody	1	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required	Level 2 assessment not required
GB105030056780	Witham - conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	River	3	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB105030062370	Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	River	3	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB205030062425	Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	River	3	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GB205030062426	Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice	River	3	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Waterbody ID	Level 2 sheet created?	Waterbody Name	Maximum Level 2 Impact score	Confidence in WFD data	Confidence in option design	Requirements to improve confidence	Mitigation measures	Post mitigation impact score	Deterioration between status classes	Impediments to Good Ecological Status (GES) or Good Ecological Potential (GEP)	Compromises water body objectives	Assists attainment of water body objectives	Further comments
GB105030056520	TRUE	South Beck	1	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Land drainage and site drainage design to understand which watercourses will be diverted/realigned and which are lost. 3) Hydrology study to understand potential reduction in catchment area (and impacts on flow) 4) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published.	Any large watercourses should be realigned to provide lost habitat and flow into the main rivers Further details on mitigation measures assessment from EA to understand impact of the scheme and also to identify opportunities to improve the water body as part of the scheme	1	No	No	No	No	
GB105030056615	TRUE	Swaton Drains	3	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Land drainage and site drainage design to understand which watercourses will be diverted/realigned and which are lost. 3) Hydrology study to understand potential reduction in catchment area (and impacts on flow) 4) Request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published.	The reservoir will lead to the loss of approximately 28% of the catchment and therefore a reduction in flows in both channels. Need to offset loss of in-channel habitat and/or watercourse length Flow support release of water from the reservoir could be considered to support flows, but would need consideration of water quality. Further details on mitigation measures assessment from EA to understand impact of the scheme and also to identify opportunities to improve the water body as part of the scheme	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GB104028053110	TRUE	Trent from Soar to The Beck	2	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Hydrology study to understand potential impact of reduced flow in the catchment on hydrological regime and water quality (including both continuous and spot sample water quality monitoring) 3) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 4) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published.	Implementation of best practice mitigation measures for the intake structure. Further water quality modelling and monitoring (both continuous and spot sampling) is required to determine the extent of impacts on the biological quality elements. This will help determine appropriate mitigation measures.	2	No	No	No	no	
GB105030056780	TRUE	Witham - conf Cringle Bk to conf Brant	3	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Hydrology study to understand the impact of increased flow in the catchment on hydrological regime and biological status elements. 3) Water quality modelling and monitoring (both continuous and spot sampling) to understand the impact of changes in water quality and therefore biology due to the discharge. 4) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published. 6) Hydraulic modelling to understand the impact on flow and velocity as a result of the abstraction	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham Further water quality modelling (both continuous and spot sampling) is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment. This will help determine appropriate mitigation measures.	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GB105030062370	TRUE	Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	3	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Hydrology study to understand the impact of increased flow in the catchment on hydrological regime and biological status elements. 3) Water quality modelling and monitoring (both continuous and spot sampling) to understand the impact of changes in water quality and therefore biology due to the discharge. 4) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published. 6) Hydraulic modelling to understand the impact on flow and velocity as a result of the abstraction	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham Further water quality modelling (both continuous and spot sampling) is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment. This will help determine appropriate mitigation measures.	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GB205030062425	TRUE	Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	3	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Hydrology study to understand the impact of increased flow in the catchment on hydrological regime and biological status elements. 3) Water quality modelling and monitoring (both continuous and spot sampling) to understand the impact of changes in water quality and therefore biology due to the discharge. 4) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published. 6) Hydraulic modelling to understand the impact on flow and velocity as a result of the abstraction	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham Further water quality modelling (both continuous and spot sampling) is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment. This will help determine appropriate mitigation measures.	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
GB205030062426	TRUE	Lower Witham - conf Bain to Grand Sluice	3	Low	Low	1) On-going refinement of the design. 2) Hydrology study to understand the impact of increased flow in the catchment on hydrological regime and biological status elements. 3) Water quality modelling and monitoring (both continuous and spot sampling) to understand the impact of changes in water quality and therefore biology due to the discharge. 4) request for further specific details of mitigation measures assessment and RBMP measures (including A/HWMB measures where relevant) from EA 5) update to WFD baseline data to include 2019 status in line with Cycle 3 2021-2027 RBMPs once published. 6) Hydraulic modelling to understand the impact on flow and velocity as a result of the abstraction	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham Implementation of best practice mitigation measures for the intake structure. Further water quality modelling (both continuous and spot sampling) is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment. This will help determine appropriate mitigation measures.	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Assumes that abstraction from this waterbody will be timed to coincide with the discharges into the upstream waterbody (GB105030056780) to ensure no net loss in flow downstream of abstraction point

Option	SR 41	Go to RNAG/PoM table at bottom of the page
Waterbody ID	GB105030062370	
Waterbody name	Witham - conf Brant to conf Catchwater Drain	
Waterbody type	River	
Hydromorphological designation	Heavily Modified	Action: Update HMMV measure information from the Environment Agency in add in
Overall status	Moderate	
Overall status objective	Moderate by 2015	

WFD status Component	WFD quality element	Method of checking compliance	Classification	Objective	Impact score	Data confidence	Design certainty	Does the component comply with WFD objectives (post mitigation)			Mitigation applied	Post mitigation impact score	Comment of the impact of 'Changes to channel footprint' on each element	Comment of the impact of 'Changes in flow velocity and volume (increase or decrease)' on each element	Comment of the impact of 'Changes in sedimentation deposition' on each element	Comment of the impact of 'Changes to water body hydromorphology leading to changes in river processes and habitats upstream and downstream' on each element	Comment of the impact of 'Change in water quality due to new or changes to existing discharge of surface water into surface water body' on each element	Comment of the impact of 'Change in INNS present in surface water body' on each element
								Comparison between status classes	Impediment to GES/GE	Compromises water body objectives								
Biological quality elements	Fish		Poor in 2015	Good by 2027	2	Low	Low	Possible	Possible	Possible	2	No effects are anticipated as a result of a channel footprint	Changes in local velocity and flow in this waterbody may have an impact on biological quality elements, further investigation is required to determine this.	Changes in flow volume and velocity could change sedimentation pattern. This could affect biological quality elements, further investigation would be required.	Changes in flow volume and velocity could change sedimentation pattern. This could affect biological quality elements, further investigation would be required.	Changes in water quality as a result of the discharge, has the potential for impacts on fish and invertebrates, already impacted by poor water quality	The water sourced from the River Trent and will be treated for INNS transfer into the River Witham.	
	Invertebrates	Guidance document available	Good in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	1	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment				Changes in water quality as a result of the discharge, has the potential for impacts on invertebrates		
Hydromorphological Supporting Elements	Hydrological Regime		Supports Good in 2015	Supports Good by 2015	2	Low	Low	Possible	Possible	Possible	2	Hydraulic modelling required to understand the impact of additional flow on watercourse	Changes to flow velocity and volume: hydromorphology of the channel would be changed by additional flow in channel, altering channel processes and conditions such as water depth and flow velocity	Potential increase in sedimentation is not expected to have a significant effect on the hydrological regime.	Potential increase in sedimentation is not expected to have a significant effect on the hydrological regime.	No effects are anticipated on the hydrological regime.	No effects are anticipated on the hydrological regime.	
	Mitigation Measures Assessment		Moderate or less in 2015	Good by 2027	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required	Changes in flow velocity and volume will unlikely significantly affect the mitigation measures assessment	Potential increase in sedimentation is not expected to have a significant effect on the mitigation measures assessment.	Potential increase in sedimentation is not expected to have a significant effect on the mitigation measures assessment.	No effects are anticipated on the mitigation measure assessment	No effects are anticipated on the mitigation measure assessment	
Physico-chemical quality element	Ammonia (total as N)		High in 2015	Good by 2015	3	Low	Low	Possible	Possible	Possible	3					A high level water quality assessment of the proposed transfer from the River Trent to the River Witham suggests that there will be an increase in ammonia of 7% due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream Witham (GB10503005780). Under the WFD guidance (Regulation 11) of Schedule 2, this waterbody is categorised as a type 7 river for ammonia standards (ammonia concentration $0.2mg/l$ is high status, good status is less than $0.6mg/l$). The water quality review for this waterbody suggests that 90 percentile concentration of ammonia could rise from $0.09mg/l$ to $0.302mg/l$. There is therefore a risk of deterioration from high to good status. Within this catchment, ammonia levels are expected to be higher, however further investigation is required to determine the predicted %. On a precautionary basis an amber adverse impact is anticipated as a result of changes in the discharge.		
	Biochemical oxygen demand	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	No data available	0						0							
	Dissolved oxygen	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	Good by 2015	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0							
	pH		High in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	1	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment	No measurable impact anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result in the change in channel footprint	No measurable impact anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result in the change in sediment deposition	No measurable impact anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result in the change in hydromorphology	A high level water quality assessment of the proposed transfer from the River Trent to the River Witham suggests that there will be an increase in pH of 4% due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream Witham (GB10503005780). Within this catchment, pH levels are expected to be lower, however further investigation is required to determine the predicted %. On a precautionary basis a minor adverse impact is anticipated as a result of changes in the discharge.	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes in the INNS on the physico-chemical elements	
	Phosphate	Calculator available	Poor in 2015	Moderate by 2027	3	Low	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	3						A high level water quality assessment of the proposed transfer from the River Trent to the River Witham suggests that there will be an increase in phosphate of 46% due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream Witham (GB10503005780). This waterbody is already at Poor status for phosphate and this increase in phosphate concentration could lead to a further worsening of this status element. On a precautionary basis a major adverse impact is expected.	
	Temperature	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	1						A high level water quality assessment of the proposed transfer from the River Trent to the River Witham suggests that there will be an increase in temperature of 1% due to the discharge from the River Trent into the upstream Witham (GB10503005780). Within this catchment, temperature is expected to be lower, however further investigation is required to determine the predicted %. On a precautionary basis a negligible impact is expected.	
Priority hazardous substances	Acid Neutralising Capacity	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	Good by 2015	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Benzo (b) and (k) fluoranthene	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Benzo (ghi) perylene and indent (123-)	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Benzo(a)pyrene	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Brominated diphenylether (BDPE) Calc	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Cadmium and its Compounds	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Mercury and its Compounds	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Nonylphenol	ECs directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	
	Triclosan		High in 2015	High	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	0	None required.					No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pesticide discharges	

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RNAG/PoM/HMMV	Id	Relevant WFD Quality Element (RNAG) / Measure category 1 (PoM)	Category (RNAG)/Lead organisation (PoM)	National Sewer Header (RNAG) / Title (PoM)	Is this measure potential impacted by the scheme? (Yes/No)	Impact score assessment	Data confidence	Design certainty	Comparison between status classes	Impediment to GES/GE	Compromises water body objectives	Mitigation applied	Post mitigation impact score (2 to 3)	New transfer in the watercourse
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	533184	Mitigation Measures Assessment	Agriculture and rural land management	Physical modifications	No									
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	533186	Mitigation Measures Assessment	Local and Central Government	Physical modifications	No									
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	531036	Phosphate	Water Industry	Pollution from waste water	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	A high level water quality review suggests that the new discharge into this waterbody will increase the phosphate concentration, potentially leading to a reduction in the improvements that can be made to water quality. Further investigation
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	531034	Phosphate	Agriculture and rural land management	Pollution from rural areas	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment	2	
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	531035	Phosphate	Agriculture and rural land management	Pollution from rural areas	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	486239	Phosphate	Urban and transport	Pollution from towns, cities and transport	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	

Option	SLR 41	Go to RNAG/PoM table at bottom of the page
Waterbody ID	GB205030062425	
Waterbody name	Witham - conf Catchwater Drain to conf Bain	
Waterbody type	River	
Hydromorphological designation	Heavily Modified	Action: Obtain HMWB measures information from the Environment Agency to add to the RNAG/PoM table.
Overall status	Moderate	
Overall status objective	Moderate by 2015	

WFD status Component	WFD quality element	Method of checking compliance	Classification	Objective	Impact score	Data confidence	Design certainty	Disturbance	Design certainty	Assess attainment of water body objective	Impediment to GES/GEI	Compromises water body objectives	Mitigation applied	Post mitigation impact score	New transfer within the watercourse
Biological quality elements	Fish		Moderate in 2015	Good by 2027	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham. Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	1	No effects are anticipated as a result of a channel in footprint
	Invertebrates	Guidance document available	Good in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	INNS treatment has been provided between the River Trent abstraction and the transfer to the River Witham. Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	1	No effects are anticipated as a result of a channel in footprint
Hydromorphological Supporting Elements	Hydrological Regime		Supports Good in 2015	Supports Good by 2015	2	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	Hydraulic modelling required to understand the impact of additional flow on watercourse	2	No effects are anticipated as a result of a channel in footprint	
	Mitigation Measures Assessment		Moderate or less in 2015	Good by 2027	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	None required	0	No effects are anticipated as a result of a channel in footprint	
Physico-chemical quality element	Ammonia (total as N)		Good in 2015	Good by 2015	3	Low	Low	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	3	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
	Biochemical oxygen demand	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	No data available	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	0	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
	Dissolved oxygen	Numerical limits for classes	Good in 2015	Good by 2015	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	0	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
	pH		High in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	1	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
Priority hazardous substances	Phosphate	Calculator available	Moderate in 2015	Moderate by 2015	3	Low	Low	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	3	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
	Temperature	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	Good by 2015	1	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of impacts within this catchment.	1	No effects are anticipated on the physico-chemicals as a result of a channel in footprint
Priority hazardous substances	Acid Neutralising Capacity	Numerical limits for classes	High in 2015	Good by 2015	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Benzo (b) and (k) fluoranthene	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Benzo (ghi) perylene and indeno (123-cd) pyrene	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Benzo(a)pyrene	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Brominated diphenylether (BDPE) Calc.	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Cadmium and its Compounds	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Endosulfan	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Hexachlorocyclohexane	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Mercury and its Compounds	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Nonylphenol	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
Priority substances	Nickel and its Compounds	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Chlorothalonil		High in 2015	High	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
Specific pollutants	Copper		High in 2015	High	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Micropop		High in 2015	High	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
Other chemicals	Pendimethalin		High in 2015	High	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges
	Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin & Isodrin	EQS directive	Good in 2015	Good	0	Low	Low	No	No	No	No	No	None required.	0	No measurable effects anticipated as a result of changes from temporary infrequent localised pipeline discharges

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RNAG/PoM/HMWB	Id	Relevant WFD Quality Element (RNAG) / Measure category 1 (PoM)	Category (RNAG)/Lead organisation (PoM)	National Swmi Header (RNAG) / Title (PoM)	Is this measure potentially impacted by the scheme? (Yes/No)	Impact score assessment	Disturbance	Design certainty	Assess attainment of water body objective	Impediment to GES/GEI	Compromises water body objectives	Mitigation applied	Post mitigation impact score (2 to 3)	New transfer within the watercourse
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	517843	Phosphate	Agriculture and rural land management	Pollution from rural areas	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	A high level water quality review suggests that the new discharge into this waterbody will increase the phosphate concentration, potentially leading to a reduction in the improvements that can be made to water quality. Further investigation into water quality needed.
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	529207	Phosphate	No sector responsible		Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible	Further water quality modelling is required to determine the extent of changes in phosphate due to the transfer within this catchment.	2	
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	517845	Phosphate	Agriculture and rural land management	Pollution from rural areas	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	
Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAG)	481844	Phosphate	Water industry	Pollution from waste water	Yes	2	Low	Low	No	Possible	Possible		2	

WFD standards for Phosphorous standard in rivers:

Table 5

Phosphorus Standards in Rivers⁽ⁱ⁾	
<i>Annual mean reactive phosphorus concentration (in µg per litre) is calculated as follows:</i>	
High	10 to the power of $((1.0497 \times \log_{10}(0.702)+1.066) \times (\log_{10}(R_{Pref}) - \log_{10}(3,500)) + \log_{10}(3,500))$
Good	10 to the power of $((1.0497 \times \log_{10}(0.532)+1.066) \times (\log_{10}(R_{Pref}) - \log_{10}(3,500)) + \log_{10}(3,500))$
Moderate	10 to the power of $((1.0497 \times \log_{10}(0.356)+1.066) \times (\log_{10}(R_{Pref}) - \log_{10}(3,500)) + \log_{10}(3,500))$
Poor	10 to the power of $((1.0497 \times \log_{10}(0.166)+1.066) \times (\log_{10}(R_{Pref}) - \log_{10}(3,500)) + \log_{10}(3,500))$

⁽ⁱ⁾In this table, "Reactive phosphorus concentration" means the concentration of phosphorus as determined using the phosphomolybdenum blue colorimetric method. Where necessary to ensure the accuracy of the method, samples are recommended to be filtered using a filter not smaller than 0.45 µm pore size to remove gross particulate matter.

"R_{Pref}" represents the annual mean concentration of reactive phosphorus in µg/l estimated for the site under reference conditions using the equation: $10 \text{ to the power of } (0.454 (\log_{10}(\text{Alkalinity}) - 0.0018 (\text{Altitude}) + 0.476))$. If the value calculated for R_{Pref} using the equation above is less than 7 µg/l, it must be substituted for the purposes of calculating the standards for phosphorus by a value of 7 µg/l. For the purposes of calculating R_{Pref}:

(i) "Alkalinity" is the concentration of CaCO₃ in mg/l. If a site has an alkalinity greater than 250 mg/l CaCO₃, a value for alkalinity of 250 must be used for the purposes of calculating R_{Pref}. If a site has an alkalinity of less than 2, a value for alkalinity of 2 must be used for the purposes of calculating R_{Pref}.

(ii) "Altitude" means the site's altitude above mean sea level in metres. If a site has an altitude of greater than 355 metres, a value for altitude of 355 metres must be used for the purposes of calculating R_{Pref}.

Calculations:

Atomic weight Phosphorus	31
Atomic weight orthophosphate	95

Alkalinity @ Claypole (average)	208	mg/l CaCO ₃
Altitude	15	mAOD
R _{pref}	31.72494	ug/l

WFD phosphorous standards for the River Witham (based on table 5):

High	50	ug/l
Good	90	ug/l
Moderate	213	ug/l
Poor	1094	ug/l

Current status on catchment data explorer for River Witham is Moderate

Estimated changes in phosphate / phosphorus concentration due to proposed transfer:

Orthophosphate concentration		Phosphorus concentration	Standards as per calculations from table 5
baseline R Witham (average)	256 ug/l	83.5	Good/Moderate
baseline R Witham (max)	521	170.0	Moderate
Baseline R Trent (average)	389 ug/l	126.9	Moderate
Baseline R Trent (max)	1020	332.8	Poor

% of Source Water	
Witham	8%
Trent	92%

Potential orthophosphate concentration at River Witham with discharge from Trent		Potential phosphorus concentration at River Witham with discharge from Trent	Standards as per calculations from table 5
average conc	378.36 ug/l	123.5	Moderate
max conc	980.08 ug/l	319.8	Poor

Therefore, potential for deterioration in River Witham from good/moderate to moderate/poor

WFD standard for Ammonia:

Table 7

Ammonia standards for rivers (rivers categorised by type in accordance with paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2)				
Total Ammonia as nitrogen (mg/l)				
(90 percentile)				
Type	High	Good	Moderate	Poor
1, 2, 4 and 6	0.2	0.3	0.75	1.1
3, 5 and 7	0.3	0.6	1.1	2.5

Table 1

Criteria for identifying the types of river to which the dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia standards for rivers apply					
Site Altitude	Alkalinity (as mg/l CaCO ₃)				
	Less than 10	≥10 to <50	≥50 to <100	≥100 to <200	Over 200
Under 80 metres	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 5	Type 7
Over 80 metres			Type 4	Type 6	

River Witham is at 17mAOD with an average alkalinity of 208mg/l therefore would be a type 7 river

WFD ammonia standards for the River Witham (based on table 7):

High	0.3 mg/l as N
Good	0.6 mg/l as N
Moderate	1.1 mg/l as N
Poor	2.5 mg/l as N

Estimated changes in ammonia concentration due to proposed transfer:

90%ile		Standards as per calculations from table 7
baseline R Witham (average)	0.06 mg/l as N	High
baseline R Witham (90%ile)	0.09 mg/l as N	High
Baseline R Trent (average)	0.184 mg/l as N	High
Baseline R Trent (90%ile)	0.32 mg/l as N	Good

Potential ammonia concentration at Witham with discharge from Trent		Standards as per calculations from table 7
90%ile conc	0.3016 ug/l	Good

Therefore, potential for deterioration in River Witham from high to good

