

LP26 – Water resources and infrastructure

- 15.58 Water is a key resource in the area which has recognised issues. Due to water being imported from elsewhere in the country, there must be effective and reliable water systems in place to reduce any harms associated with droughts, ranging from small scale water inefficiencies to large-scale ones. Water quality is also a recognised issue where plans and strategies are seeking to improve the baseline position. The Environment Agency has published [national guidance on ground water protection](#) and is the relevant statutory environmental body on water matters.
- 15.59 As part of the [Government's Water Abstraction Plan \(2017\)](#), in May 2018, Suffolk was designated as a pilot catchment area for testing innovative approaches to reforming water abstraction. Suffolk's Holistic Management Approach links all aspects of water management to develop new ways of delivering flood alleviation, to provide more reliable water resources for all users and to improve water-based ecosystems and water quality.
- 15.60 The two operating water companies in Babergh and Mid Suffolk areas are [Anglian Water](#), and [Essex & Suffolk Water](#) - the areas are classified as experiencing serious water stress. The relevant authority for liaison with wastewater treatment and capacity within the foul sewerage network is [Anglian Water](#). Applicants should refer to these companies for further information and guidance on relevant water network policies and adoption handbooks.
- 15.61 It is essential that new development makes efficient use of water resources and where possible and necessary, contributes to water quality enhancements. Water recycling measures should be applied such as rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling. Appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can also contribute to water quality through filtration. Early consideration should be given to the potential to use SuDS to identify when/where the use of such technologies is feasible and to also identify which type of SuDS is most appropriate to local site conditions. Further information on local SuDS guidance can be found in the [Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy](#).
- 15.62 In line with Environment Agency guidance further attention should be given to the importance of geomorphological impacts on rivers. Developments which often use hard engineering and culverts along river corridors often lead to a reduction of wildlife value due to an un-natural change in watercourse function which can also lead to flooding. The Environment Agency will therefore only approve an application to culvert a watercourse if there is no reasonably practicable alternative or if the detrimental effects of culverting would be so minor that they would not justify a more costly alternative. In all cases where it is appropriate to do so adequate mitigation must be provided for damage caused. Wherever practical the Environment Agency will seek to have culverted watercourses restored to open channels.

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Development will be supported where it:

- 1. Conforms to the principle of Holistic Water Management including the use of appropriate water efficiency and re-use measures, together with surface water drainage which provides community and environmental benefits;**
- 2. Considers its impact on water resources and the capacity of water supply network infrastructure, taking into account the effects of climate change;**
- 3. Demonstrates the applicant has consulted with the relevant authority regarding wastewater treatment and that capacity within the foul sewerage network and receiving water recycling centre is available or can be made available in time to serve the development;**
- 4. Separates foul and surface water flows;**
- 5. Complies with the relevant statutory environmental body policy on culverts; and**
- 6. The proposal will not result in any adverse effect (either through construction and / or operation) on the integrity of the Protected Habitats Sites and designated AONBs.**