

# Ivel Springs Seasonal Wetland Enhancement Stakeholder Engagement Summary

## 'You said, we did'

### You Said:

The river support (groundwater augmentation) should be for the River Ivel, not to support the enhanced seasonal wetland.

### We Did:

The seasonal wetland enhancement has been designed to be fed by flows from the surface water outfall only. The river support (augmentation) where groundwater is pumped into the river will enter the River Ivel downstream of the enhanced seasonal wetland.

### You Said:

There is a proposed new development of 2,500 homes close to the site.

### We Did:

All new developments need to meet the National Planning Policy Framework guidance of discharging surface water at green field run off rates so do not impact the proposed seasonal wetland design.

### You Said:

Can the site be accessible for the members of the public?

### We Did:

The outline design proposes relocating the fence line, creating an access ramp, and interpretation board to allow and encourage public access to the site. These elements will be discussed in more detail with the landowners.

### You Said:

Is there a risk to volunteers carrying out required maintenance of the seasonal wetland in relation to the outfall water quality?

### We Did:

A risk assessment has been produced and will be included within the draft maintenance plan for the outline design.

### You Said:

What is the water quality of the surface water outfall discharge?

### We Did:

The outfall is a surface water system whereby Anglian Water maintain the infrastructure only. The quality and volume of the discharge - which might typically come from hardstanding, roads and rooftops in the Baldock area - cannot be guaranteed. Affinity Water will determine a sampling methodology to obtain representative water quality data. This information will be considered when developing the seasonal wetland enhancement design further.

### You Said:

Historically there were interesting bird communities in the reedbeds. Can reedbeds be recreated?

### We Did:

We have included reedbed in the seasonal wetland outline design. It is proposed that cell 2 will be planted to create reedbed habitat.

### You Said:

Is there a way to trap litter that is washed through the surface water outfall before it enters the seasonal wetland?

### We Did:

We will work to investigate potential solutions. This will be discussed in more detail with the landowners through the detailed design phase of the project.

### You Said:

Is it possible to retain the seasonal wetland outflow structure?

### We Did:

Yes, the seasonal wetland outflow structure has been retained in the outline design.

### You Said:

How frequently will the seasonal wetland, fed by the surface water outfall, become dry?

### We Did:

The seasonal wetland cell water levels vary significantly over time.

FiveRivers calculated the water balance for the seasonal wetland based on the surface water flows between 2017 and 2021.

The sedimentation cell is expected to be dry for <10% of the time, and the other two cells are expected to be dry for <25% of the time.

