

## Background to the Project

**Lough Fea Water Treatment Works (WTW) is located in County Tyrone approximately 7 miles North West of Cookstown and 6.5 miles south of Draperstown. The WTW supplies water to the towns of Cookstown, Draperstown and surrounding rural areas.**

The WTW typically produces 12 Mega Litres (ML) of potable water per day for the supply of the distribution network and has the design capacity to provide up to 17ML per day. It is estimated that 24,000 NI Water customers are supplied with water from Lough Fea Treatment Works.

Water produced at the treatment works exits the site via two gravity mains, each supplying existing Service Reservoirs (SR). SR North has a storage capacity of 0.5ML and SR South has a storage capacity of 1.0ML. Up to 3 ML / day flows through SR North (4 hours retention time) and up to 12ML / day flow through SR South (2-3 hours retention time) into the distribution network.

## The Proposal

In order to address the operational needs for Lough Fea WTW it is proposed that a Clear Water Basin (CWB) is constructed on the site adjacent to the existing SR South, providing 13.9ML of storage. Providing 24 hour retention time.

The proposal involves the construction of a concrete CWB approximately 89.2m x40.8m in area with a depth of 5.40m. The total footprint of the CWB structure will be approximately 3600m<sup>2</sup> and will be constructed primarily out of reinforced concrete. The proposed CWB will be partially below ground and is intended to be constructed into the existing topography of the site to reduce any associated visual impact.

It is proposed that a new pumping station is also constructed within the development boundary to serve the existing Lough Fea North SR and onward to the Draperstown distribution network. Two high lift pumps operating duty/standby will draw from

A number of deficiencies have been identified in the current operational regime of the works:

- The inability to manage planned or unplanned shutdowns at Lough Fea WTW - the current Service Reservoirs provide 3-4 hours of storage to the distribution network
- There is no adequate emergency storage available should there be of a breach in the mains pipelines downstream in the distribution network.
- Risk to customer water supplies during high demand and seasonal periods.
- Non-compliance with NI Water Asset Standards and EU changes in legislation.

the outlet of the CWB to lift the water via a flowmeter to Lough Fea North SR. All equipment at the site will be housed within a GRP kiosk approximately 4m x 5m in plan and 2.5m in height.

The CWB can be emptied via a proposed scour main, discharging to a local watercourse. Discharge of the CWB will not be frequent event and will only occur in the event of maintenance of the CWB structure or a contamination water supplied by Lough Fea WTW. The existing Lough Fea SR South shall be decommissioned upon completion of the proposed CWB.

The proposed site is currently agricultural land and will be accessed via the Spawell Road off the Lough Fea Road from the south or via a laneway off Tullyaran Road from the North.

## The Consultation Process

This proposal is deemed to be a “major application” under the terms of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and the applicant is therefore obliged to undertake Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) in advance of submitting the Planning Application.

The PACC strategy adopted by the Project Team complies with all legislative requirements of Section 27 of the above Planning Act.

This community consultation process offers an opportunity to engage with representatives of NI Water and members of the project team on matters of design as well as the associated development process including preparation of the Planning Application.

This Community Consultation event will among other things:

- Ensure communities and stakeholders are provided with sufficient, timely information about the scheme;
- Ensure that decision making is inclusive of diverse community ideas and opinions;
- Ensure that planning, development and delivery of the project meets the ‘balance of community’ needs and expectations;
- Enhance transparency and public accountability;
- To trigger local community and stakeholder engagement, and facilitate views, comments and feedback on relevant issues and/or which need to be addressed; and
- Seeks the views of the local community, and other stakeholders to inform design approach as well as the preparation of an associated Environmental Statement. The community consultation event will provide information on the development process, the associated Environmental Assessments and seeks views on the proposed project.

**This Community Consultation Event will last from 14th November through to 12th December.**



# Map of View Points



Approximate Extent of Scheme (to rear of vegetation)



Approximate Extent of Scheme (to rear of roadside vegetation)



Approximate Extent of Scheme Visible in View



Approximate Extent of Scheme Visible in View



1

Existing View North from Junction of Spawell Road and Lough Fea Road

2

Existing View North from Spawell Road

3

Existing View South from Spawell Road

4

Existing View South from Spawell Road

## What Next

NI Water are undertaking this Community Consultation process to seek the views of members of the public, local communities, stakeholders and other interested parties in relation to the proposed works.

This community consultation will last for approximately 4 weeks from **14th November through to 12th December**.

NI Water hopes this process will help them to understand any other issues or concerns anyone may have regarding this project. This will also help inform proposed option refinement and the preparation of environmental reports.

### **If I have a query or question, how can I have this addressed?**

**At the Community Consultation Event** - Please speak to one of our representatives as they are here to assist you in understanding the project proposals.

**Feedback Forms** - Feedback forms are available here today and you are encouraged to complete.

We would welcome your views and comments on the proposed project and invite you to submit your comments to our project team on the feedback forms provided or through the NI Water website. Feedback forms are also available on the NI Water website:

**<https://www.niwater.com/major-infrastructure-investments/>**

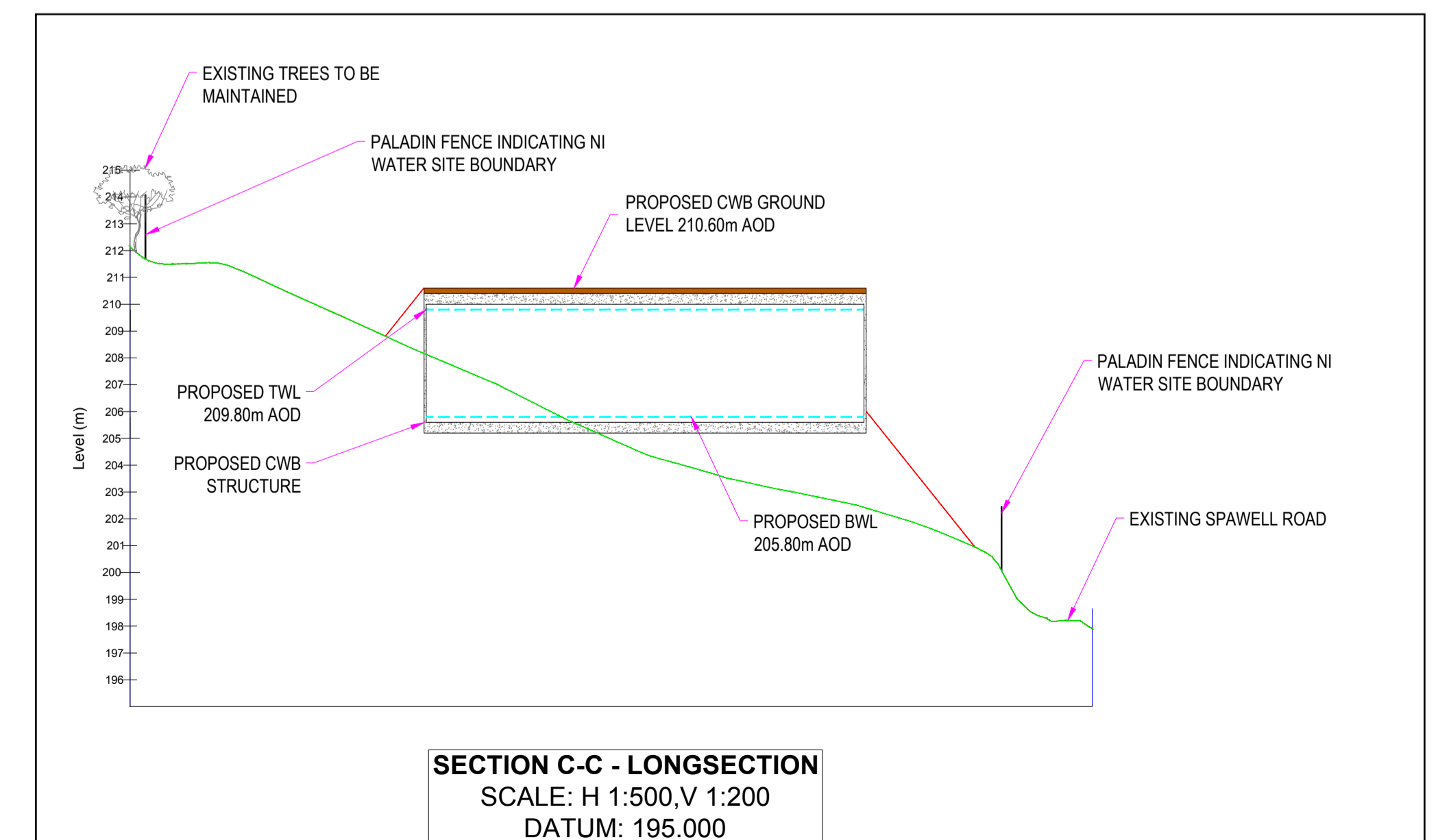
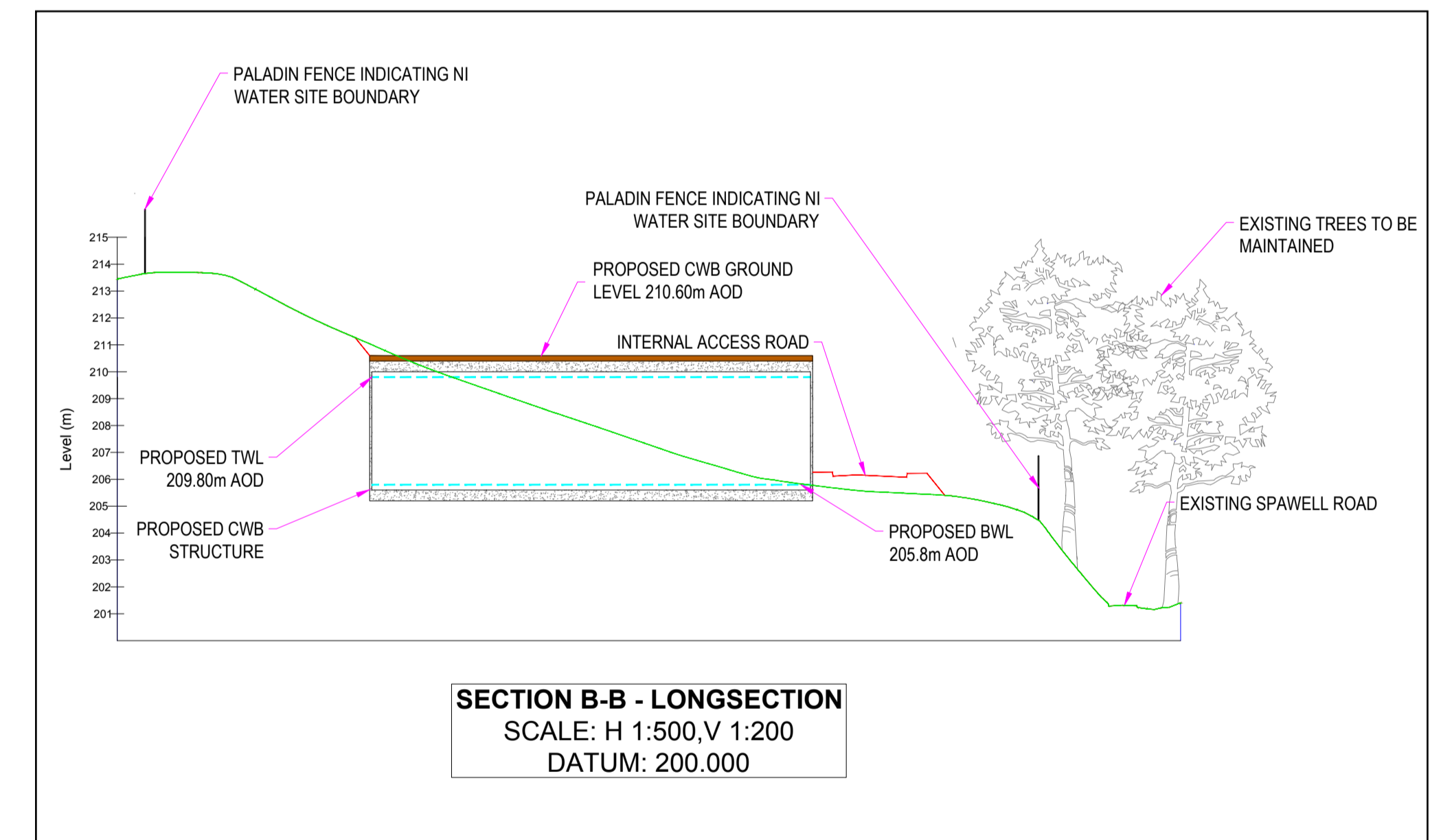
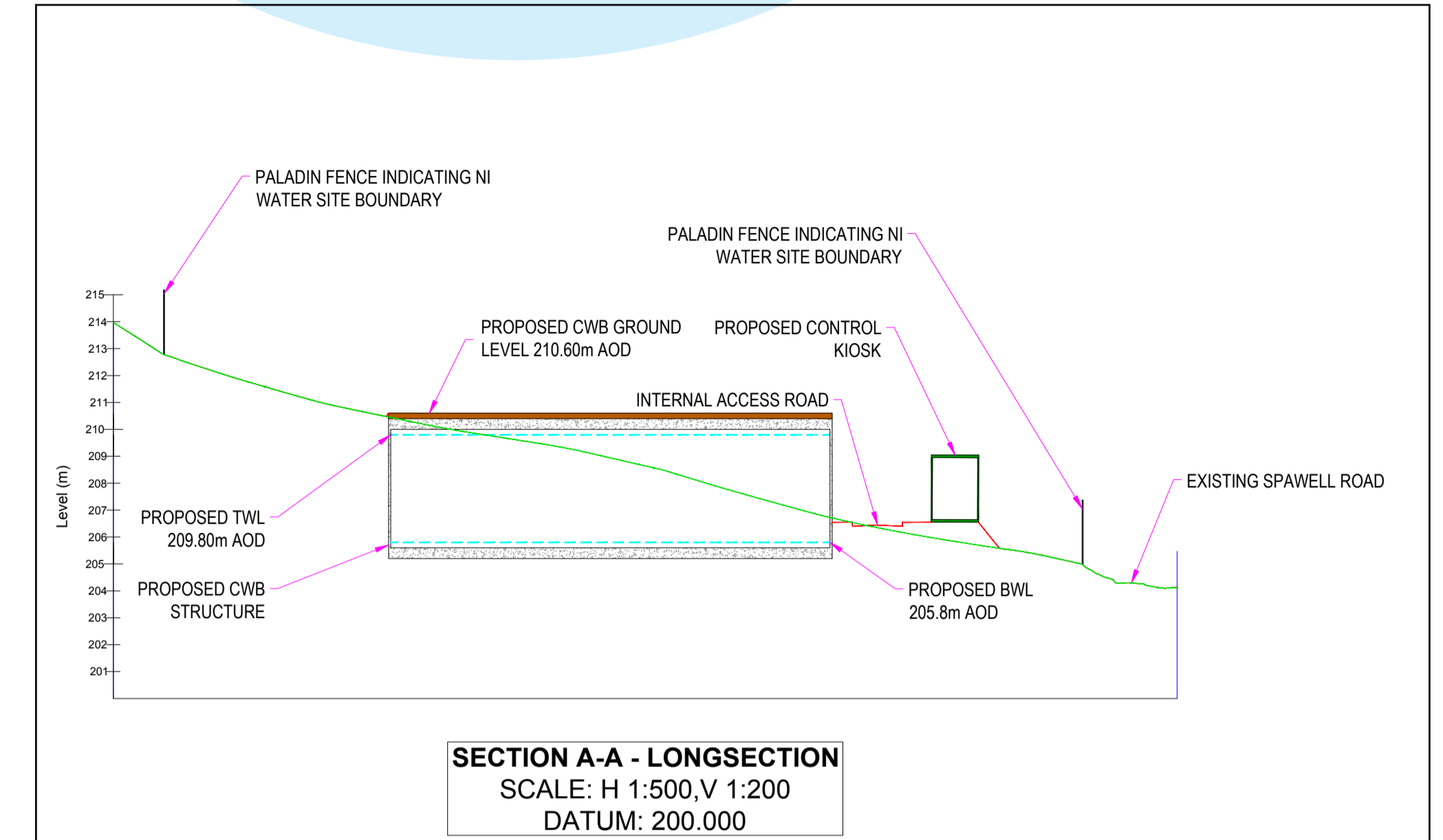
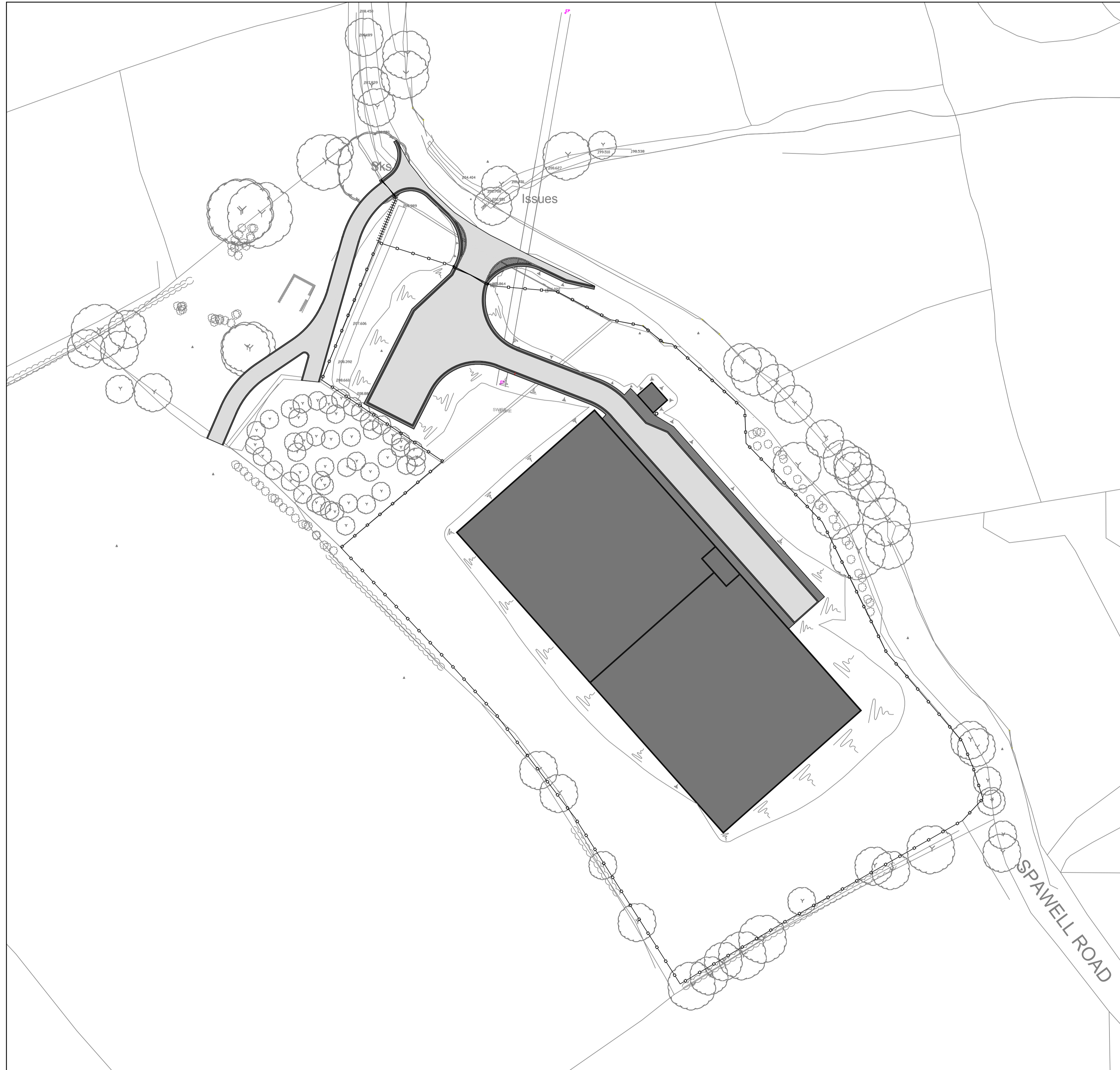
Feedback can be forwarded to NI Water at any stage during the Community Consultation Event 7th November through to 5th December via the postal address.

**Lough Fea PACC  
RPS Group - Elmwood House  
74 Boucher Road  
Belfast  
BT12 6RZ**

These public events have been organised to offer all members of the local community and other interested parties an opportunity to engage directly with NI Water staff and members of the appointed consultancy team.

It is important to note any comments you make to us during this consultation process will not affect your statutory rights to make further subsequent representations upon submission & publication of the planning application.





## Environmental Issues

The proposed development is considered to fall within Schedule 2, 11 (c) of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2017. As part of their pre application procedures the applicant sought a determination from the council as to whether the development would or would not be an EIA development.

- a. In the event the application was deemed to be an EIA development the applicant also sought an opinion as to the level of information to be provided in the environmental statement.

In their response to the request for an EIA determination Mid Ulster District Council stated, "The proposal may be likely to have an environmental impact, however this is not considered to be significant in terms of range or complexity, therefore it does not merit an Environmental Statement. The issues arising will be dealt with through the normal decision making process." To address perceived Environmental Impacts NI Water commissioned a series of tailored Environmental Reports.

### Noise

Baseline noise monitoring will be undertaken to characterise the existing noise climate in the surrounding area. A noise impact assessment to assess impacts associated with the development at surrounding noise sensitive properties during construction & operation.

The Noise Impact Assessment will be submitted as part of an all encompassing planning application.

### Ecology – protected habitats

NI Water have undertaken an ecological Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the proposed development site which will be provided in support of the forthcoming planning application.

The site of the proposed development resides within the mountainous area of the Sperrins which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The site itself is not located within the boundary of statutory or non-statutory designated sites of international, national or local nature conservation importance.

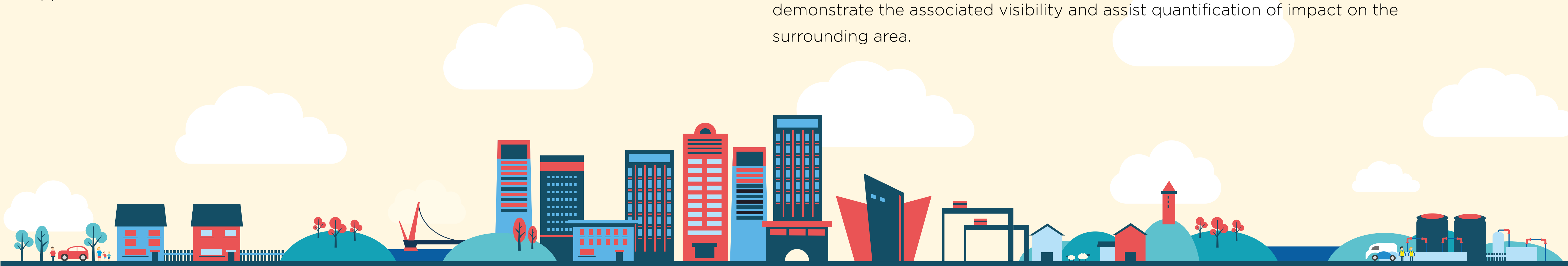
### Traffic

It is estimated that the Clear Water Basin will generate traffic movements with an average of 1 vehicle movement per week from maintenance and access arrangements. A traffic assessment will be undertaken to support the planning application.

### Landscape and Visual Amenity

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be undertaken to identify and determine the effects of the project on landscape character, landscape features, visual receptors and visual amenities as a result of the works associated with the construction & operation of the proposed development. A series of viewpoints have been identified within the surrounding area as part of the LVIA.

These viewpoints are selected in the direction of the development and to help demonstrate the associated visibility and assist quantification of impact on the surrounding area.







5

Existing View South-west from Spawell Road

Approximate Extent of Scheme Visible in View



6

Existing View South-west from Lough-Fea

Approximate Extent of Scheme (to rear of vegetation)



7

Existing View West from Junction of Claggan Road and Mobury Road

Approximate Extent of Scheme (to rear of vegetation)



8

Existing View South-west from Spawell Road

Approximate Extent of Scheme (to rear of vegetation)



## Who are Northern Ireland Water

Northern Ireland Water is a Government Owned Company (GoCo), set up in April 2007 to provide the water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland. That means we supply 560 million litres of clean water a day for almost 1.8 million people as well as treating 320 million litres of wastewater a day.

northern ireland  
water



**Delivering what matters**

## Who are RPS

The RPS have been appointed on behalf of the Northern Ireland Water as part of a multidisciplinary team to provide design, planning and environmental services, for the proposed construction of a clear water basin to provide an adequately sized potable water storage facility at Lough Fea to assist NI Water in the forward planning for maintenance and provide an enhanced security of supply.

**RPS**

**Delivering what matters**