

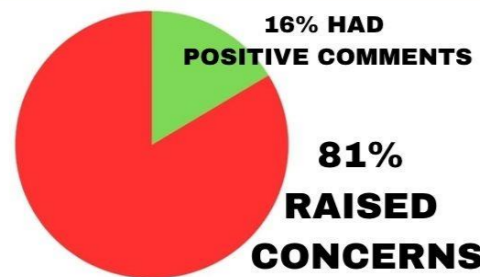
## Non-statutory consultation 2024

### THE UNTOLD EVIDENCE OF STAKEHOLDER OBJECTION AND ENGAGEMENT FAILURE

1,598

RESPONSES - EXCLUDED FROM GATE 3 REPORT

OVERWHELMINGLY NEGATIVE  
STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE HIDDEN



#### DRAFT DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Concerns Raised
  - Plans needed more detail particularly on safety, flood risks, impact on local communities, embankment design, biodiversity, water quality.

>500 UNSOLICITED COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS (1/3 OF ALL WHO RESPONDED)

ONLY 1% POSITIVE FEEDBACK

#### OTHER COMMENTS



0 QUESTIONS ON STAKEHOLDERS' PRIORITIES OF COST, FLOODING, SAFETY



#### RESERVOIR UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED BY

All 3 MPs

6 PARISH COUNCILS

Oxfordshire County Council  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
Abingdon Town Council

(UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION AND CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY NOT ACKNOWLEDGED IN STAKEHOLDER REPORT)



7 COMMUNITY EVENTS, NO FEEDBACK CAPTURED.

ATTENDEES MAY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED, BUT THEIR VOICES WEREN'T RECORDED.

1,250



IGNORED >6,600 SIGNED PETITION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXCLUDED 1 REPORT BY UK SAFETY RESERVOIR EXPERT

1 REPORT BY UK BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST

CONSULTATION REPLIES SPANNING >10 YEARS

3 HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLES BY OXFORD WATER CHAMPION

**ACT NOW:** reply to Thames Water's DCO consultation with your eyes open. For more info on how to respond: <https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org/>

# STOP THE RESERVOIR GARD

GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

WATER TABLE RISE OF 1 METRE

## THREAT TO



HOMES



NATURE



LIFE

THIS WILL AFFECT YOU  
[abingdonreservoir.org.uk](http://abingdonreservoir.org.uk)

#### What's happening now?

- Consultation response to Thames Water's submission for Planning Consent (Development Consent Order, DCO).

#### New facts that have emerged:

- Costs** have trebled, from £2.2 to £7+ billion (since the Rapid Gate 3 submission).
- Land area** reserved for the reservoir: TW now requires 38km<sup>2</sup> of land to meet biodiversity/flood-mitigation needs, to relocate solar farms, and to control land along every watercourse.
- Questions about public access due to **security and water quality** issues remain unanswered.
- TW responsible for rewilding acres of land that doesn't add to nature but replaces what is lost.

#### Flooding and design

- Clay compaction trials** hampered/delayed due to groundwater conditions. The results have not been disclosed.
- Water table to rise 1 metre** because of the reservoir effect on waterways.
- Groundwater flooding requires a **full perimeter underground water control drain**.
- Groundwater mitigation** not yet modelled/proven.
- Local villages already have a **water table close to ground level**.
- Emergency discharge plans are incomplete.** No report published on the effect on the River Thames of a massive release of water. Emergency discharge must be tested every year.

#### Do you know these facts?

- Unprecedented size:** the proposed reservoir will hold 150 million cubic metres of water, most of it above ground: 11 times the volume of Farmoor.
- All costs will fall on the public:** Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water billpayers.
- 15–25 metre walls (bunds) above ground will wall in the water. It's a storage tank, **not a source of new water**.
- Safety:** TW has not yet published safety analyses about flooding or dam breach (if the reservoir wall fails).
- River Thames does not have enough settled water to fill Farmoor even now. **Can TW ever fill a mega-reservoir?**

#### Acceptable alternatives

- TW continues to develop the Severn Thames Transfer plan, which would be **quicker, cheaper, more drought resilient and ecologically sustainable**. STT would add to an already developing national water grid.
- A smaller reservoir sited off the Zone 3 flood plain would not threaten communities in the same way, nor would it destroy the flood plain.

#### Dates

- DCO Consultation Nov 2025 – Jan 2026
- DCO application submitted – late 2026
- Works started – 2029
- Works completion extended date: 2043 – 3 years after the target in-service date = **15 years of local chaos**.

# Proposed location, with surrounding local villages

