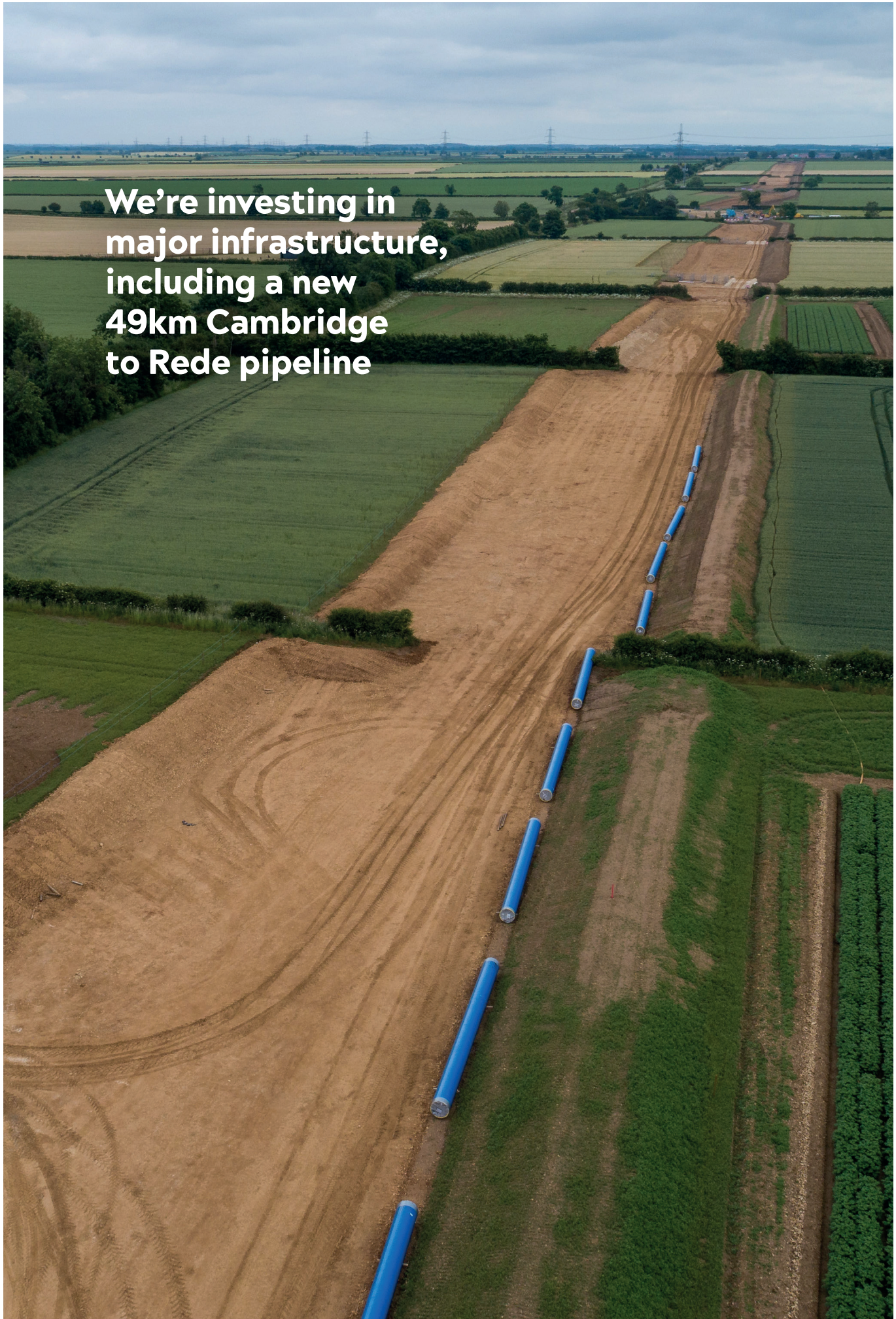


# Keeping taps flowing for future generations



**We're investing in  
major infrastructure,  
including a new  
49km Cambridge  
to Rede pipeline**





## Building a strategic pipeline for the region

**The East of England has officially been classed as ‘water stressed’, with some areas now drier than parts of the Middle East.**

To help secure water for the future, we’re making a major investment by laying hundreds of kilometres of new interconnecting pipes. These will allow us to move water more freely across the region, helping to keep taps flowing, ecosystems thriving, and communities resilient.

As part of this investment in major infrastructure, we’ll be including a new 49km pipeline as part of a larger water grid - known as the Cambridge to Rede pipeline.

The East of England is one of the driest regions in the country, receiving only two-thirds of the UK’s average rainfall. At the same time, it is among the fastest-growing, with population projections suggesting an increase of up to one million people by 2045. These factors make our region particularly vulnerable to climate-related risks such as drought and flooding.

Our regions water supply is also closely tied to its chalk aquifers and chalk streams, which are both ecologically and hydrologically significant. By introducing an alternative water supply, we can help protect these rare and fragile ecosystems that are vital for wildlife and biodiversity and reduce the amount of water we take from natural sources. This is especially important now as abstraction licences from the Environment Agency are subject to increasingly tighter regulations.

Building this strategic pipeline is just one of the ways we’re planning ahead today so we can make sure our region is ready for the challenges of tomorrow.

## The Cambridge to Rede pipeline

We're planning the best route for the pipeline that takes into account the environment and the community.

Our teams are carrying out archaeological and environmental surveys, engaging with landowners and local planning authorities, all to understand soil drainage and land conditions. We've carefully planned the route to avoid the majority of urban areas and villages, minimising disruption to local communities while also protecting ecological and archaeological sites.

The map on the right shows our preferred route for a 49 km pipeline that connects from Lolworth in Cambridge - that will carry water to Rede storage reservoir and supply the local communities as well as Bury St Edmunds.

This pipeline is the second stage of a 70 kilometre Grafham to Rede

pipeline and forms part of a larger regional water grid across the East of England. It is not a single standalone pipeline, but a key element of a wider investment designed to make water more accessible across the region.

A further planning permission has also been proposed for a future interconnecting pipeline that connects this all to Rede storage reservoir. As the outline design develops, we will continue to share information with everyone affected by the scheme, making sure the public stays informed as plans progress.

Discover more about our strategic pipeline plans here [anglianwater.co.uk/strategic-pipelines](https://anglianwater.co.uk/strategic-pipelines)

### What happens next?

We'll continue to plan our route including ground investigation works and other surveys.

The information we continue to gather will help us develop the route and to plan access for better ways of working.

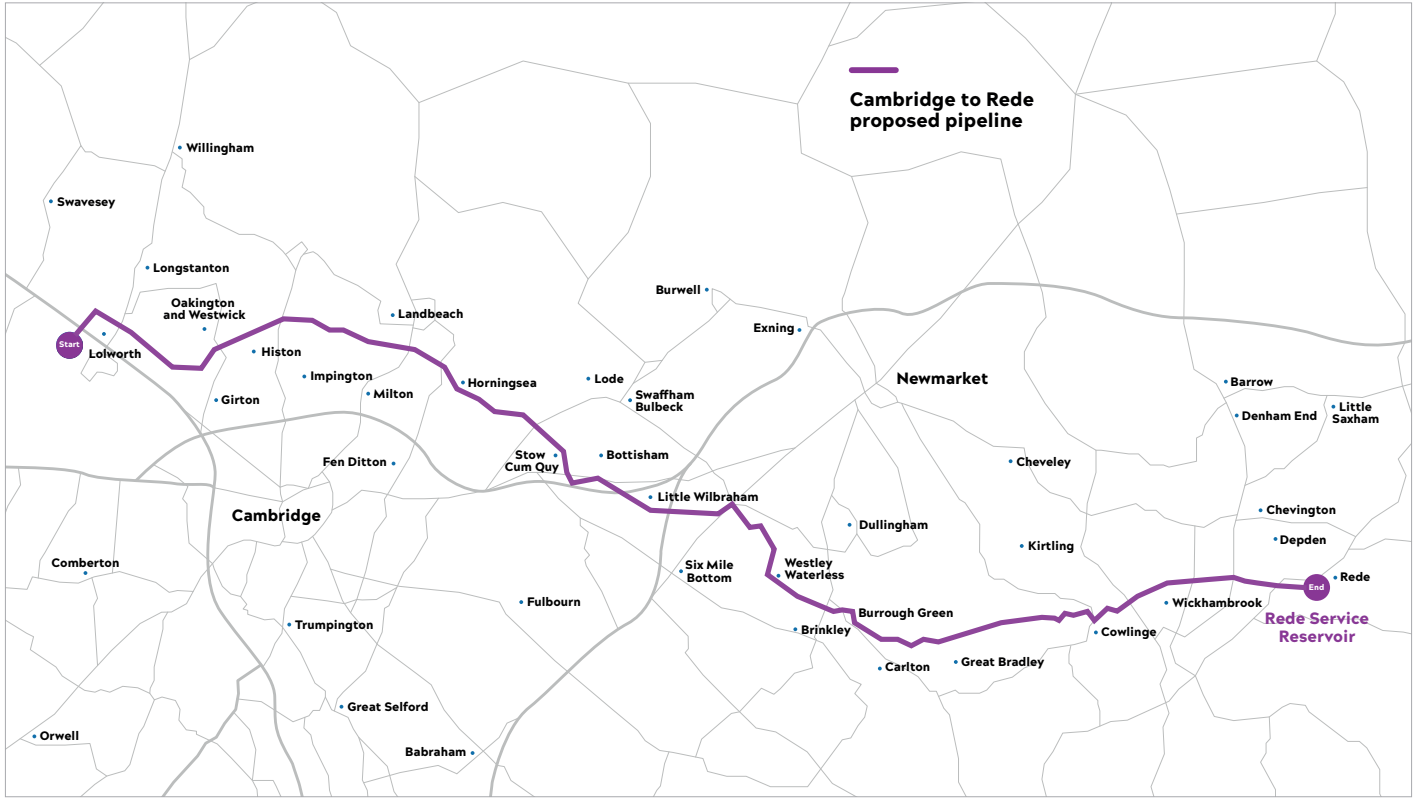
We'll send our plans to the Local Authority for approval to build – digging small trenches to learn about the ground, checking on plants and wildlife, and looking after anything we find.

The construction start date is dependent on many factors, including the weather. But we're aiming to start work in the Spring 2026 and we'll finish in 2032.

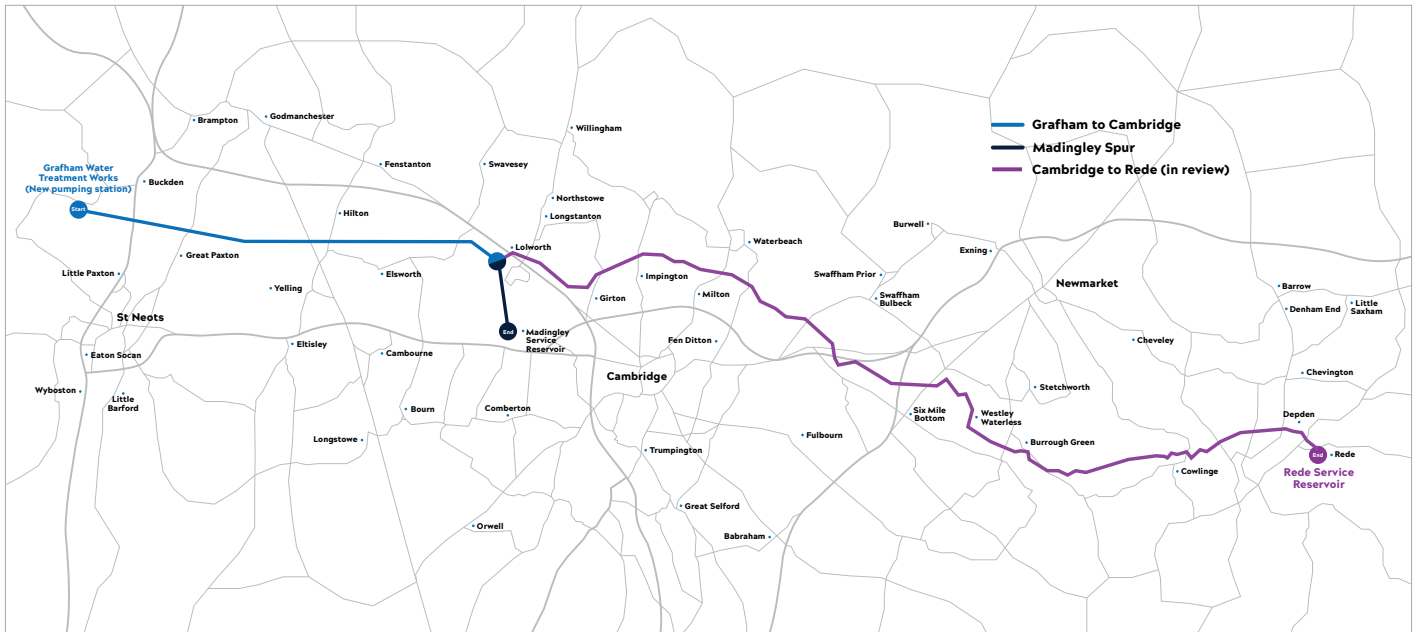
Any road closures will have a compliant and legal diversion route which will be clearly signposted. Access for residents will be maintained throughout, with safety signage in place.

You can get the latest on what's happening in your area and any details of a road closure by any utility company or your local council by visiting [causewayone.network](https://causewayone.network) or scan the QR code below.





The figure shows the route from Cambridge to Rede.  
 This map is not to scale and is provided for illustrative purposes only.



The figure shows the route from Grafham to Rede.  
 This map is not to scale and is provided for illustrative purposes only.

## Bringing this community environmental and social prosperity

This strategic pipeline is essential to improving water resilience for Cambridgeshire. But it's about more than laying infrastructure; it's about people, the environment, and the communities we serve.

Our core commitment is to protect nature as we go, creating a sustainable water supply that safeguards our streams, rivers, and the diverse wildlife that depends on them.

This project plays a vital role in helping us meet our targets to reduce environmental water abstraction by 434 million litres per day, in response to the loss of licences. It also supports our efforts to tackle climate change. As with any major infrastructure initiative, our team has carefully considered the potential impacts on wildlife and habitats.

### That's why:

- We survey across all seasons to capture full species activity and by understanding their presence – from bat roosts and badger setts to nesting birds, otters, barn owls, and water voles. This insight has allowed us to adapt our plans to avoid disturbance, support conservation, and promote biodiversity throughout the working area.
- We've been able to adapt our plans to avoid disturbance, support conservation and promote biodiversity throughout our working area.
- We've adjusted route designs to avoid important and protected habitats – including ancient woodlands.
- We've implemented 'buffer zones' along watercourses and wildlife corridors and included temporary exclusion zones for breeding seasons.
- We're also creating over 60,000 square metres of new grassland, much of it

species-rich, and installing insect hotels, bird nesting pockets, soil mounds, and habitat piles using brush. These features will provide shelter and foraging opportunities for birds, bats, invertebrates, and reptiles. Where our work affects protected species such as water voles or badgers, it will be carried out under Natural England licences to ensure their protection.

- We're planting hundreds of trees and thousands of hedgerow plants, helping to build resilience into the landscape for years to come.

Beyond the environmental benefits, this investment is creating new jobs and building a stronger, more resilient workforce. Our community partnerships have already included outreach with rivercare groups, orchard planting, and book donations for schools – and we're continuing to build on that legacy.

Our education team is actively engaging with nearby schools to provide updates on our work and educate children about the importance of water and how to save it. They support students from primary school upwards, promoting careers in STEM and helping young people develop employability skills. Over the past year, we've reached more than 31,000 students through virtual, blended, and face-to-face programmes.

More than 100 new roles have already been created for this strategic pipeline and by investing in local talent, we're helping to shape the future of our region, contributing to the long-term prosperity and helping build the workforce of the

future. We're also investing in future talent through our early career's programmes – currently employing around 200 apprentices, sponsoring technical courses at the College of West Anglia in Wisbech, West Suffolk College, Milton Keynes College, and Grimsby Institute – multi-skill construction courses that are designed to attract new talent into the utility sector and open up career opportunities. And together with our Alliance Partners, we've committed £2 million to sponsor a Green Skills Academy at the College of West Anglia.

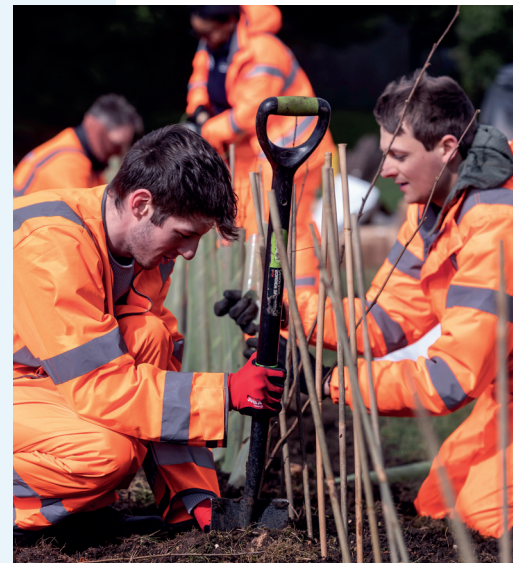
Our experience in forging strong collaborative partnerships has helped us deliver greater outcomes for both the environment and our customers. Initiatives like our Flood Partnership Funding model, Get River Positive commitments, and leadership on treatment wetlands have unlocked blended funding opportunities and solved challenges that span multiple sectors.



Anglian Water  
have created

**60,000m<sup>2</sup>**

of new species-rich  
grassland



Anglian Water  
have committed

**£2 million**

to sponsor a Green  
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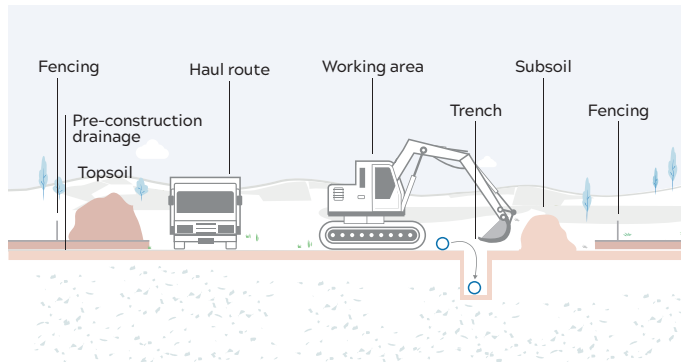
# Building the pipeline

## Plans in progress

What we're doing	What it means	When it's happening
Learning about nature and talking to you	We're surveying the land, wildlife, and plants and asking people what they think.	Starting Spring 2025
Digging and discovering history	We'll dig small trenches to learn what lies beneath the ground and uncover any artefacts or historic findings.	Spring 2026 to Autumn 2026
Planning approval	We will submit our plans to the local authority and ask for permission to build.	Spring 2027 to Autumn 2027
Getting ready to build	We'll set up the site, protect nature, and prepare the land.	Autumn 2027
Building the pipe	This is where we'll be laying down the pipe, building pumping stations and storage tanks and connecting everything together.	Spring 2028
Testing the pipe	We'll clean and test the pipe to make sure it works safely.	2030 - 2031
Restoring the land	After building and testing the strategic pipe we'll restore the land.	2031 - 2032

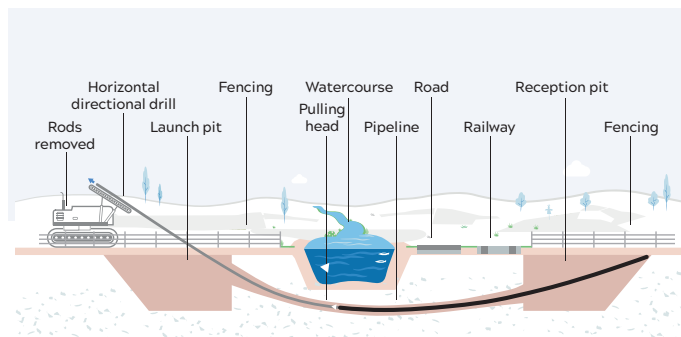
## Smart engineering for minimal disruption

Bringing water from the north and west of the region to the south and east without increasing carbon emissions is a tricky business, especially as a high proportion of our region sits on flat and low-lying areas.



### Open cut trenching

For shorter, shallower installations, we use open cut trenching. This traditional method is enhanced with real-time monitoring and adaptive design, making it cost-effective and easy to inspect. Once pipes are laid, we restore the surface to its original condition, leaving no trace behind.



### Trenchless

A lot of energy would normally be needed to pump water from place to place. But our teams have been using smart engineering and cutting-edge technology to design these pipes to be energy efficient to minimise the carbon impact of this project.

When crossing beneath roads, railways, or rivers, we go trenchless. This technique allows us to install pipelines without disturbing the surface, using guided drilling and precision boring. It's ideal for urban areas and sensitive environments while also preventing high levels of traffic.

## Working together with landowners

Our work may have an impact on the land and livelihoods of those in the area. We want to effectively engage and work with landowners along our planned routes, before and during construction. We'll provide clear guidance, support with compensation claims, and help navigate any potential impacts to ensure fair and respectful outcomes.

Phase	What it means	What landowners/farmers should expect or ask
Phase 1 – Route planning	No preferred route yet. Desktop analysis, walk-over surveys, environmental / historic features considered.	Landowners will be asked to submit a Land Entry Questionnaire (LEQ), provide ownership, confirm boundaries, permit access. Ask how many alternatives will be considered, and how they'll be notified.
Phase 2 – Route refining	A preferred working corridor is identified; intrusive surveys (ground investigations) happen within the corridor.	You should receive a plan if your land is affected, a ground investigation pack, a land drainage questionnaire, and a 'code of pipe laying'. Ask to see the criteria used to choose exact alignment inside the corridor, and how your input is incorporated.
Phase 3 – Confirmed route and construction	The detailed design is fixed, compounds located, access, hedgerows, drainage work planned.	You'll be consulted on compound locations, hedge removal, drainage rerouting, crossings and service diversions. A 3-month construction notice (s159) is issued, site condition recorded, and then construction, reinstatement, and compensation follow.



## Frequently asked questions

### Will landowners be compensated?

Where our works cause disruption or loss, we will work with land agents to value any loss, and compensate accordingly.

### How will I know if I am affected?

All landowners that will be directly affected by this scheme have already been contacted.

Our land agents - Fisher German, will work closely with the project team, to update landowners with construction timelines once planning has progressed.

### Will a pre and post works survey be completed?

Yes, we will undertake a record of condition survey, prior to our works starting and following reinstatement. These will include soil and ecological surveys.

### Will I have a dedicated point of contact?

Each affected landowner will have a dedicated Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) who will be on hand to update project milestones, and progress with work that affects each land parcel.

Our ALOs have a background in agriculture, so are well placed to understand the unique challenges agricultural landowners face, when major infrastructure projects affect their land.

You can also discover more FAQs on our website at [anglianwater.co.uk/global-faq](https://anglianwater.co.uk/global-faq)



## How we're testing every drop using cutting-edge technology

We're transforming how pipelines are cleaned and tested – using minimal water while maintaining the highest hygiene and safety standards.

### This means we can:

- Reduce water waste
- Minimise environmental impact
- Avoid multiple fills
- Speed up commissioning

At each stage we carefully sequence the process to maximise efficiency and minimise water use.

We test every drop using cutting-edge technology that detects even the tiniest traces of metals or minerals, making sure the water is safe to drink and meets the highest standards.

We test the pipeline's integrity using pressurised water, backed by full quality assurance data to make sure we achieve a first-time pass.

When pressure testing is complete, the pipeline is formally sampled and prepared for connection to our water network.

If you have got any questions about this project, or need additional support with reading materials relating to our proposed scheme, please contact us at [strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:strategicpipelines@anglianwater.co.uk) or give us a call on **03457 145 145** (and quote strategic pipelines).



Scan the QR code  
to leave your feedback.