

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project



Phase One Community Consultation
Stakeholder Briefing Pack
July 2020

Introduction

Anglian Water is proposing to relocate its Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant to support the regeneration of North East Cambridge.

The Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation (CWWTPR) project, which we refer to as ‘the relocation project’, is required to support sustainable growth in and around Cambridge. It will unlock the existing site, enabling regeneration of this site and the land next to it owned by Cambridge City Council, making way for more than 5,600 new homes and one million square feet of commercial space (subject to planning permission) and thousands of new jobs. These plans will be outlined in the emerging draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (AAP), which will be published for consultation by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service later this summer.

The regional and national strategic importance of this last significant redevelopment opportunity within Cambridge has been recognised both by local councils, through the development of the proposed AAP, and by Homes England, the government’s “housing accelerator”.

The proposed relocation will be funded by the Government’s initiative to help deliver housing in areas of high demand - the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF).

The Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant provides a vital service by receiving waste water from homes and businesses, treating it and returning it to the environment. It has served the people of Cambridge and Greater Cambridge from its current site on Cowley Road for more than 120 years.

The new, relocated facility will continue to provide vital services to Cambridge and Greater Cambridge with a modern, carbon-efficient waste water treatment plant. This will be developed in collaboration with stakeholders and the local community.

The relocation project will deliver benefits of local, regional and national significance and is complex in its nature and scale. To gain consent to develop the project, Anglian Water will submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate which acts on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).



Figure 1: Aerial view of the current site on Cowley Road (view from the north) This makes up the majority of the ‘Core Site’ for redevelopment as outlined in the emerging AAP. The remainder of the Core Site is land owned by Cambridge City Council.

About Anglian Water

Anglian Water employs around 5,000 people and supplies water and waste water services to almost seven million customers in the East of England and Hartlepool.

Because of our region’s size, we run more water and waste water treatment plants than any other water company — around a quarter of all the plants in England and Wales. In Cambridge, we provide waste water services, while the water supply is provided by Cambridge Water.

Above and beyond the provision of fresh, clean water and the effective treatment of waste water, our purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to ‘love every drop’. Our region faces particularly acute challenges from climate change, severe drought, population and housing growth and the need to enhance the natural environment. We firmly believe we have a responsibility to help tackle them to help our region thrive, now and in the future.



The relocation project

The relocation project will allow Anglian Water to continue providing vital waste water treatment services to customers across Cambridge and Greater Cambridge, in a new, modern, carbon-efficient facility.

As well as treating waste water, the new plant will continue storing and treating storm flows and treating sludge to produce renewable energy via anaerobic digestion. The sludge treatment process also produces biofertiliser, used by farmers to provide essential soil nutrients. The treated waste water flow from the existing waste water treatment plant plays an important role in maintaining flows in the River Cam and this will be maintained with flows from the new plant.

The new plant will also be equipped to deal with a growing population. It offers the opportunity for a joined-up solution for treating waste water from Cambridge and Greater Cambridge, including Waterbeach. The preference is for both waste water from the existing Waterbeach Waste Water Treatment Plant and future flows from the proposed Waterbeach New Town to be treated at the new Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant. Any reference to 'Waterbeach' therefore includes existing Waterbeach and the New Town.

Components of a typical waste water and sludge treatment plant

1. Incoming sewer
2. Pumping station
3. Storm storage tank
4. Preliminary treatment (screening and grit removal)
5. Primary settlement
6. Biological treatment
7. Final settlement
8. Tertiary treatment
9. Pumping station
10. Outfall to watercourse
11. Sludge reception
12. Enhanced pre-digestion treatment
13. Biogas storage for renewable energy generation
14. Anaerobic digestion
15. Post-digestion treatment and de-watering
16. Treated sludge biofertiliser

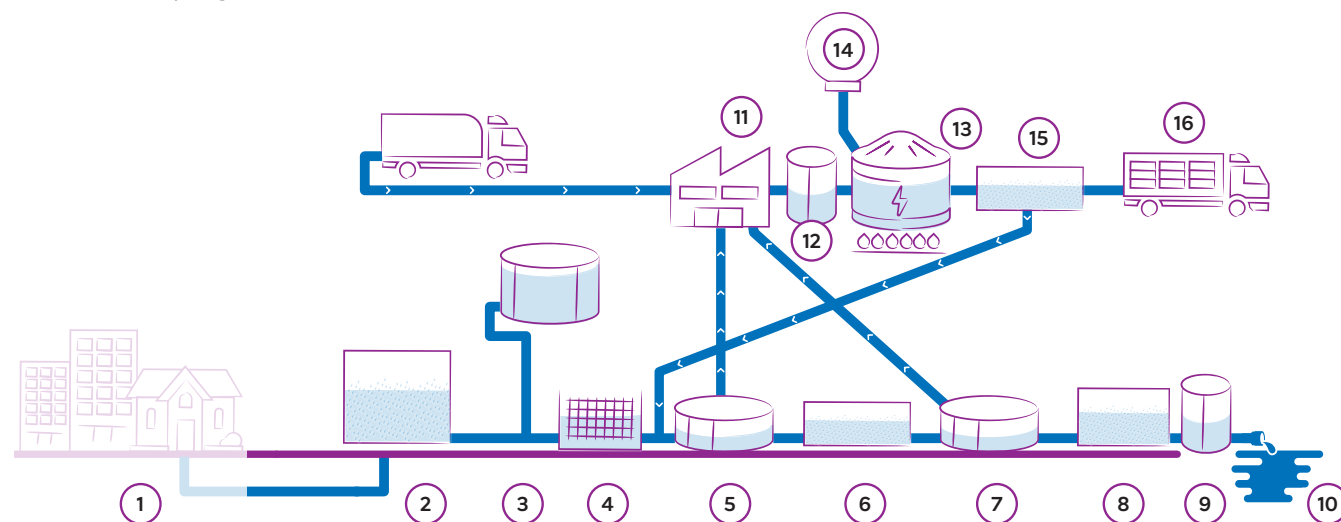


Figure 2: Components of a typical waste water and sludge treatment plant.

Key benefits of the relocation project

The relocation of the existing facility at Cowley Road will enable the last significant brownfield redevelopment opportunity within Cambridge and the delivery of:



Approximately 5,600 homes (subject to planning permission)



One million square feet of commercial space



Thousands of new jobs to boost the economy



The regeneration will contribute to achieving net zero carbon

The new site will:



Continue to provide a vital service to Anglian Water's customers in a new, modern facility



Use renewable energy to reduce its carbon emissions



Guarantee a sustainable service for future generations

Our pre-application public consultation

We are committed to undertaking an open and iterative pre-application public consultation. We value local knowledge and we are confident that this consultation process will result in a strong set of proposals for the relocation project that respects the neighbouring community and environment.

Prior to submitting an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, we will undertake pre-application consultation with local communities. We will also engage with local planning authorities, statutory consultees such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, and local interest groups, residents' associations and organisations such as Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust.

What will we consult on?

Anglian Water will be seeking feedback from the local community on all aspects of our plans for the relocation project. We will be holding three phases of community consultation. Phase one will be non-statutory and phases two and three will be statutory consultations. We will consult on the following aspects of the project as it develops.

At phase one we will be asking for feedback on:

- Three shortlisted site areas.
- Proposed tunnel and pipeline routes for each of the three site areas. This will include a tunnel to take waste water to the site for treatment and a tunnel or pipeline to take treated waste water away from the site, to the River Cam.
- The criteria local communities consider to be most important in selecting a final site.
- Our consultation process.

At phase two we will have identified a final site and will be seeking further feedback on:

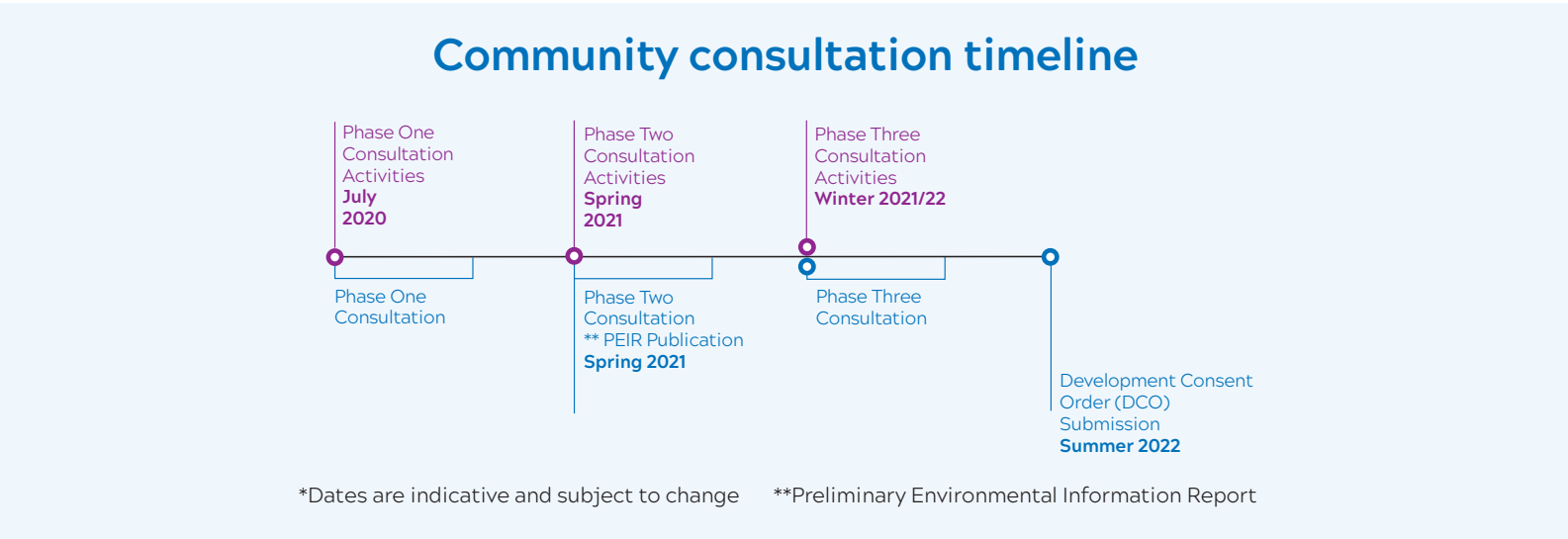
- Design proposals, demonstrating how the new site could look and operate.
- Short-term and temporary impacts during construction, such as on local residents, amenities and the environment and what measures we will be looking to take to reduce those impacts.
- Long-term operational impacts, such as on wildlife, local amenities, the local environment, landscape and views and what measures we will be looking to take to reduce those impacts.

At phase three we will consult on near-final detailed design aspects of the project, proposed mitigation measures that we will be looking to take and updated environmental information.



When will we be consulting?

Our public consultation programme will start in July 2020 and will continue until we submit our DCO application in summer 2022, as outlined in the community consultation timeline. Our team is dedicated to working with communities throughout the development of the scheme and beyond, should the scheme be granted consent. We will be presenting and refining our proposals in response to each phase of consultation. Throughout the process, we will report on the feedback that we have received and show how this has helped to shape our proposals.



Our phase one consultation

We have undertaken a detailed site selection study and identified three possible areas within which the new site could be located. These are shown in figure 3. The new site will be within a smaller area than those shown in figure 3, around half the size of the existing site on Cowley Road.

Our methodology for shortlisting site areas applied a range of criteria based on community impact and operational, planning, economic, and environmental and sustainability factors, including carbon emissions. Further information on the site selection process will be made available when we launch our first public consultation.

We will be asking the public for their views on the possible site areas in our first community consultation which will start in July 2020. The feedback from the phase one consultation will help us to make a decision on a final site. There is more information on how we will consult on pages 8 and 9.

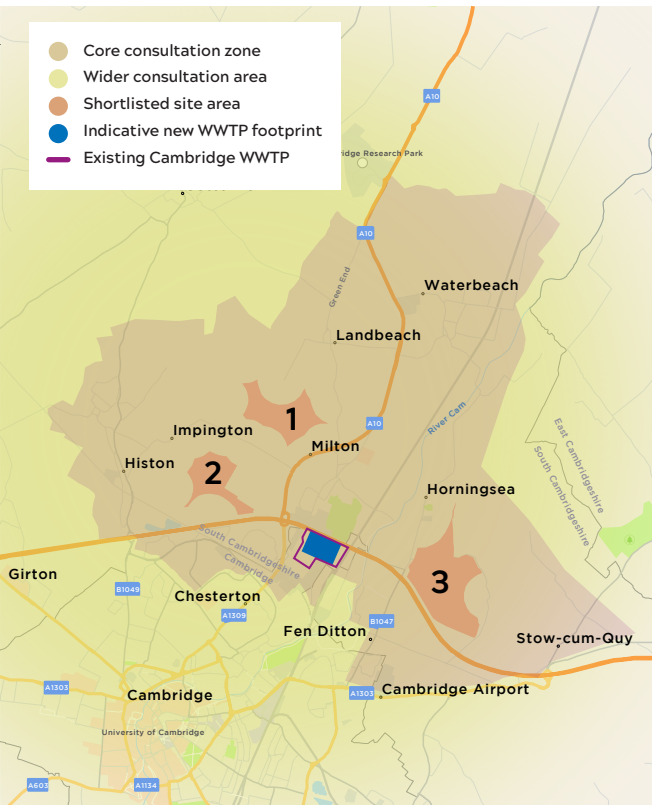


Figure 3: Core consultation zone which includes the three site areas. This zone will also include tunnels and pipelines required to take waste water to the site for treatment and take treated waste water away from the site, back to the River Cam.

Our consultation activities



Consulting during COVID-19

The UK and world over have been living through unprecedented times. We are all adapting to changes in our daily lives.

Our consultation activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community. This is especially important given current restrictions on meeting in person owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and any future national or regional restrictions that may apply.



Exhibitions and meetings

Virtual exhibitions will allow the community to view information on the project in a similar way to face-to-face events, digitally. Exhibitions can be accessed through the project website. We hope to hold face-to-face events for future phases of consultation.

Webinars will be held which will provide communities with an opportunity to hear our project team talk about the proposals and ask questions.

We will also be holding **regular meetings and presentations** with parish councils, residents and stakeholder groups to provide information on our proposals and listen to feedback. These will be held via online meetings and webinars in circumstances where there are restrictions on public gatherings.

Where webinars are held, these will be made available for the community to view afterwards on our project website.



Literature

Consultation leaflets will be posted to all properties in the core consultation zone and made available for the wider consultation area. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the core consultation zone on request. Our consultation leaflets will provide information on the proposals and details of how the local community can have their say.

At each phase of our consultation we will be consulting on the latest environmental information, including the **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** at our phase two consultation. This information will also be presented in a non-technical format for all consultees to engage with.

Where we cannot host in-person consultation events, which provide the opportunity to provide feedback to the project team, **feedback forms** will be distributed by post to all homes in the core consultation zone. We can also send anyone in the wider consultation area a hard copy of the feedback form on request. These can be filled in and posted back to us via FREEPOST.

Newsletters will be available online and posted to homes in the core consultation zone on a quarterly basis to update residents on the plans and proposals.

We will publish adverts in local media to inform the local communities of our consultation.



Online

A dedicated **project website** www.cwwtpr.com will go live at the start of our phase one consultation for people to find out more information on the proposals and provide their feedback.

We will publicise the latest project news and advertise events through the project's **Twitter account** [@CWWTPR](https://twitter.com/CWWTPR)



Communications lines

A Freephone information line is available for interested parties to call to ask questions, request information in alternative formats and provide feedback: **0808 196 1661**

You can speak to a member of our consultation team at any point throughout the pre-application stage. Our telephone lines will be open from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). A voicemail service will operate outside of these hours which we will respond to the following working day.

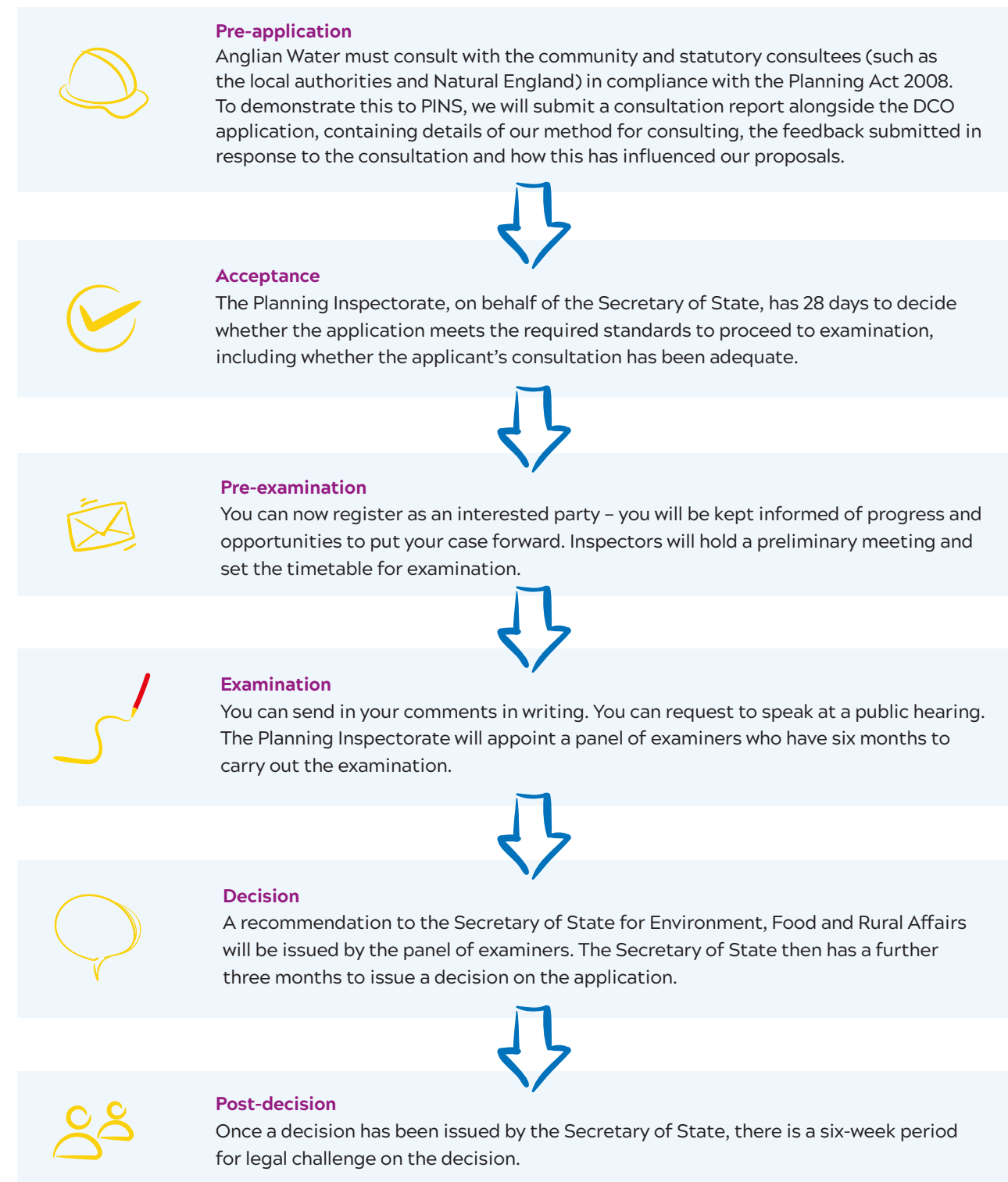
You can also:

Email us at info@cwwtpr.com

Write to us at Freepost: **CWWTPR**

The Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process

The relocation project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Anglian Water therefore needs to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS)*. The DCO process requires robust consultation, along with a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to an application for a DCO being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.



* You can view more information on the DCO planning process on PINS website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

Anglian Water will undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project. This is to ensure the likely effects of the proposed development are properly understood and to identify where mitigation can be put in place. The results of the EIA will be presented in an Environmental Statement.

The methodology and scope of the EIA and how it will be carried out will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies (for example, the Environment Agency) and local authorities.

The following reports will be made available electronically and on our project website as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared.

Scoping Report

The Scoping Report will set out background environmental information on our preferred development site as part of a request from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) “scoping opinion”. PINS will consult with local authorities and statutory consultees before providing its opinion on what environmental surveys and assessments we should carry out to produce the Environmental Statement, which is required as part of our DCO application.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR will present the preliminary findings of environmental surveys and assessments which have been carried out. This will enable those who have an interest in the relocation project to develop an informed view of the potential impacts it may have on the local environment. In our second phase of consultation in spring 2021, we will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the consultation and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.





Contact us

Our consultation team is on hand to answer your questions and listen to your feedback on the proposals for the relocation project.

You can contact us by:



Emailing at info@cwwtpr.com



Calling our Freephone information line on **0808 196 1661**



Writing to us at **Freepost: CWWTPR**



Visiting our website at www.cwwtpr.com



Following us on Twitter at [@CWWTPR](https://twitter.com/CWWTPR)

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