

Email from Chair of Garford Village Meeting

**Managing Director**  
**RAPID (Regulators Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development)**

To be sent by email to

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Dear

**RAPID and Ofwat – SESRO – Environmental Assessment Report – Gate 1 Assessment**

We have now had an opportunity to review the recently issued EAR with some earlier redactions removed.

As a village that will be impacted on considerably by the proposed reservoir, Garford is disappointed that Thames Water (TW) are still providing, in our opinion, wishy washy platitudes in respect of what the development will look like and its likely devastating impact on our community and others in its vicinity.

In this regard, we would like Thames Water to provide;

- 1) **Visual Designs of the Proposed Structure and How it Relates to All Villages in the Area.**  
There are, as far as we are aware, no graphics showing the colossal bunding, the proximity of the walls to existing settlements and the overall impact on the Lowland Vale. We appreciate that detailed design may not be possible at this stage, but TW have produced enough information to enable outline graphics to be produced – not just a view from the Ridgeway, that does not show the impact at Vale level. We can only read into this, that producing such images will be detrimental to TW's assertions that the reservoir will be a welcome amenity to the people who live nearby.
- 2) **Data on Air Pollution, Noise and Traffic and Mitigation Measures.** The sparse information about the impact of 10 years of construction work is deafening in its silence. TW have given no indication of expected levels of pollution, disruption and the impact on surrounding communities. Nor have they said how they will mitigate these. It is not enough to say "*Mitigation measures are anticipated to be put in place to minimise impacts*" What are they? What does anticipated mean in this context? How will they mitigate the emissions from thousands of lorries, digging equipment and traffic congestion caused by this development? Post development, what will replace the 4sq miles of CO2 absorbing vegetation dug up by this development? It will not be possible to plant trees on the bunding for safety reasons, so what can TW do to mitigate the destruction of this long established green site?

- 3) **An independent Survey on the Impact on Wildlife from Loss of Habitat.** How can TW mitigate the loss of 4 square miles of vegetation and the impact this will have on long established habitats? We note that further surveys will be done and our expectation is that such surveys will be extensive and independent and done at the Gate 2 Stage rather than to “support” any future planning application by TW (as stated in the EAR).

Our community, and others like ours, have been living with the threat of this development for more than 20 years. It is disappointing that we are still asking the same questions and still not getting clear answers. The size of the proposed reservoir has increased significantly since its original inception, but the amount of detailed information remains scant. We look forward to seeing more transparency and some clarity about the things that really matter to the communities impacted by this.

Yours sincerely

 Chair of Garford Village Meeting

Copied to;

