

White Horse Reservoir project update April 2026

2025 Statutory Consultation

Thank you for the feedback that you provided during our Statutory Consultation. Over 1200 people attended our face-to-face consultation events and we received over 2500 consultation responses. The project team are currently busy reviewing all the responses received, this feedback will help to shape our reservoir plans including design updates, which will inform the Development Consent Order application (DCO).

Pre-Development Consent Order submission engagement

The DCO application is on course to be submitted to the Government in November 2026. Ahead of the submission, we plan to run public information events in early Autumn. These events will be an opportunity for the community to hear about how we have considered stakeholder feedback, provide an update on the latest design, and set out more information on the Development Consent Order process.

Site Surveys

We have been busy continuing our programme of site surveys. As we move into the spring and summer months, we are increasing our survey activity at the proposed White Horse Reservoir site. This is to ensure we have a detailed understanding of the local environment, geology, and heritage which will inform our evidence base for project planning and related submissions.

Our teams are currently carrying out the following works:

- **Ground Investigations** – Across the site we have been installing borehole monitors to gather information on soils and groundwater. Later this month we will dig small Observational Trial Pits on fields within the site – we are using these pits to investigate the geology.
- **Ecology** –we have been undertaking terrestrial ecology survey visits which include, gathering data on badgers, bats, reptiles, breeding and wintering birds, riparian mammals, along with logging habitat types and condition. We will also have teams out surveying plant habitats. In May and June, our bat surveyors will commence night time bat surveys of buildings.
- **Archaeology** – At the end of March we started the next phase of our archaeological trial trenching programme. This involves looking for archaeological artefacts, such as Roman Pottery, and documenting the history beneath our feet. By September we aim to have dug around 1,700 trenches recording the findings and then re-instating the trenches and fields back to their original condition.

- **Water** - Our water teams are collecting data, using loggers and gauges to measure water flow, level, and quality to support our environmental assessments, including on flood risk and water quality.
- **Other surveys** – This year we have also been conducting arboriculture surveys, landscape and visual nighttime photography, aquatic ecology, and noise

We remain dedicated to completing these surveys in line with environmental best practice and with minimal disruption to the local community. We have a dedicated public liaison officer communicating with landowners, tenants, and local residents on survey work. We will provide further updates as the survey work progresses.

We will continue to update stakeholders through emails, one-to-one meetings, newsletters, and website updates [White Horse Reservoir - previously known as South East Strategic Reservoir Option - SESRO](#).

White Horse Reservoir Engagement Team Strategic Resource Options



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