



Talk with The Canterbury Society

22 January 2026



Agenda

- About Broad Oak Water
- Environmental surveys and Ground Investigation
- Overview of the scheme
- Visitor and recreational amenities
- How you can get involved
- Next steps
- Q&A.

The need for Broad Oak Water

Broad Oak Water, the new reservoir we're planning to the north of Canterbury, has a key role to play in **securing reliable, sustainable water supplies for Kent in the future.**

Along with all water companies, **we plan 25-50 years ahead** to make sure there is enough water for homes and businesses.

By 2050, we predict we'll need to find at least an extra 90 million litres of water per day in Kent – that's nearly half the amount we supply today on average.

We already operate in an area of serious water stress, as designated by the Environment Agency, which means **the amount of water we need is high compared to the amount of water available.**

The drivers for new water sources in Kent

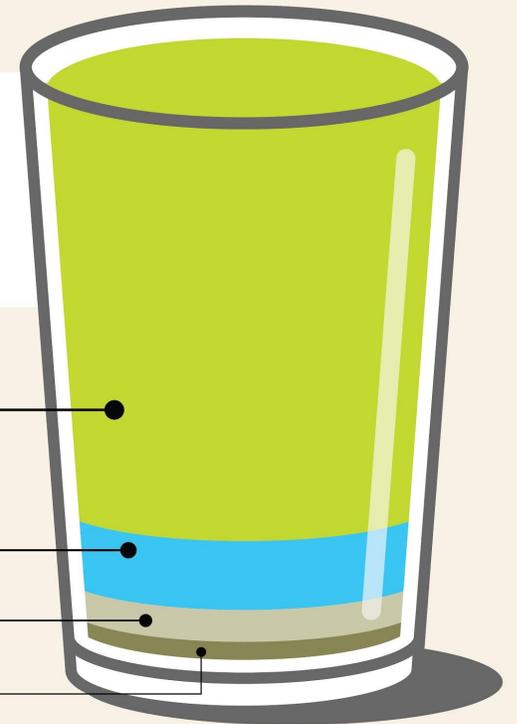
- Protect the environment
- Supply more people
- Climate change impacts
- Increase drought resilience

78%

13%

6%

3%



About Broad Oak Water

Proposals for a reservoir at Broad Oak originate as early as the **1940s** with land purchased for this purpose in the **1970s**.

A reservoir at Broad Oak features in Canterbury City Council's emerging Local Plan and is a key large-scale investment scheme in South East Water's **Water Resources Management Plan**.

The new reservoir will **help meet future demand for drinking water** in east Kent, while also creating new habitats, increasing biodiversity and providing social benefits for the local community.

Once complete, Broad Oak Water will be the **second major reservoir** to be built in the south east in the last three decades.

It could hold **5,126 million** litres of water and supply up to **22 million** litres of water a day by the **mid 2030s**.

“**Broad Oak Water will ensure a secure and sustainable water supply, innovatively delivered to benefit the natural environment and community, now and in the future.**”

About Broad Oak Water

Building Broad Oak Water will help us protect the chalk streams in Kent and particularly help us adapt to climate change as we can capture and store water when it's wet. It is also one of very few locations in the region where a reservoir could be built due to the site's geology, proximity to a water source and social and environmental factors.



Environmental surveys

We started early-stage investigation work in April 2024 to gather background data, which we'll use to inform aspects of the project's development.

The surveys will help us better understand:

- The wildlife that lives and visits the site
- The flow of local rivers and water quality
- The ground conditions
- The heritage of any buildings.

This extensive work will continue until 2028, providing us with a baseline from which to plan, measure and design.

In December 2025, we submitted an EIA Scoping Opinion to the Local Planning Authorities. This is an **important step in the planning process** for Broad Oak Water to ensure the project is thoroughly assessed.



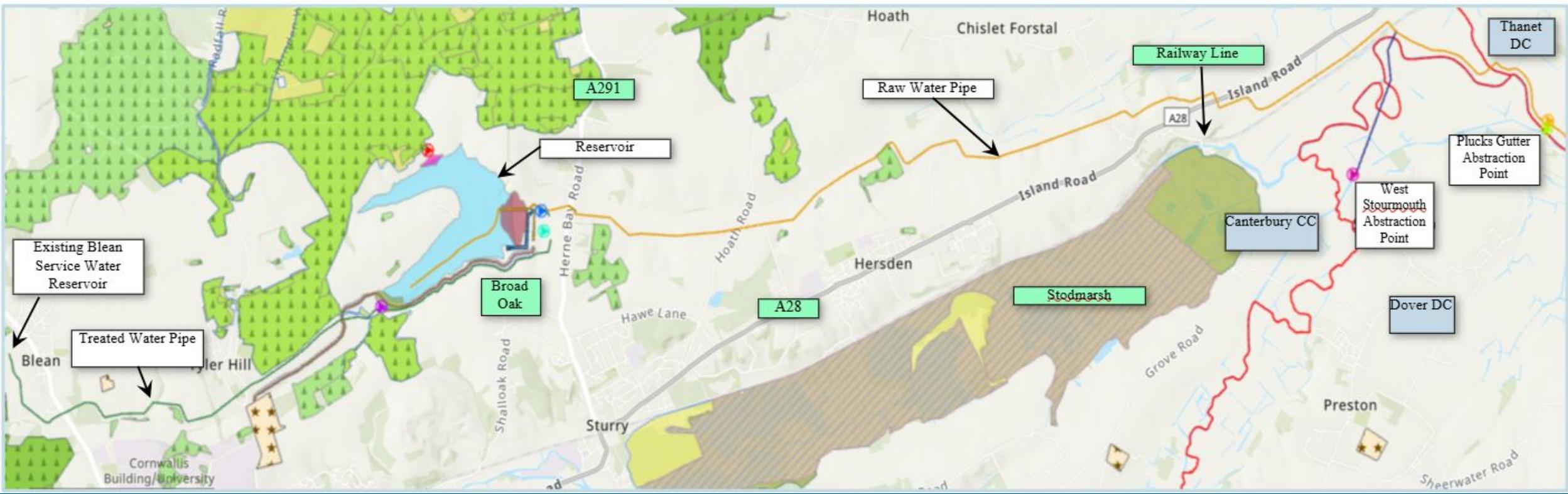
Ground Investigation (GI) works

From July to November 2025, GI works took place mostly in agricultural fields close to the reservoir site.

- Soils were sampled at 161 locations, reaching depths up to 80m below the surface to understand the ground conditions
- Trials included boreholes, trial pits, geophysical surveys and (ongoing) groundwater monitoring
- Following analysis in a laboratory the findings will inform our design process and allow engineers to design (and construct) the project **safely** and **efficiently**
- Findings so far suggest that the site is abundant in London Clay, which will be used to form the embankments and provide an impermeable layer to the reservoir's floor.

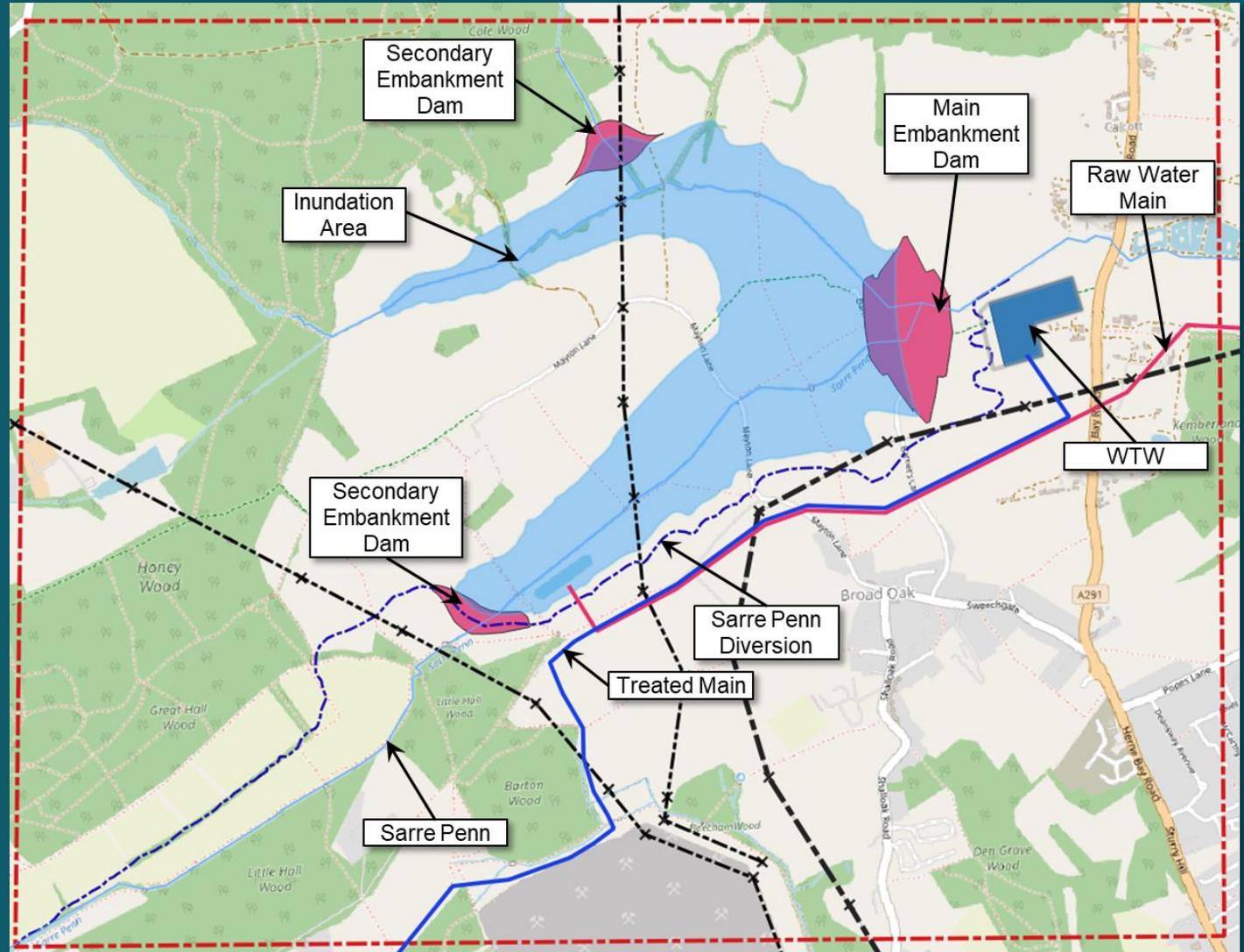


The Overall Scheme



The Overall Scheme

- Abstraction locations and pumping stations
- Raw water pipeline
- Reservoir and embankments
- Water treatment works
- Potable water pipeline
- Visitor and recreational amenities.



Recreation at Broad Oak Water

We're keen to understand the level of facilities that the community would like to see as we understand the need to balance visitors with wildlife. **We're currently considering three different options:**

- Low Intensity: **Nature Focused** - Focuses on peace and quiet. We could keep things simple with well-marked walking trails and quiet spots for birdwatching - perfect for those looking to enjoy nature
- Medium Intensity: **A Hub for Families** - This could create a more active space for the community, including an expanded trail network, play areas for children, and a small visitor centre with a café. It could be a go-to spot for school trips, local workshops or weekend park runs
- High Intensity: **A Regional Destination** - This option could transform Broad Oak Water into an attraction, which could include a large visitor centre, diverse event spaces for year-round activities, and the potential for overnight stays like camping or eco-cabins.



Plans for public engagement

Engagement activities will run from **Wednesday 4 February to Wednesday 18 March 2026**.

In our engagement documents, we'll share the latest information about our plans for the reservoir and pipeline. We want to gather views from a wide range of people to help shape the proposals we'll submit for planning permission.

We're looking to engage with local communities in the development of the reservoir to make sure we understand all the opportunities and challenges.

We're planning several **face-to-face drop-in events** in the Broad Oak area, as well as **webinars** and an **online engagement hub** for those unable to attend in person.

An **interactive 3D model** and film will show how the reservoir may look. There will be **multiple ways to provide feedback**.



Timeline of activities

Wednesday 4
February 2026

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
LAUNCHES**

Wednesday 18
March 2026

**PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT
CLOSES**



Online Engagement Hub

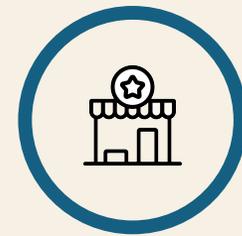


Document Hubs



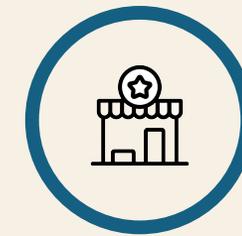
Thursday 12
February 2026
12noon-1pm

Public Webinar
Online



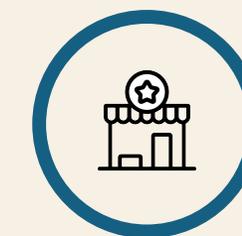
Wednesday 25
February 2026
1pm-7pm

Public Drop-In Event
Broad Oak Village Hall



Tuesday 3
March 2026
12noon-6pm

Public Drop-In Event
Tyler Hill Memorial Hall



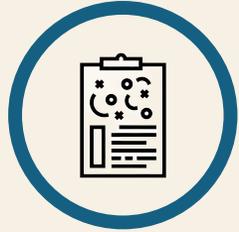
Monday 9
March 2026
12noon-6pm

Public Drop-In Event
Sturry Social Centre

Introduction to the 3D model



Project timeline



2020-2024

Consultation and engagement on Water Resource Management Plan 24



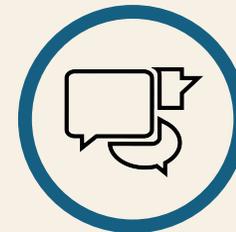
2024 - ongoing

Environmental surveys started



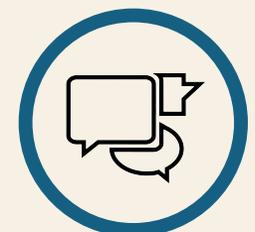
2025

Ground Investigation works undertaken



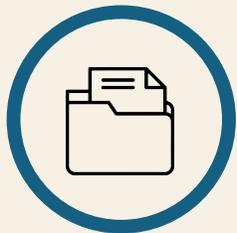
2026

Public engagement on early proposals



2027

Public consultation on refined proposals



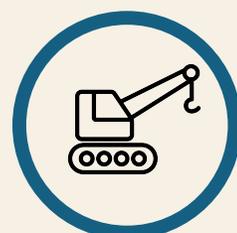
2028

Planning application submission



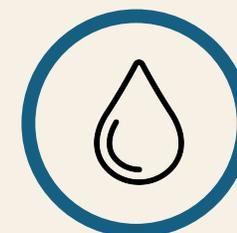
Around 2030

Detailed design and contractor appointed



Around 2031

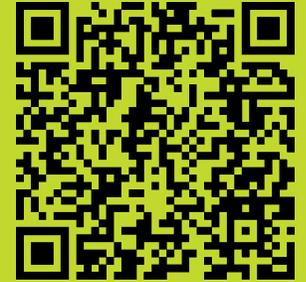
Construction begins



From 2035

Water in supply

Q&As



southeastwater.co.uk/broadoak