



**STATEMENT OF
COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION**

**FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER
APPLICATION FOR THE ALTERATION AND
CONSTRUCTION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE AND LOW
LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FACILITIES AT THE EAST
NORTHANTS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY,
STAMFORD ROAD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

PINS project reference: WS010005

October 2020



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1. Introduction

This Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) explains proposals by Augean South Ltd (“Augean”) for public consultation regarding an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) for an extension in the area and life of the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) including an extension to the west of the existing landfill site and increasing the throughput of the waste treatment facility (“Proposed Development”) at the East Northants Resource Management Facility, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe. PE8 6XX (“Site”).

The Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) which may only be authorised by a DCO made by the Secretary of State.

The application for a DCO will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment which will be reported in an Environmental Statement.

This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining the scope and methods of consultation that will be used to consult with the local community about the proposed development and explaining how the community can engage with the development consent process.

The consultation will provide an important opportunity for the local community to engage and help inform the Proposed Development. Responses to the consultation will be taken into account before finalising the proposals and submitting an application for a DCO to the Secretary of State.

Augean hopes to submit the application for examination in Spring 2021.

2. Augean

Augean is a leader in the specialist waste management sector. The company delivers a broad range of services across many key areas for the sustainable management of waste. The company specialises in the management of the UK's more difficult to manage wastes including hazardous waste and low level radioactive waste. The company applies the waste hierarchy to enable recycling, recovery and reuse wherever possible for these more challenging waste types. Where waste must be disposed of Augean treats the waste where practicable to reduce the polluting potential before landfill disposal.

3. The East Northants Resource Management Facility

The existing ENRMF site comprises an active hazardous waste and low level radioactive waste (LLW) landfill site together with a waste treatment and recovery facility. The landfill is operated progressively; accordingly, there are parts of the site operating, awaiting operations and completed and under restoration. A gas management and surface water management compound including a flare stack are located in the north western corner of the current site. Site infrastructure including the site access, waste reception facilities, car parking areas, site offices, welfare facilities, storage areas, laboratories and wheel and vehicle body washing facilities are in place at the site. The new area that will be included in the site which is the subject of the Proposed Development is immediately west of the existing site and is currently predominantly agricultural land.

4. The proposals

The main elements of the Proposed Development are summarised below:

- The construction of new landfill void for the disposal of the same range of hazardous wastes and Low Level Radioactive waste (LLW) with a capacity of greater than 100,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) supported by the existing site infrastructure. The new landfill area will comprise a number of operational phases.
- The continuation of filling of the existing ENRMF landfill with hazardous waste and LLW the subject of the current Development Consent Order and the creation of new void at the existing site in order to tie the restoration profile in to the extension area.
- The winning and working of minerals in order to create the landfill void including the use of extracted materials on site and the exportation of clay and overburden for use in engineering, restoration and general fill at other sites.
- The stockpiling of clay, overburden and soils for use in the construction of the engineered containment system at the site and restoration of the site.
- The direct input of waste into the landfill will continue at a rate of up to 150,000tpa
- An increase to the waste throughput of the waste treatment facility to 250,000tpa which comprises an increase of 50,000tpa compared with the rate consented in the 2018 DCO amendment
- A combined waste importation rate limit to the waste treatment facility and landfill of 300,000tpa which is an increase of 50,000tpa compared with the currently consented total input rate.
- The waste which is and will continue to be disposed of at the ENRMF will be limited to that at the lower activity end of the range of wastes classified as LLW which typically has which has a level of radioactivity of up to 200 Bq/g.
- The diversion of services that cross the western extension to alternative routes within the application area.
- The operational hours of the site will not change from those already permitted.
- Restoration to a generally domed restoration profile in the extension area and amendment to the approved restoration profile of the existing ENRMF site to create a coherent restored landform over the whole application site.
- Restoration of the site to nature conservation interest using the soils available at the site as well as suitable imported materials.
- Completion of the landfilling and restoration operations by December 2046. This is a provisional completion date that will be updated as part of the ongoing detailed design works.
- The site will be subject to a ten year aftercare and maintenance period following the completion of restoration.

5. The Planning Process

The Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and consent must be granted by the Secretary of State in the form of a development consent order (“DCO”). Augéan must submit a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), an impartial public body whose role is to consider all important and relevant matters and whether consent should be granted for major infrastructure projects like the Proposed Development.

PINS will first decide, on behalf of the Secretary of State, whether to accept the application. If accepted, PINS will appoint an independent examiner or panel of examiners (referred to as the Examining Authority) who carry out a six month examination with hearings and consider any representations made by interested parties, any supporting evidence submitted and the answers given to the questions from the Examining Authority. Following the examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then decide whether or not a DCO should be made. The Secretary of State’s decision must be made in accordance with government policy including where in force any relevant National Policy Statement (NPS). For the Proposed Development the relevant NPS is the NPS for Hazardous Waste 2013. This can be viewed at:

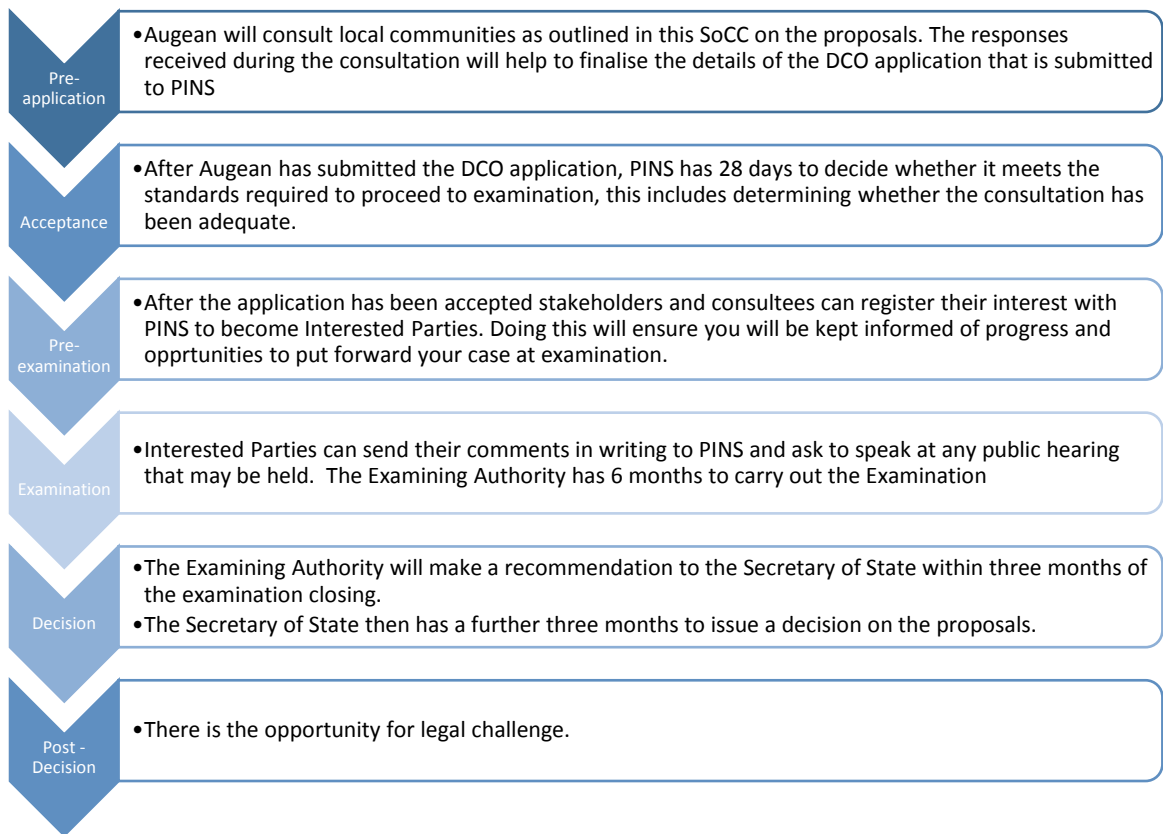
www.gov.uk/government/publications/hazardous-waste-national-policy-statement

The NPS provides a framework for decision making on DCO applications for the construction or alteration of new hazardous waste infrastructure in England and how projects should be assessed.

Further information regarding the DCO application process are set out in the diagram below or can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

or by telephone on 0303 444 5000



6. Environmental Impact Assessments

The Proposed Development is classified as ‘EIA development’ for the purpose of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (‘EIA Regulations 2017’). Augean is therefore required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposal. As part of the pre-application consultation Augean will publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which will explain the potentially significant impacts and benefits of the Proposed Development and will be seeking views on this information from the local community in addition to its consultation with the prescribed statutory consultees. The PEIR will present the preliminary environmental information collected to date and an initial assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. Augean will submit an Environmental Statement (ES) with the DCO application which will report on the likely significant environmental effects of the proposals identified in the EIA, the appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place where necessary and any residual effects.

7. Consultation objectives

In accordance with its normal practice, Augean is committed to consultation with the local community in respect of any new development at its sites. The company collates and reviews all responses which further inform and shape its applications. When making an application for a DCO, the applicant has a statutory duty to consult on the proposals and must follow a specific process. The results of the consultation are collated into a Consultation Report and submitted to PINS as part of the application. The principal objectives of the consultation process are to:

- Raise awareness of the Proposed Development and provide the local community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals.
- Provide clear and concise technical and non-technical information on the project.
- Provide clarity on what is and is not part of the Proposed Development, what is fixed and why and any proposed for mitigation.
- Provide a range of ways by which people can engage with the consultation on the Proposed Development and provide comments and feedback.
- Ensure that comments and feedback are accurately captured and recorded.
- Ensure comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the proposals and the DCO application.
- Improve the DCO application to reflect local feedback, concerns and issues.
- Continue the existing dialogue with the local community through the submission and examination phase of the consenting process.

8. What we will consult about

Augean will provide information on the Proposed Development including preliminary information on environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures based on the findings of the environmental impact assessments carried out by that time in a published Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Augean will welcome and consider feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development.

9. How we will consult

Augean has been operating at ENRMF for 16 years and has well established means of ongoing communication and consultation with the community local to the site through the site Liaison Group, the Register of Stakeholders, circulation of periodic newsletters and annual open days. The company also has an open-door policy which is promoted at every opportunity. The company values the relationships that have been built with the local community and sees consultation and public engagement as a constant process. Not only will Augean consult with the local community before the statutory period commences but it will continue to communicate thereafter.

Augean intends for the consultation to be transparent, inclusive and accessible to those most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. Throughout the pre-application consultation period there will be opportunities for discussion and comment on the proposals. Comments can be made throughout the consultation process, to Augean by telephone, email, via the company website or by letter in order to provide the maximum opportunity for feedback on the proposals.

Augean had hoped to be able to consult with the local community by arranging for them to have the opportunity to attend a series of face to face events. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to take account of present restrictions and future uncertainties regarding what further public health advice might be applicable during the consultation period, and how that might affect public events, it is no longer possible to be confident that we can hold suitably safe physical public exhibitions or an open day at present. The planned consultation arrangements will provide equivalent or better opportunities to conventional methods of consultation and will enable the local community to access information about the Proposed Development, to ask questions and receive answers from the Augean professional team and to be able to comment on the application. Although many of these opportunities are based on digital technology every effort will be made to ensure that those without access to digital methods of engagement are given other alternative options to access, question and respond to information.

The range of methods will ensure that the local community will be able to access the consultation information. If anyone is unable to access the information for any reason, Augean will work directly with that person to find a solution and provide access to the information.

Augean will seek to identify future opportunities for face to face events once Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed. All such events will be widely publicised to the local community when available.

The statutory consultation will take place from 26 October 2020 until 14 December 2020.

Based on the level and nature of interest shown during and before the statutory consultation Augean will continue to engage with interested parties throughout the DCO determination process and beyond. The means of engagement will be determined from responses received but will include continued commitment to the Community Liaison Group, periodic newsletters and annual open days.

Information

Augean will provide information about the Proposed Development and the details of the dates and consultation events through a range of methods:

- ***Public Information Leaflet***

Augean will deliver a public information leaflet which will explain the Proposed Development to all homes and businesses within the consultation area. The leaflet will be further distributed to other key stakeholders including the Liaison Group members, elected representatives at all levels as well as special interest groups, local community groups and organisations such as schools, faith groups and local health and welfare facilities. The leaflet will detail sources of further information and an invitation to participate in the consultation with details of how to access information, ask questions and make responses.

- ***Posters***

Posters advertising the consultation with details of how to participate will be displayed in local venues and locations within the consultation area.

- ***Newspaper advertisements***

Augean will publish statutory notices in the Stamford Mercury which is circulated as a hard copy paper and is published electronically giving details about how to access the consultation opportunities.

- ***Community publications.***

Wherever possible Augean will request that details of the consultation and any future specific events are published in local community and parish magazines.

- ***News media***

Augean will issue news releases about the consultation and any future specific consultation events to local print and broadcast news media to further raise awareness of the Proposed Development in the local community.

- ***Social media***

Augean will use its social media platforms to further advertise the consultation and any future specific events and availability of consultation documentation.

- ***Newsletters***

Augean regularly publishes a community newsletter that is widely distributed to the local community and made available on the Augean website. Advance notice of the Proposed Development has been promoted through this publication and any opportunities to engage in future specific events will be promoted through this publication.

- ***Electronic newsletters***

These are primarily distributed to those on the Register of Stakeholders; a database of subscribers who wish to be kept updated about Augean and any opportunities to engage with the company, and will be used to promote any specific future events or other opportunities to engage with the company as well as signposting the availability of consultation documentation or explaining more complex aspects of the Proposed Development in detailed topic sheets.

Engagement

The range of engagement opportunities are proposed to facilitate dialogue for those who wish to understand more about the Proposed Development. The proposed means of engagement are as follows:

- ***Exhibitions***

The exhibition materials: exhibition boards, supporting documents; factsheets and comments sheets will be made available online via the company website www.augeanplc.com. A hard copy exhibition pack will be made available in response to requests by email, post or telephone for those unable to access online materials. The contact details to request a pack are available at the end of this document.

Opportunities for explanation and responses to questions about the Proposed Development from the project team will be made available. The online exhibition will incorporate a facility to ask questions and receive answers about the Proposed Development from the Augean professional team. For those unable to access digital technology there will be the opportunity to request a response to questions via telephone or post.

Members of the local community will be offered the opportunity to attend online topic specific presentations which will be organised subject to interest expressed.

Augean would like the views, opinions and comments of the local community to influence aspects of the project that are still to be determined and are not fixed by technical necessity, legislation or national or local policy. Comments can be submitted online, by email or by post. Augean will use the responses received to help consider any changes that should be made to the Proposed Development before finalising the application.

- ***Open Day***

Subject to being able to do so based on further Government advice, a site Open Day will be held at ENRMF during Spring 2021 for any members of the public wishing to discuss the proposals and view the site. This will be promoted nearer the time by the circulation of a flyer and advertisements in the local news media.

- ***Open Door site visits***

Augean usually operates an open door policy at ENRMF to enable anyone wishing to visit the site to see how a modern, highly engineered landfill facility and treatment facilities operates. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions this is not possible at the present time but subject to further Government advice it is hoped that this can be resumed. Augean will inform parish Councils and those on the Register of Stakeholders or via the company newsletter when this opportunity is available once more.

Website

The website www.augeanplc.com/enrmf-planning/ will be used as an accessible method for engaging with the consultation for people who may have difficulty attending any of the events in person, as well as being a resource for all the documentation for the Proposed Development. The website will contain all the materials presented at the consultation opportunities and online feedback forms.

- ***Additional opportunities***

Augean may hold additional events if considered beneficial in order to enable the local community to gain a greater understanding of the Proposed Development and to help them respond to the consultation effectively. If Augean decides to do this notice of any additional events will be given as soon as possible and with adequate time before the date of the event.

10. Who we will consult with

The consultation process has been designed to engage with those local communities who may be affected by the Proposed Development within the proposed consultation area, shown at Appendix 1. This is the same area that was previously identified for the consultation regarding the existing DCO. We have refined the consultation area into Zone A and Zone B.

Zone A includes the villages nearest to the Proposed Development whose representatives participate in the Kings Cliffe Liaison Group and whose residents and businesses have taken an interest in previous planning applications at the ENRMF. These villages are: Apethorpe, Barrowden, Blatherwycke, Bulwick, Collyweston, Duddington with Fineshade, Easton on the Hill, Kings Cliffe, Laxton, Nassington, Southwick, Tixover, Thornhaugh, Wakerley, Wansford, Woodnewton and Yarwell. Augean will publicise the consultation events by distributing the public information leaflet to all households and businesses within Zone A as well as to special interest groups, faith groups, schools, health and welfare providers. The events will be further publicised through electronic newsletters, posters, community publications, local newspaper advertisements, news media, social media and the company website.

Zone B includes outlying villages whose residents and businesses have taken an interest in previous planning applications at the ENRMF. These towns and villages are: Ailsworth, Ashton, Bainton, Barnack, Benefield, Castor, Cotterstock, Deene and Deenethorpe, Edith Weston, Elton, Fotheringhay, Glapthorn, Glaston, Gretton, Harringworth, Ketton, Morcott, Normanton, North Luffenham, Oundle, Sibson cum Stibbington, Seaton, South Luffenham, Southorpe, Stamford, Sutton, Tansor, Tinwell, Ufford, Upton, Warmington, Water Newton, Weldon, Wittering and Wothorpe. Augean will publicise the consultation events by distributing multiple copies of the public information leaflets to the Town Councils, Parish Councils or Parish Meetings as well as sending electronic copies of the leaflet to the clerks. The events will be further publicised through electronic newsletters, posters, community publications, local newspaper advertisements, news media, social media and the company website.

Augean will inform communities beyond Zone B about the Proposed Development and consultation through local newspaper advertisements, news media, social media and the company website.

Augean will provide information about the Proposed Development and consultation events to all elected representatives (Parish, District and County Councillors and Members of Parliament).

Augean welcome the participation of those who work in or visit the consultation area and will take account of their views.

We have engaged with the relevant local authorities, Northamptonshire County Council and East Northants District Council about the make-up of their communities, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups that it knows to be 'seldom heard' and we have discussed and agreed with them the techniques that might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication and participation in consultation.

Recognising that some people may find it difficult to access the information including people who may need to isolate, socially distance or shield themselves due to Covid-19 requests for materials to be made available in formats appropriate to the needs of those people or those with disabilities or in other languages will be considered on request by contacting Augean by telephone or email.

11. Consultation documentation

Consultation documents will be available for inspection at the public exhibitions, in the document inspection locations detailed at the end of this document and on the Augean website at <https://www.augeanplc.com/enrmf-planning/> during the statutory consultation period. The consultation documents will include:

- PEIR: containing an overview of the nature and scale of the Proposed Development and an initial assessment of the likely significant environmental effects and proposed mitigation.
- PEIR NTS: a non-technical summary of the information in the PEIR
- Project leaflet: a non-technical summary of the Proposed Development
- The SoCC
- Section 48 notice: a copy of the notice published in local and national newspapers advertising Augean's intention to submit a DCO application for the Proposed Development as required by Section 48 of the 2008 Planning Act (as amended).

12. Consultation responses

There will be a six- week opportunity to respond to the consultation which may be extended to take account of any Covid-19 restrictions that might be in place. Consultation responses should be submitted to Augean by the end of **14 December 2020**. Augean will consider consultation responses received after this date wherever possible. There will be further opportunities to provide comments on the application once it has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Augean will consider all consultation responses received when finalising the details of the Proposed Development.

There will be several ways in which the local community can respond to the consultation:

- Hard copy feedback form which will be included in the exhibition pack available on request or to download from the website.
- Online feedback form which will be available on the website.
- By email or letter.
- Oral feedback in person or by telephone where necessary if other methods of communication are not available and circumstances would prevent a response.
- Responses via social media will not be accepted.

Following the consultation period, as part of the DCO application a Consultation Report will be prepared and submitted to PINS which will set out the consultation opportunities which have been provided, list the issues raised during the consultation and explain Augean's response to them. The responses received or extracts from them may be published with personal details redacted.

13. Further information sources and contact details

Website

The Augean website <https://www.augeanplc.com/enrmf-planning/> will be regularly updated with the latest news about the Proposed Development and will provide free of charge access to all consultation documents including the PEIR which can be downloaded. As further project documentation becomes available, we will ensure that it is made accessible.

Email

Augean has a project email: ENRMF@augeanconsultation.co.uk which can be used to contact the company for further information.

Telephone Helpline

Augean has a Telephone Helpline: 01904 654989 for the Proposed Development. Members of the public are invited to use it if they have any queries on the DCO application or associated events.

Kings Cliffe Local Liaison Group

Augean is an active participant in the Kings Cliffe Local Liaison Group, a committee run by Northamptonshire County Council and whose members are drawn from local parish councils and East Northants District Council as well as the Environment Agency. Its purpose is to act as a link between the company and local communities to discuss operational matters as well as issues arising from planning/DCO applications. The group meets periodically, and minutes of the meetings can be read on the company website.

Register of Stakeholders

To improve and speed up the dissemination of information and to advise on further events and activities, which may be of interest to people, Augean has established a Register of Stakeholders, which has been developed from existing contacts with whom we have already corresponded by email. This will enable the company to contact those on the Register by email at short notice. Those attending the consultation events and those who contact us via the website or by post will be invited to join the Register. At all stages it will be possible to unsubscribe from this method of contact if people no longer wish to receive emails. Careful notice will be taken of stakeholders who cannot be contacted by email and information will be provided by post if preferred. Augean is compliant with current Data Protection regulations.

Document inspection locations

The consultation documents will be available at the following normally publicly accessible locations if the facilities are open and able to receive visitors due to Covid-19 restrictions:

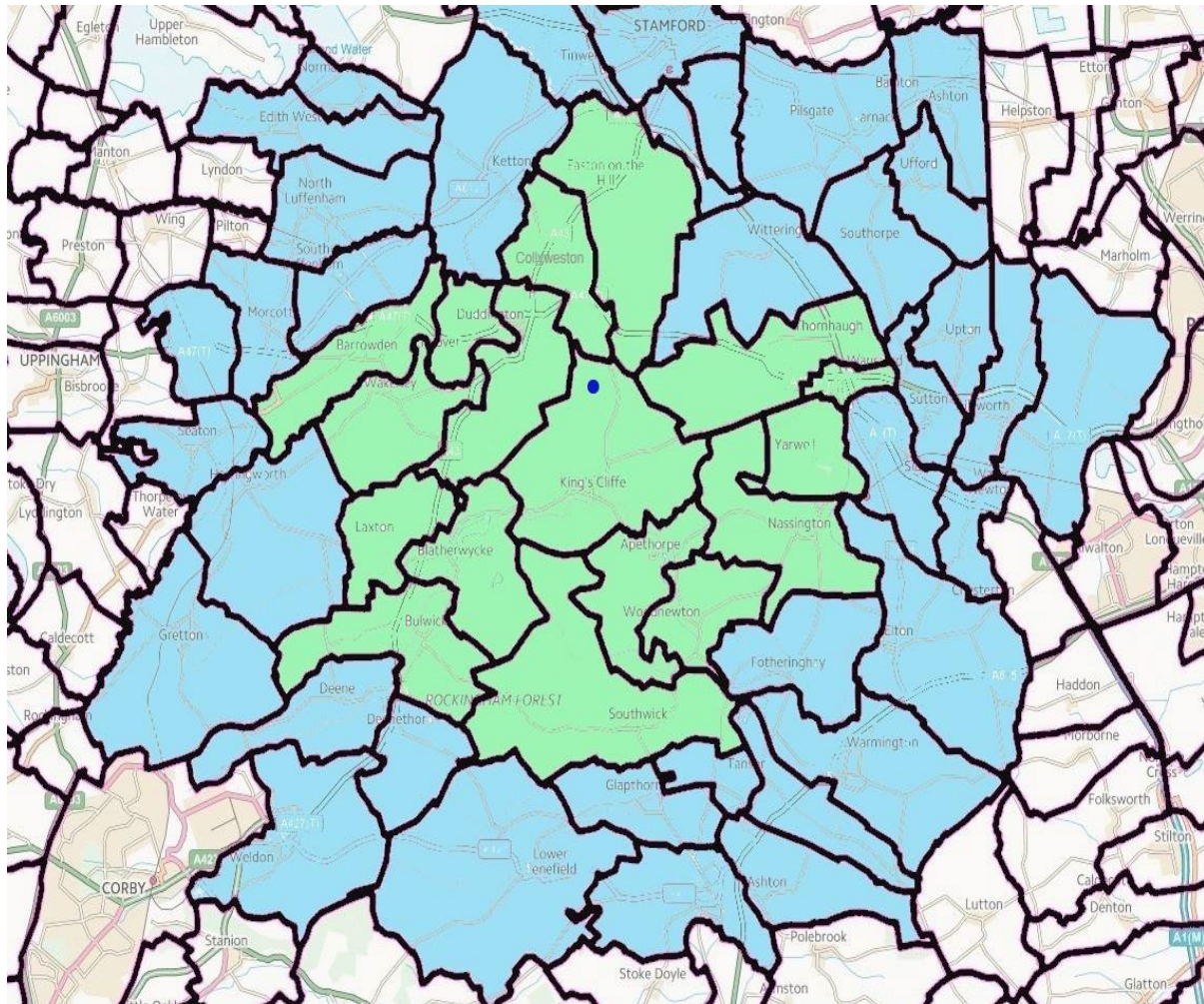
- **Oundle Public Library**
Glaphorne Road
Oundle
PE8 4JA
- **Stamford Public Library**
High Street
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 2BB

They can also be provided on request from ENRMF@augeanconsultation.co.uk or by contacting the telephone helpline 01904 654989. Requests for materials in formats appropriate to the needs of people with accessibility issues, disabilities or in other languages will be considered on request.

If you have any further queries about the consultation process please contact the telephone helpline 01904 654989.

Appendix 1

The Consultation area illustrating consultation Zone A and Zone B



 **Site Location**

 **Zone A**

 **Zone B**