

White Horse Reservoir – Update

23 July 2026

Agenda

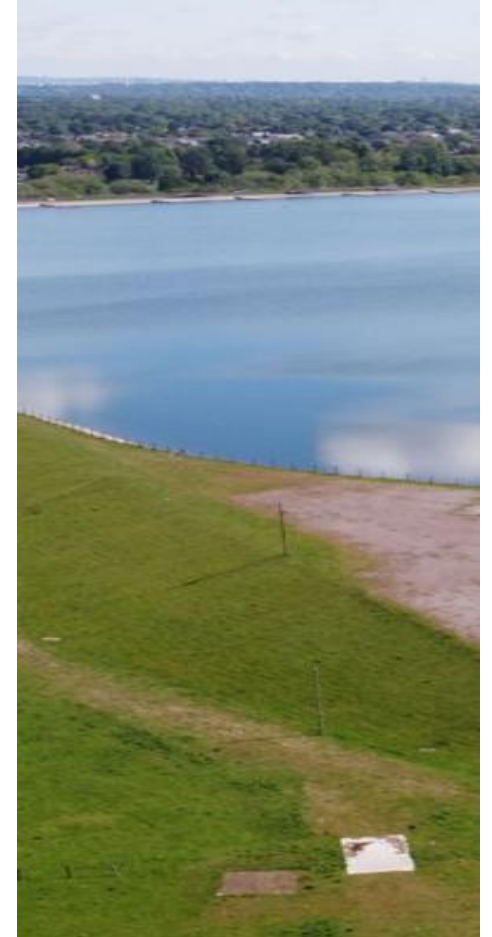
- Welcome & introductions
- Water resources latest
- RAPID Gated process update
- Development Consent Order process update
- Latest on site surveys and investigations
- Engagement update
- Next steps
- Discussion



Water resources

Water resources

- We have been working with Water Resources South East (WRSE) on comparing costs of the White Horse Reservoir with the Severn Thames Transfer.
- (WRSE) have published their updated Regional Plan Cost Sensitivity Modelling report
- Report confirms that White Horse Reservoir (WHR) continues to provide the overall best value Strategic Resource Option (SRO) within the WRSE Regional Plan 2024 (RP24).
- Water companies in the WRSE region, including Thames Water, will now refer to the cost sensitivity modelling report in their Annual Reporting.



Temporary Use Ban (Hosepipe ban)

- Hosepipe ban in place (from today) for Thames Water customers in its water supply area following exceptionally dry weather and sustained high water demand.
- Water use currently 10% above normal in Thames Valley and Home Counties and 7% above normal in London.
- Customers using an extra 100 million litres of water every day – equivalent to adding all the homes in Manchester to the network.
- We are repairing more than 750 leaks every week and continuing our biggest network upgrade in 150 years.



Farmoor Reservoir

Reservoir water levels

- Farmoor reservoir levels are over 95%.
- During the year we closely monitored river flows and water quality, planning for the reservoir to be full by the early summer to ensure sufficient water for our customers.
- For White Horse Reservoir we have modelled its filling plans reflecting weather patterns and different climate change scenarios – this has been carried out for water resource planning and as part of our reporting to the regulators (RAPID).



RAPID gated process

Progress Status: RAPID

- Gate 3 Final Decision

- RAPID have confirmed their decision, for WHR to progress Gate 3 and be funded through the Gated process to gate four.
- This followed a consultation period after RAPID's draft decision in December 2025, where members of the public and various stakeholders were able to make representations to their decision.

- Gate 4 next steps

- We are planning our approach for Gate 4, with the requirements being developed and project teams starting to produce the deliverables.
- Gate 4 reports will be submitted after we make our application for the Development Consent order.

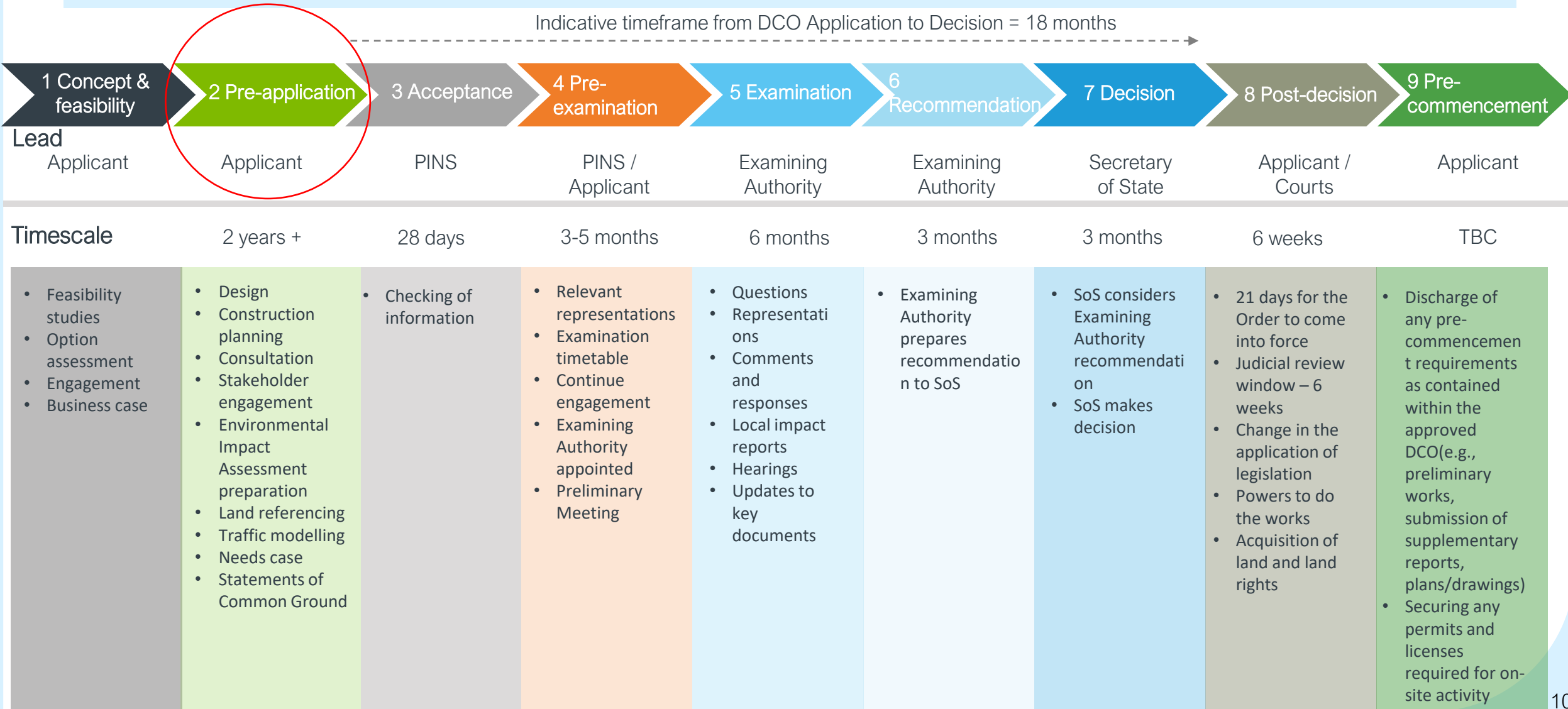


Development Consent Order latest

DCO Process

Overview

Indicative timeframe from DCO Application to Decision = 18 months



Site surveys and investigations

Site surveys and investigations

Landowner engagement

- Continuing our engagement with landowners, including on environmental management opportunities.



Site surveys and ground investigations

- Programme of ground investigations, trial pits and archaeological surveys.

Archaeology

- We've dug over 1,000 trial trenches so far and are digging over 1,000 more this summer.



Site surveys and investigations

Observational clay formation trials

- As part of our ground investigations, we're digging a series of observational pits on site to look at the clay formations and take samples.
- These pits, alongside other ground investigations, and our embankment trial, done at an early stage will help us to develop and refine our reservoir designs



Site surveys and investigations

Ecology

- The goal is to increase biodiversity by providing a space that supports nature.
- We're assessing off-site conservation opportunities and ensuring safe areas for protected species if relocation is needed.
- Ecology surveys are being completed to guide mitigation measures.



Potential proposed works

Artificial Badger setts

Ponds creation

Water vole ditches (creation / enhancement)

Bat/Barn owl structures

Bird/bat boxes & veteranisation within existing woodland

Grassland creation
(+ scrub/hedgerow)

Woodland creation

Engagement

Engagement

Ongoing

- Local briefings
- Technical engagement
- Community research
- Community engagement

Look head

- August update
- Autumn - public information events



Our current proposals: infrastructure 1

At the heart of our proposals is the reservoir itself and the infrastructure needed to collect and store water, and move it to where it's needed.

Embankments
The reservoir would be enclosed by embankments built from layers of clay that exists in abundance in the ground where the reservoir would be built. Clay would be placed horizontally and compacted to create strong, stable foundations.

The outer slopes of the embankments would be gently sloping and grassed, and the inner face (close to the water) typically protected by rip rap (stones) to act as a breakwater.

The southern embankment
would be densely wooded, to provide natural screening from the Stevenage - East Hemery Road, with rich habitats and views from the embankment of the surrounding environment.

The western embankment
would be an important wildlife corridor connected to seasonal wetland and areas of meadow with species-rich grasses and wild flowers.

Pumping station
A new pumping station, located to the east of the reservoir, would play a crucial role in managing water transfer between the reservoir and the River Thames. It would connect to the reservoir and to the river via underground tunnels, enabling water to be pumped to and from the reservoir.

Reservoir towers, tunnels and shafts
Water towers in the reservoir would control the flow of water into and out of the reservoir. Two tunnels containing pipework would be used to transfer water in and out of the reservoir. Another tunnel, known as the river tunnel, would connect the pumping station to an intake and outfall point on the River Thames near Culham.

Illustration of the pumping station compound and landscape bund and screening.

Illustration of reservoir towers and tunnels.



Reservoir Newsletter

Spring 2026



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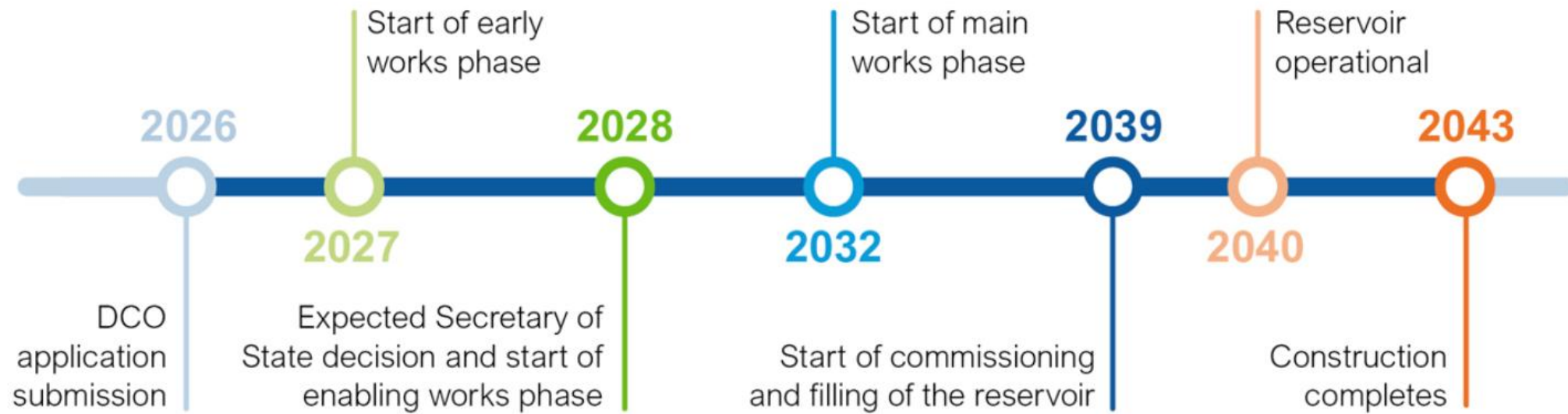
AffinityWater



Next steps

Next Steps

DCO submission and future project timeline



Discussion

Thank you

Disclaimer

All information released is draft, work in progress and should not be relied upon. It reflects work in progress towards a future DCO application. For this reason, it should only be used for the purposes of providing indicative information on the White Horse Reservoir scheme. The information does not represent any sort of formal definition or delineation of the White Horse Reservoir project and should not be treated as such.