

No to Reservoir It has not gone away!

www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk



Spring 2010



STOP Abingdon Reservoir

Residents have stepped up their campaign against plans by Thames Water to build a huge reservoir in the countryside to the south west of Abingdon prior to the public inquiry. Both farmland and houses have been blighted by this proposal for the past 20 years, and your support can help kill the project.

The reservoir would bring massive disruption to local residents and result in the loss of around 5,000 acres of productive agricultural farmland if it ever went ahead. The upshot would be **major environmental damage** and **higher water bills** for Thames Water customers for years to come.

“There is no need for a reservoir,” says Nick Thompson, chairman of the **Group Against Reservoir Development - GARD**. Thames Water has ignored more practical and flexible alternatives which cost less. It is a monopoly supplier aiming to create a huge asset for its owners at the expense of customers. The financial beneficiary of this plan will be the company’s owners, the Australian Macquarie bank”

A public inquiry is due to start on 15 June this year, and GARD will be challenging the plans at the inquiry. If Thames Water’s plan is approved in the face of such strong local opposition, work on site could start as early as 2016. GARD regards it as most important that local residents and the community make their voice heard, and is calling on local residents to register their objections, making clear to Thames Water that the proposal is unnecessary, unjustified, and would exploit the people of Oxfordshire.



The far smaller Kielder dam, in the North East, during construction shows devastation of countryside and ironically the capacity has never been utilised. “Reservoirs incur relatively high levels of environmental and social impacts, particularly during construction” say Thames Water’s environmental advisors.

No Need - just Thames Water Greed

Expert studies commissioned by GARD, show there is no need for a reservoir, because the company has consistently overstated future demand and ignored cheaper alternatives.

Overstated Demand

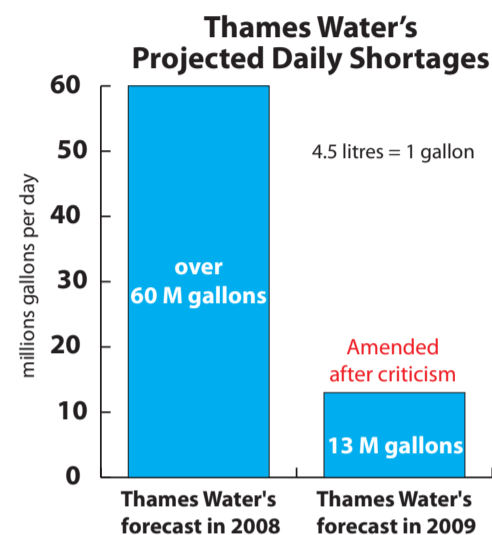
Their forecasts of domestic use are significantly higher than government targets. GARD challenged Thames Water’s demand figures in 2008, which resulted in the company reducing its figures to just 13m gallons. Can we even trust the new figures?

Leakage

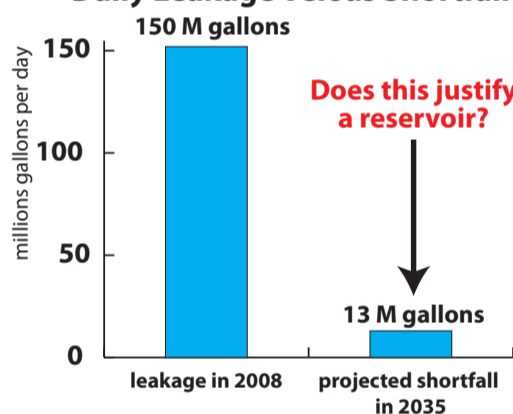
The proposed reservoir could provide **65 million gallons** each day; however, currently Thames Water wastes over twice that each day through leakage.

Alternatives

The Thames Water forecast shortfall by 2035 is only 13 million gallons a day. “Cheaper, more sustainable alternatives have been ignored for too long” says Nick Thompson, GARD chairman, “Independent experts have identified a range of possible alternatives. Our preferred options would be the Severn Thames transfer scheme, which has been scoped as long ago as 1993, and also much more waste water treatment and re-use. Building a reservoir costing £1 billion requires the water demand estimates to be robust. Once started, the money is committed and all Thames Water customers will have to pay for what is essentially a supply for London. In spite of this, Thames Water insists on nothing but a reservoir!”



Daily Leakage Versus Shortfall



Regina Finn Chief Executive of Ofwat wrote to Wantage MP Ed Vaizey on the 30th Sept '09 stating, **“We also question whether the company’s proposed investment programme represented the best value for money”**.

Trevor Bishop, head of water resource policy at the Environment Agency said **“in reality, [water] companies benefit from regional monopolies”** and **“sharing resources could result in cancellations of some future investments”**.

We need your support - support GARD and say no to Thames Water

You can download Gard posters from: www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/downloads.html

Register your objection Please register your details for more information and support GARD in opposing this **unnecessary, unjustified and undemocratic plan**. A public inquiry is currently underway and **we need your support**.

Name

Email

Address

Phone Number

Please put this response form in an envelope and send, free of charge, to this address:

**FREEPOST RRAJ-KGLE-AYTR
GARD - Stop Abingdon Reservoir
198 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7BD**

I support GARD and am happy to sign the petition against Thames Water’s proposals for a huge and disruptive new reservoir in Abingdon

I wish to join GARD membership fee annual £1 life £5.

or local delivery to **GARD 2 High Street, Steventon OX13 6RS**

GARD has already played a major part in forcing Thames Water’s to think again

Join Us

How Thames Water's plans will affect you

The Abingdon reservoir would be the country's largest fully embanked reservoir and the biggest to be built for some 30 years. Some 5,000 acres of farmland would be lost - similar in size to the footprint of Heathrow airport. Thames Water plans to construct the reservoir by excavating clay from the site to form the surrounding embankment which will be up 82 feet high - the height of a very large pylon.

Years of disruption

The development would require **millions of tonnes of rock and construction materials** to be brought to the site - causing a vast amount of traffic on both rail and road. Noise and dust from the building works will be carried by the prevailing wind to the neighbouring villages of Drayton and Steventon, potentially making life very unpleasant for local people.



Construction would take up to nine years. When complete, surrounding villages would be likely to continue to suffer as a result of fog in winter, mosquitoes and midges in summer - the usual consequences of storing large quantities of water.

Harming local habitats

According to recent research studies, the reservoir would see the destruction of habitats for a number of protected species, including water voles, bats and hedgehogs. The creation of a reservoir would remove 94 percent of bird species presently found on the site and would lead to further species decline of rare birds which nest there, such as the Lapwing and Golden Plover.

Increased flood risk

In 2007, hundreds of houses in Steventon and South Abingdon were hit by flash flooding after rapid run-off following a heavy period of rain. The proposed reservoir would almost certainly affect the water table, displacing flood plains and increasing flooding problems, as well as causing rapid water run-off from the high reservoir embankments. Thames Water has provided no assurances on this or as to how they will protect the reservoir from a terrorist attack. Although modern reservoirs are still intrinsically safe, there remains a risk of dam breach which could result in the inundation of surrounding villages and Abingdon.



Expected effective land acquisition to exceed 5,000 acres South Abingdon

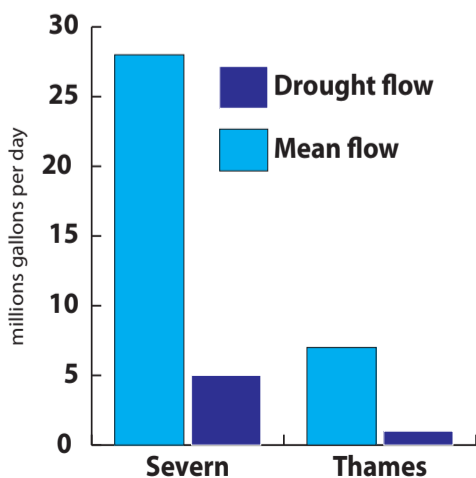


- **Marcham** would suffer whenever the A34, with **47,000 vehicle movements** a day, was diverted as a result of pipeline works or traffic congestion. 20% of the traffic movement would be HGVs
- **Steventon** would experience disruption as the materials are **sent via the railway** and is **downwind of the reservoir site, bringing the risk of fog and insects**
- **East Hanney** would suffer **increased flood risk** caused by displacement of flood plains, as well as fog, mosquitoes and midges
- **Drayton** is also downwind of the site and will be the home to a **new large water treatment** plant in continuous operation. It is also downwind with fog and insect risks
- **South Abingdon** would also **face increased flooding** risk and the Environment Agency has stated that it plans no additional flood precautions

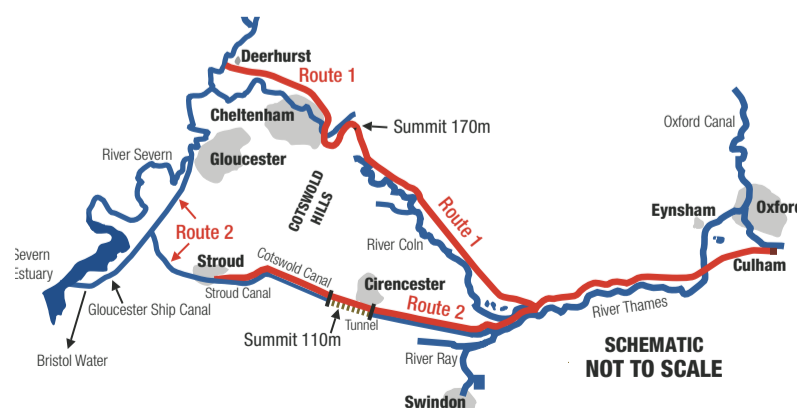
You can download GARD posters from: www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/downloads.html

GARD alternatives in the event of long term greater demand

Severn Thames Transfer Options



There is far more water in the Severn than the Thames throughout the year, even at times in drought. Droughts seldom occur at river catchments at the same time. Moving water from the Severn to the Thames and London is an obvious and sustainable solution.



Re-use options

95% of London's waste water is partially treated, but then flows to waste into the saline River Thames Estuary. It is London that needs the water, so this situation is unsustainable. If only quarter of this was recycled London problem would be solved. This is a sustainable solution. Re-use of waste water is secure against climate change.

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Join Us

