



Planning Statement

Anglian Water Services Ltd

**Planning application for three kiosks at Dereham WRC, Rushmeadow Road,
Dereham. Norfolk.**

Reference: SEW-11628

Prepared By

Anglian Water Services Limited
Thorpe Wood House
Thorpe Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE3 6WT

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1 Introduction

This Planning Statement has been prepared by Anglian Water Services Limited (Anglian Water) in support of a planning application submitted to Norfolk County Council (the Council), for three new kiosks at Dereham Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

Anglian Water is the largest regulated water and water recycling company in England and Wales by geographic area, supplying water and water recycling services to almost seven million people in the East of England and Hartlepool.

Anglian Water is committed to bringing environmental and social prosperity to the region it serves, through its commitment to Love Every Drop. As a purpose-led business, it seeks to contribute to the environmental and social wellbeing of the communities within which it operates.

This statement describes the site, sets out the details of the proposal including the need for the development, before assessing the Proposed Development in the context of national and local plan policy.

This statement is supported by and should be read in conjunction with the following plans and technical assessments:-

- Planning Drawings;
- Ecological Appraisal Report prepared by Norfolk Wildlife Services
- Biodiversity Metric Calculations

2 Site Description

The application site is located within Dereham WRC. This is a well established operational site comprising various process units, plant and equipment. The site operates 24 hours, 7 days a week. The incoming waste water is treated to the required standard before being returned safely to the environment.

The works lies to the west of Dereham and is accessed off Rushmeadow Road. The surrounding area is predominantly agriculture and wetland, however this area and the surrounding 1900 acres, now forms part of the Wendling Beck Exemplar Nature Restoration Project. This includes Dereham Rush Meadow SSSI which lies to the east and to the north of the WRC. Part of the SSSI falls within Anglian Water's land ownership, however there is no intension to extend the proposals into this area.

3 Description of the Proposals

3.1 Background

Water and Sewerage Companies have a legal obligation under the Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTR) and the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP), to reduce the operation of storm sewage overflows by increasing the capacity that the Water Recycling Centre (WRC) is able to treat. This treatable volume is called Flow to Full Treatment (FFT). This means more wastewater and storm water can be treated before excess flows are diverted to the storm tanks or in severe conditions to storm overflow.

To meet this obligation, Anglian Water need to install additional plant and machinery at Dereham Rushmeadow Road WRC which will increase the FFT by 15 percent, as required by the revised environmental permit. A Screening Opinion request was submitted to Norfolk County Council (NCC) for the works to determine if the proposed development is not EIA development. On 15th December 2023, NCC confirmed that the project as a whole did not constitute EIA and does not require an Environmental Statement. It is therefore considered that the majority of the proposals are permitted development pursuant to Part 13 Class B of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and does therefore not require the submission of a planning application with environmental statement.

3.2 Proposed development

The proposed development consists three new kiosks.

Generator kiosk

- 7.6m x 3m x 4.7m high (to highest point) 3.8m high to top of roof
- This is a backup generator and will not be in regular use. This is required in the event of a power outage to the site to ensure the site can continue to operate.

Kiosks to house electrical panels

- LV switchboard Kiosk 5.06m x 3.08m x 3.23m high
- MCC Kiosk 10.07m x 3.07m x 4.3m high

A temporary construction compound will be located on existing hardstanding within the site entrance. In addition, existing site parking will be used for construction workers. This is considered permitted development under under Schedule 2 Part 4 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) and removed once construction is complete.

An area has been set aside for biodiversity net gain to the south east of the site as identified on the site plan.

4 Planning Policy

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that all planning applications are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policies.

Paragraph 47 confirms that planning law continues to require that applications for planning permission are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise and that the NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions.

At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. **Paragraph 8** sets out that the planning system has three overriding interdependent objectives- economic, social and environmental, which seek to support this presumption.

The policies set out in the framework seek to achieve these objectives through the delivery of well-designed places, by meeting the challenge of climate change, conserving and enhancing the built and natural environments and through the encouragement of biodiversity.

Paragraph 114 identifies transport related criteria which should be considered in deciding planning applications including the promotion of sustainable transport, safe and suitable access.

Paragraph 115 sets out that development should only be refused on highway grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

Paragraph 123 advises that planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.

Paragraph 135 sets out that development should function well and add to the overall quality of an area, be visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate landscaping, be sympathetic to the local character and history, establish and maintain a strong sense of place, optimise the potential of the site and create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible which promote health and well-being.

Paragraph 165 sets out that inappropriate development in area at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk. Where development is necessary in such area it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. **Paragraphs 168, 169 and 170** set out the requirements for the sequential and exceptions test. **Paragraph 173** goes on to set out that when determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location; b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient such that, in the event of a flood, it could be quickly

brought back into use without significant refurbishment; c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate; d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan. **Paragraph 174** advises that applications for some minor development (including changes of use) should not be subject to the sequential or exceptions test but should still meet the requirements for site-specific flood risk assessments.

Paragraphs 180-188 outline how the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Amongst other provisions, **Paragraph 180** sets out that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment including the protection and enhancement of valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity of geological value and soil, recognise the intrinsic character and value of the countryside including the economic and other benefits of best and most versatile agricultural land. **Paragraph 186** sets out that if harm from development cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated then planning permission should be refused.

Paragraph 189 sets out that sites should be suitable for their proposed use taking into account ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination.

Paragraph 191 sets out that development should be appropriate for its location taking into account the likely impact of pollution including noise impacts and lighting pollution.

Section 16 requires local authorities to consider the impact of development upon heritage assets and to weigh up whether harm would be caused. **Paragraph 200** sets out that local planning authorities should require applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected including the contribution made by their setting. **Paragraph 201** requires local planning authorities to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal taking account the available evidence and any necessary advice. **Paragraph 203** sets out that when determining applications local planning authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of the heritage asset, the positive contribution that the conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities and the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. **Paragraph 205** sets out that when considering the impact of a proposal on the significance of a heritage asset great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. **Paragraph 206** sets out that any harm to or loss of the significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. **Paragraph 207** advises that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm a designated heritage asset consent should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve a substantial public benefits which outweigh that harm or loss. **Paragraph 208** sets out that where a development would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits including where appropriate securing its optimum viable use. **Paragraph 209** goes on to set out that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets a balanced judgment will be required.

4.2 National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)

The National Planning Policy for Waste sets out the waste planning policies and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF and builds on the Government's *Waste Management Plan for England*. The Waste Management Plan sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.

The National Planning Policy for Waste reiterates the principles of sustainable waste management and waste hierarchy. It states that in considering planning application for new or enhanced waste management facilities, waste planning authorities should consider the likely impact of the development on the local environment and amenity.

Appendix B sets out the criteria which must be considered in relation to the suitability of proposed sites. Of relevance to this application are the issues relating to the protection of water resources, visual intrusion, traffic and access, air emissions (including dust), odours, noise and vibration and potential land-use conflict.

4.3 Local Planning Policy

The Development Plan Documents and policies relevant to this application are outlined below.

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development

The current Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework (adopted September 2011), contains the Core Strategy (CS) and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2010-2026 is the principal development plan against which the proposal would be assessed.

The policies contained within the Core Strategy relevant to the proposals include:

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS5 General location of waste management facilities acknowledges that some waste facilities will need to be located in more rural areas due to the nature of the development.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS6 General waste management considerations sets out that waste sites will be acceptable provided they would not cause unacceptable environmental impact on other land uses including land already in waste management use; existing or identified industrial or employment land; previously developed land; and contaminated or derelict land.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS11 Waste water/sewage infrastructure and treatment facilities sets out that new or extended sewage infrastructure and treatment facilities will be acceptable where the proposals aim to accommodate growth and improve the quality of discharged water reducing environmental, amenity and highway impact.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS13 Climate change and renewable energy sets out the importance for mineral and waste development to minimise the impacts of climate change. Proposals must demonstrate that sites can be operated without unacceptable flood risk to the site itself and also to downstream land uses.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS14 - Environmental protection seeks to ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on, and ideally improvements to the built and natural environment along with residential amenity. Where any development proposals would potentially have any adverse impacts, the adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policy CS15 – Transport sets out that development will only be permitted subject to appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport

modes, safe and suitable site access, any significant impact upon the highway network being mitigated, no unacceptable harm resulting to the local environment

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM1 – Nature conservation any development that would harm a locally designated site or protected habitat will only be permitted where sufficient mitigation measures are put in place.

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM4 Flood Risk ensures that the development does not impact on ground water sources or increases flooding elsewhere due to increased surface water runoff.

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM8 Design, local landscape and townscape character ensures mitigation measures are put in place to protect the character of the local landscape and townscape from noise and light pollution.

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM10 Transport planning applications should ensure that suitable highway access and egress has been demonstrated.

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM11 Sustainable construction and operations: Sustainable development will be promoted and requires new development to consider design standards, sustainable materials, water efficiency and waste management.

Minerals and Waste Development Management Policy DM12 Amenity development will be permitted where it can demonstrate that the scale, siting and design is appropriate and that unacceptable impact to local amenity will not arise from the construction and/or operation.

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review

The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review is currently in preparation to consolidate the three adopted DPDs into one Local Plan and ensure that the policies within them remain up to date and to extend the plan period to the end of 2038.

At this stage only limited weight can be attributed to the policies in the emerging plan. Draft policies relevant to this application include the following:

- MW1: Development Management Criteria
- MW2: Transport MW3: Climate Change adaption and mitigation
- MW4: The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species
- WP14: Water Recycling Centres

The Breckland District Council Local Plan

Brecklands local plan was adopted in November 2019. The plan outlines the vision and overall objectives for development, together with policies to inform future planning decisions. The policies which are relevant to the proposals include:

Local Plan Policy GEN 01 Sustainable Development in Breckland allows development that improves the economic, social and environmental objectives of Breckland through the application of national and locally distinctive sustainable development principles including protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

Local Plan Policy TR 01 Sustainable Transport Network development should not adversely impact on the operation or safety of the strategic road network.

Local Plan Policy ENV 02 Biodiversity protection and enhancement All development should demonstrate how net gains for biodiversity are being secured as part of the development, proportionate to scale of development and potential impacts.

Local Plan Policy ENV 09 Flood Risk & Surface Water Drainage all new development will be located to minimise the risk of flooding. It will also need to incorporate appropriate surface water drainage mitigation measures to minimise its own risk of flooding and should not increase the flood risk to other areas.

Local Plan Policy COM 03 Protection of Amenity development will need to have regard for the local amenity, including odour, noise and vibration.

5 Assessment of the Proposed Development

The application raises the following planning issues, which need to be assessed against both national and local plan policy: -

- Principle of development
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Ecological and arboricultural impacts
- Amenity impacts
- Flood risk and drainage
- Traffic and access
- Nutrient Neutrality

These are considered in turn below

5.1 Principal of Development

The proposed development is located within the operational boundary of Dereham WRC, which is an established treatment facility. Due to WRCs being essential infrastructure, and considered essential infrastructure, it is both necessary and generally desirable for them to be located outside of existing built up areas.

The NPPF at paragraph 174 states that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the local environment. Paragraph 180 sets out that harm from development should be avoided but if it cannot be then adequate mitigation and compensation should be put in place. Policy CS11 of the NMWCS Policy WP14 of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste emerging plan sets out that extensions to existing WRCs will be supported in principle particularly where the proposals aim to treat a greater quantity of wastewater and improve the quality of discharged water, improving water quality.

The principle of development is therefore considered to be supported by the above policies of the adopted and emerging Mineral and Waste Local.

5.2 Landscape and Visual Impacts including Heritage Impacts

Landscape and visual impacts

The application site is located within the existing WRC in close proximity to existing plant and structures associated with the treatment of waste water. Two of the proposed kiosks will be constructed from glass reinforced plastic, coloured Holly Green. The kiosks are of a standard design, being single-storey, of a functional box shape with a flat roof. The generator building is a profiled steel building finished in the same colour as the kiosks.

Dereham WRC already has an industrial appearance and although the kiosks cannot be considered 'good design', they are similar in design and finish to other kiosks at the WRC and therefore in keeping with the existing works.

Whilst we acknowledge that Dereham footpath FP34 runs along the western boundary of the site, it must be recognised that the setting of this stretch of the PROW along with views from it are already predominantly of treatment processes associated with sewage treatment. In this context, the proposed kiosk will not significantly alter the current experience of anybody using this section of the PROW. Any change, which will result from the proposed development therefore is at most very minor and localised.

Heritage and Conservation Area

The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) updated in July 2019. Paragraph 001 makes a clear statement that any decisions relating to listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

In relation to the historic environment Paragraph 8 of the NPPF highlights the importance of protecting and enhancing the ‘historic environment’ and is an important component in the drive to achieve sustainable development.

Anglian Water has a duty under Part 1, Section 3 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to ‘have regard to the desirability of protecting and conserving buildings, sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest’. As a statutory undertaker, we have a legal obligation to meet this duty. A link to the WIA can be found below.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/2012-10-01>

There are no designated heritage assets within the boundary of the site itself. The nearest listed building is some 470m north east. Given the limited views in and out and the existing mature landscape and intervening properties, it is considered that the proposed development would have no perceived impact or detract from the appreciation of these buildings.

Dereham itself has one large conservation area, which covers Dereham’s’ historic core and includes natural features such as Scarning Meadows, South of Rushmeadow, Rushmeadow Road Meadow and Pump House Woods, which are also classified as County Wildlife Sites. The latter two also form part of Dereham Rush Meadow SSSI.

The proposed development is located wholly within Dereham WRC which shares a boundary with Dereham Conservation woodland area. Although there is a PROW to the west of the site, there is no public access to the adjoining Conservation Area. The WRC benefits from having a significant amount of landscaping around the site and the proposed development would largely be obscured from view and would have no perceived impact or detract from the appreciation of these sites.

It is therefore considered that the development is acceptable within the context of the site and that there will no material harm caused to the character and quality of the local area. This is in accordance with the landscape and design principles set out in policies CS14, DM2 and DM8 of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and Policy GEN02 of the Breckland Local Plan.

Archaeology

The proposals are located within the operational boundary of Dereham WRC on previously made ground. It is therefore considered that there will be no impact on non **statutory archaeology**.

5.3 Ecological and Arboricultural Impacts including Biodiversity Net Gain

Ecological Impacts

An ecological assessment of the site has been undertaken which assessed the proposed development on habitats and species.

Statutory Sites

Dereham Rush Meadow SSSI is adjacent to the WRC site and close proximity to the works area. There are also two County Wildlife Sites adjacent to the WRC. Discussion have been ongoing with Steve Collin from Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT). NWT manage the SSSI including the section in AW ownership. NWT access part of the SSSI via the WRC for cattle movement. During construction, this access will be maintained and movement of cattle will be agreed in advance of movement for health and safety purposes.

Assent for this work has already been obtained from Natural England. A copy of this has been included in support of this application.

As all works is confined to the operational site, it is not anticipated that there would be any impacts on the SSSI or CWSs

Habitats

The habitats within the areas proposed for the scheme solution are of low ecological value on a site scale but have been heavily used for operational purposes. It is therefore considered impact is low. Biodiversity net gain is considered further below.

Amphibians

No waterbodies suitable for breeding amphibian were identified within 250m of the works area. No further mitigation is considered.

Reptiles

Reptile surveys were undertaken to identify the presence/absence of reptiles. This was undertaken on repeat visits over two seasons. No presence of reptiles were recorded therefore it was concluded that the proposals are unlikely to have any impact on reptiles.

Mammals

Foraging and commuting bats are likely to be present within the area. No additional lighting is planned for the site and therefore impacts are considered negligible.

There are no evidence of badgers within the site and the likelihood of their presence is considered low. There may be the occasional foraging badger and therefore Standard mitigation will be used such place such as mammal ladders or ramps will be put in any open excavations if they cannot be closed overnight and all excavations will be checked in the morning.

Nesting Birds

clearance of vegetation will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive). Therefore there will be no impact on nesting birds. If this is not possible, a nesting bird check will be made by a qualified ecologist. If nesting birds found, these will be protected and allowed to fledge before vegetation clearance occurs.

Conclusion

As part of the site induction, a toolbox talk will be given to all construction workers to ensure they are aware of signs of potential reptiles and foraging mammals. Standard mitigation as detailed in the report will be incorporated into the project. If there are any sightings, the appointed ecologist will be contacted to determine appropriate mitigation/ actions.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Under the Environment Act 2021, BNG became mandatory on the 11th March 2024 for all major and waste planning applications. For minor developments, this became mandatory on the 2nd April 2024.

Within the site boundary, it is proposed to enhance 0.39ha of ‘modified grassland’ of poor condition to ‘other neutral grassland’ of moderate condition within 10 years. This will achieve a 118.53 % Net gain.

The BNG metric has also been submitted as part of this application.

Arboricultural Impacts

The kiosks have been located outside the root protection area of any of the trees, therefore an Arboricultural Impact Assessment has not been submitted with this application.

5.4 Amenity Impacts

The kiosks are required to house electrical equipment and backup generator and therefore do not include any odorous processes. The generator will only be used in the event of a power failure to the site to ensure that the works can continue to run. Given the nature of the scheme and distance to neighbouring residential properties, it is considered that there are unlikely to be any unacceptable impacts in terms of amenity and an odour assessment has not been included with this application.

Any impacts in terms of air quality would be temporary in nature and only experienced during the construction phase of the project.

Potential impacts during the construction period will be mitigated in accordance with the measures set out in the CEMP

Overall, it is therefore considered that the proposal will not have a significantly adverse impact upon the residential amenities of neighbouring properties and would accord with the principles of policies DM12 and DM13 of the NMWCS and policy COM03 of the Breckland Local Plan.

5.5 Flood Risk and Drainage

Dereham WRC predominantly lies within flood zone 1, which is an area at low risk of flooding. Some parts of the works (mainly around the boundary) lies within flood zone 2 and 3. The kiosks have been located so they are within flood zone 1 and therefore have a lowest risk of flooding. A flood risk assessment has not been submitted as part of this application.

Due to high groundwater levels, a formal drainage system is unfeasible for the proposed development. Instead it is proposed that rainwater will runoff to the surrounding ground which is predominantly grass. This will act in the same way as a SuDs filter strip. The drainage arrangement is considered to be sufficient for a development of this scale and the proposed infrastructure expected to have minimal impact on surface water runoff rates and volumes.

Taking into account the above it is considered that the development is compliant with NMWLDF policies CS13 and DM4, Policy ENV09 of the Breckland Local Plan and government objectives of the NPPF.

5.6 Transport and Access

Paragraph 111 of the NPPF sets out that development should only be refused on highway grounds if there is unacceptable impact on highway safety or if the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

The site will be accessed via the existing site access road off Rushmeadow Road. This application does not seek to alter the existing access arrangements. This development will require a small number of delivery vehicles for a limited duration during construction. The proposed development will not result in additional vehicle movements to/from the WRC site once construction is complete. Given the limited requirement for additional traffic during construction only, the proposals are considered to be consistent with the requirements of NMWLDF policies CS15 and DM10.

5.7 Nutrient Neutrality and Habitats Regulation Assessment

Although Dereham WRC is not located within a European Protected Site, it is located within the catchment of the River Wensum SAC and The Broads SAC and Ramsar site which are currently vulnerable to nutrient impacts. As such Ricardo were commissioned to undertake a shadow HRA to identify if the proposed scheme, in the absence of mitigation is likely to have a significant effect on the protected sites (Stage 1), and where likely significant effects (LSE) cannot be ruled out, to determine through Appropriate Assessment (AA) (Stage 2) whether LSE can be mitigated. In determining the likelihood of significant effects on the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment, consideration was given to the possible source-receptor pathways through which effects may be transmitted from activities associated with the proposed scheme. These were identified as excavation works, temporary dewatering, vegetation clearance and increase nutrient load due to increase FFT. In the absence of mitigation, LSE could not be screened out, therefore a HRA stage 2 AA was undertaken.

The proposed mitigation was considered acceptable by both Natural England and Norfolk County Council. As such the shadow HRA was submitted to Norfolk County Council as part of the Screening Opinion request and, after consultation with Natural England, was adopted.

A further HRA will not be submitted with this application considering the proposals have already been assessed under the HRA Regulations.

6 Sustainability Assessment

The treatment of wastewater is an energy intensive process leading to millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. Reducing these emissions is a key priority for the water industry. As such, Anglian Water are on track to generate 45% of energy requirements from their own renewable sources and become a fully net carbon business by 2030 in line with the Water UK Net Zero 2030 Route map. To achieve this ambitious goal, Anglian Water have already undertaken a number of steps, more details of these projects and Anglian Water's bespoke net zero route map can be found at the link below.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/addressing-climate-change/carbon-management/>.

There is no facility to generate part of the energy used on site from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy sources without introducing additional structures such as a wind turbine to the site. There is no room on the site to accommodate these. Sewage sludge generated at Dereham WRC is exported to one of our sludge reception facilities (either Whitlingham or Kings Lynn WRC) where it is further treated and stabilised to enable it to be utilised as agricultural fertiliser. The biogas produced in this process is used to power the existing works reducing the reliance on the grid. It is considered that the site is still making a contribution to renewable energy generation on this basis.

This is in line with the Government's Sustainability Strategy, the NPPF and Policy DM11 of the Norfolk Mineral and Waste Local Plan.

7 Conclusion

This application seeks permission for the installation of additional kiosks at Dereham WRC.

The principle of increasing treatment capacity at Dereham WRC is supported by Policy WP14 of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. The proposals form part of a wider project to treat additional sewage at the site reducing the number of storm discharges and improving water quality in the local environment.

Although the site is located adjacent to Dereham Conservation Area, the site is over 1km away from the historic core. The natural features surrounding the site area not accessible to the general public. It is considered the development would have no perceived impact or detract from the appreciation of this site.

Part of the adjoining area is designated as a SSSI. Natural England do not have any concerns regarding the proposals and provided assent for the work.

An ecological appraisal has been undertaken. With mitigation, it can be concluded that the proposed development will have no impact on habitats or protected species.

Biodiversity net gain of more than 10% can be achieved on site.

Due to being located within the Nutrient Neutrality catchment, a Habitats Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment was undertaken. It was concluded that the proposals would have no likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the protected sites. An HRA has already been adopted by the Council for this work.

There will be a temporary increase in traffic to Dereham WRC during the construction period but this will not have a significant impact upon the local highway network and localised mitigation will be put in place. There will be no increase in traffic movements once the development is operational.

Taking these factors into account, the environmental benefits of the scheme are considered to substantially outweigh the very limited local impact which may result from the development.

Anglian Water believes that the proposed development is in accordance with national and local planning policies.