

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** EIR  
**Sent:** 14 January 2026 14:14  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about Brightlingsea, which we received on 15 December 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. Information regarding the capacity of the sewer system in Brightlingsea
2. Correspondence relating to Tendring District Council's emerging Local Plan
3. Storm overflow activations, sewer flooding or capacity issues in Brightlingsea in the last 10 years
4. Planned or proposed investment in the wastewater network in Brightlingsea
5. Does the network in Brightlingsea have the capacity to accommodate the growth proposed by Tendring District Council

#### **EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information**

Please find attached:

- PLN-0059696+-+Planning+Report.pdf
- PLN-0191689+-+Planning+Report.pdf
- PLN-0231380+-+Planning+Report+15825.pdf

**Item 1** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided as an attachment.

Please see attached. PLN-0059696+-+Planning+Report.pdf, PLN-0191689+-+Planning+Report.pdf and PLN-0231380+-+Planning+Report+15825.pdf

**Item 2** is held by Anglian Water and is provided below.

Anglian Water has engaged with Tendring District Council, in relation to evidence to support the emerging Tendring Local Plan and responded to the Issues and Options Consultation in April 2025. Our comments regarding Brightlingsea provided a RAG assessment for Brightlingsea WRC capacity as GREEN to indicate that there was headroom available for proposed future growth (subject to caveats around the dynamic environment relating to dry weather flow headroom at our water recycling centres). We also referenced network capacity issues within the town:

*PROPORTIONATE GROWTH:*

*The assessment of spatial strategy options should consider infrastructure capacity and the findings of the WCS to indicate appropriate locations for growth and suitable trajectories to align with the delivery of infrastructure investment, where this is needed to facilitate future growth.*

*Brightlingsea for example is identified for large housing development. There are network capacity issues in the town and therefore early engagement would be recommended to ascertain a sustainable point of connection to our networks to avoid additional pressure on our combined sewers, and the potential for environmental harm. Our AMP8 investment programme identifies a number of schemes to address high spilling storm overflows in the town.*

**CLIMATE CHANGE:**

*Our investments in AMP8 include improvements to reduce high-spilling storm overflows by providing additional storage, at locations such as Brightlingsea, Frinton-on-Sea and Jaywick.*

In August 2025, Anglian Water responded to a questionnaire to support a high-level assessment of Infrastructure Needs to support the preparation of the Local Plan. This reiterated that Brightlingsea WRC has capacity to accommodate the quantum of growth proposed by the indicated sites, and sustainable points of connection (SPOC) to our network would be required to avoid hydraulic overloading that may lead to adverse impacts on the environment and local amenity.

We also highlighted: *"There are three locations in Brightlingsea WRC catchment, where EA Driver Guidance requires improvements to reduce storm overflow spills so that they do not discharge above an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 2050 in AMP8 (2025-30). Further assessment would be needed to ascertain whether the quantum of growth proposed would impact on the investment to reduce storm overflow spills in the catchment – or whether impacts on the existing network can be resolved through a SPOC.*

- *Brightlingsea-Spring Road SSO*
- *Brightlingsea-Lower Park Rd OV*
- *Brightlingsea-Station Rd #58 OV"*

**Item 3** is held by Anglian Water, and is reasonably accessible.

Our spill data for storm overflows is available to view on our website:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/storm-overflows>

**Item 4** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

The Brightlingsea Spring Road and Lower Park overflows are included within our Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) for environmental improvement during the current asset management period (2025–2030). These infrastructure upgrades are due to be delivered by 31/03/2030.

**Item 5** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

When responding to planning applications which propose foul connections to our network, capacity assessments are undertaken. Capacity assessments are required to be done on a site-by-site basis, as the impact of new development will depend on the exact nature of the proposed development, the proposed connection point into our network, and factors such as the sites use and scale.

Should pollution risk, constraints, or risk to the public network be identified at the planning application stage, Anglian Water will object, or request appropriate conditions be applied by the deciding Local Planning Authority, to help protect our existing customers, and the environment.

**Brightlingsea-Church Rd** Water Recycling Centre (WRC) operates under a numeric environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency. This permit includes a defined limit on Dry Weather Flow (DWF) - the volume of treated effluent that can be discharged to the receiving watercourse. These limits are set by the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure that the receiving water environment is not detrimentally impacted. They are based on a range of environmental factors, including the sensitivity and ecological status of the watercourse. The limits set within our permits are designed to protect the water environment, and the EA assess the impact of these limits when granting and reviewing permits. Therefore, any additional flow that would cause the WRC to exceed its permitted DWF is an unacceptable risk to the environment.

When assessing the receiving water recycling centre's (WRC) dry weather flow (DWF) headroom we take the latest Q90 DWF figures, as verified by the Environment Agency, and add sites with planning consent, which are yet to connect to our network, to this. The WRC consent permit is for **2160m<sup>3</sup>** per day, and the WRC was operating at **1621.90m<sup>3</sup>** per day as of the **2024** Q90 data, which represents operation at 75.1% of the WRCs permit.

Please note this does not include sites which are yet to connect to our network.

Based on the above assessment, **Brightlingsea-Church Rd** WRC currently has the capacity to accommodate additional flows generated by new development, subject to site by site capacity checks.

Personal data and non-environmental information have been redacted from the information provided.

**IMPORTANT: The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing, and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use (for example, commercial publication) would require the permission of the copyright holder. It is important that this data is not published for security reasons.**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request an internal review, you should email [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) or write to:

General Counsel, Anglian Water Services, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this email, please contact us via [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) .

Yours sincerely

**EIR Team**

**Anglian Water Services Limited**

Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 6XU

Email [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk)

