



Suffolk Water Recycling and Transfer
Project
Essex and Suffolk Water

Enquiries to: NSIPS Team Suffolk County
Council

Date: 15/12/2025

BY EMAIL

Dear Jamie Gray,

Thank you for providing this opportunity for statutory consultees and local communities to comment on the emerging proposals to safeguard a robust drinking water supply for NE Suffolk. The County Council recognises this is a critical priority, and that the lack of availability of potable water has already had an adverse impact on existing and new businesses in the area. However, notwithstanding the critical local need for resilient drinking water supply, the Council will still seek to ensure that the adverse impact of construction and operation of this infrastructure is appropriately and robustly minimised and mitigated.

Initial comments on the options presented by the applicant in this consultation, are provided without prejudice to any comments the Council may wish to make, when, following further work by the applicant, more comprehensive information has been provided. The County Council has set out its response based on its *Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy 2023*, specifically:

“The County Council will identify its initial strategic priorities in relation to individual energy and water infrastructure projects coming forward, to help inform the development of those projects, and give clarity to developers, communities, and other parties. Those priorities will be kept under review as proposals are clarified and refined, or new information becomes available. “

The Council considers that the following issues are critical when considering pipeline routing and service reservoir locations:

- Residential address points, including residential care, directly impacted
- Non-residential address points directly impacted, and the economic or social contribution provided
- National/ international heritage, ecology, geological, landscape designations impacted

- Loss of irreplaceable habitats
- Widespread and/or significant, direct adverse impacts on ecological, geological, heritage, and landscape assets of regional or local significance
- Wider benefits –through habitat creation, recreation, health & wellbeing and economic activity

Proposed routing through Lowestoft and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads

The County Council is firmly of the view that a routeing option through the middle of Lowestoft is unlikely to be feasible and is certainly highly undesirable, due to the impacts upon traffic flows, amenity and practicality in terms of disturbance to other utilities.

Notwithstanding this, routes across The Norfolk & Suffolk Broads are also problematic. However, accepting that there is likely to be no alternative, suitable proposals must be made to mitigate and compensate any potential harm. In addition, the proposal should seek to further the purposes of the Broads, in accordance with s85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This could take the form of funding to support the management of The Broads.

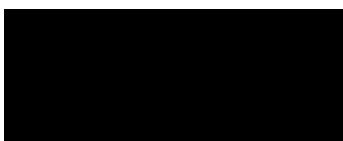
Further engagement and recovery of costs

An effective programme of engagement with the County Council, and other consultees, will be essential to refine routing options further and minimise the impact of this scheme on the environment and communities of Suffolk.

Engagement with the County Council, prior to any future consent, will need to be supported by an effective Planning Performance Agreement in order that local taxpayers, and local services, are not disadvantaged by the costs of consenting and engagement that they would otherwise have to bear. Recognising that the preparation of a Planning Performance Agreement will take time, it will be necessary for the County Council to invoice the project promoter for specific engagement in the interim. The project promoter should also recognise that certain activities relating to archaeology and highways for example, and the costs associated, with them can be expected to fall outside the scope of the Planning Performance Agreement.

Prior to operation of the PPA, engagement with the Council's officers will require costs to be recovered on a pay as you go basis.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Rout

Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reform, Environment and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects