



South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Statement of
Community
Consultation

October 2025

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1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) explains how we, Thames Water, will consult with local communities, customers and stakeholders on proposals for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project, (“the Project”), during the statutory consultation period. The statutory consultation period is currently scheduled to take place for 11 weeks, launching on 28 October 2025 and closing at 11.59pm 13 January 2026. This is longer than the minimum length of statutory consultation, which is 28 days.
- 1.1.2 If it is necessary for us to change the dates of our statutory consultation we will advertise it on our website, and through social and print media.
- 1.1.3 Seeking feedback is an important part of the development of the Project. The statutory consultation will help to ensure that those with an interest in the Project understand how it works, as well as its potential impacts and benefits.
- 1.1.4 We’ll invite feedback on the information we present at consultation, and this will inform the further development of the Project as we finalise our application for development consent.
- 1.1.5 This SoCC sets out how we’ll consult communities during the statutory consultation, including how we’ll publicise the statutory consultation, the information that will be made available and how anyone with an interest in the Project can provide feedback. It has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (‘the Act’), which sets out the duty placed on us to prepare a statement (the SoCC) explaining how we propose to consult with people living in the vicinity of the Project. Our statutory consultation must be undertaken in accordance with this SoCC.
- 1.1.6 In preparing the SoCC, Section 47 of the Act requires that we consult with each ‘host’ local authority (those in the areas where the Project is proposed to be built). We must also have regard to the feedback they share with us. Furthermore, Section 48 of the Act requires our application for development consent to be publicised in a prescribed manner, the details of which are set out in paragraph 5.5.5 of this SoCC.
- 1.1.7 The Project is an ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development’ for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended), (‘the EIA Regulations’). Accordingly, in compliance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, this SoCC also explains how we will publicise and consult on our preliminary environmental information, set out in our Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report.
- 1.1.8 The PEI Report presents our initial assessments of likely significant environmental effects of the Project, based on the survey data currently available.

- 1.1.9 This SoCC also takes into account applicable Government guidance, particularly the advice set out in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report¹ and in Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects².
- 1.1.10 Following statutory consultation, we'll prepare a Consultation Report. The Consultation Report is a summary of the engagement and consultation that has been carried out during the development of the Project and will be part of the suite of documents submitted as part of the Development Consent Order application. The SoCC will be included within the Consultation Report as an appendix.
- 1.1.11 Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the duty to take into account responses to consultation in the development of an application for development consent. Our Consultation Report will set out how the feedback from consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.
- 1.1.12 This SoCC provides:
- A description of the Project;
 - An outline of the planning process that is being followed;
 - Details of previous consultation and engagement, and an explanation of the upcoming statutory consultation;
 - A description of how the community will be consulted, and information (including the PEI Report) will be available, where and when;
 - An explanation of the ways in which anyone with an interest in the Project can provide feedback; and
 - An outline of the next steps.

1.2 Preparing the SoCC

- 1.2.1 Before preparing this SoCC, we carried out a period of informal engagement with the host Local Authorities:
- Oxfordshire County Council;
 - Vale of White Horse District Council; and
 - South Oxfordshire District Council.
- 1.2.2 We held an initial meeting regarding our plans for the statutory consultation with the host Local Authorities in July 2025, where we presented some of the emerging consultation principles we were intending to follow. This included an indicative events plan and details of our proposed consultation postcard distribution area. We then shared this information in writing, which we sought written feedback on.

¹ [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report - GOV.UK](#)

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

1.2.3 After considering the feedback we received during the informal engagement, and in accordance with Section 47(2) to (5) of the Act, we subsequently carried out a formal consultation with the host Local Authorities for at least the statutory 28-day period, between 18 August and 16 September 2025.

1.3 [Summary of how we have responded to the feedback received during the SoCC consultation](#)

1.3.1 A joint response from the host Local Authorities was received and as a result amendments have been made to our approach to the statutory consultation and this SoCC in response to the feedback. The feedback from host Local Authorities and our response to the feedback is presented in Appendix C.

2 The Project

2.1 Project description

- 2.1.1 Thames Water is proposing a new reservoir, known as SESRO, to the south west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire.
- 2.1.2 We are facing serious water stress due to climate change, a growing population and our need to protect the environment. A combination of these three factors is placing a strain on our water resources, leading towards a projected significant shortage in the next 20-25 years.
- 2.1.3 Thames Water is taking steps to reduce water leakage and encourage efficient water use, including improvements to our existing water supply infrastructure. Under our five-year business plan (2025-2030), we're investing over £2.5 billion to reduce leakage, with an ambitious mains pipe replacement programme. However, by themselves these measures won't be enough and so we need to invest in new supplies of water.
- 2.1.4 Climate change is making the water supply less predictable. The UK is seeing more extreme weather – prolonged droughts, intense storms, and heavy rainfall that doesn't constantly replenish supplies. Future water shortages are expected to surpass the severe droughts of 1976 and 2022.
- 2.1.5 The proposed new reservoir would play a crucial role in protecting local and regional public water supplies during drought periods.
- 2.1.6 When there is plenty of water during the wetter months, the reservoir would be filled from the River Thames. When river levels drop or demand for water increases, water would be released from the reservoir back into the river for re-abstraction downstream, helping increase drought resilience in the wider area.
- 2.1.7 The proposed new reservoir would help ensure supply of water to local customers, as well as homes and businesses across London and the South East of England, and help to ensure water security for 15 million people across Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water customers. The core purpose of the proposed reservoir is to store water to ensure a secure and sustainable water supply for the South East of England.
- 2.1.8 In addition to its core purpose, the proposed reservoir site provides an opportunity to deliver new recreational, educational and nature facilities. These could include new walking and cycling trails, bridleways, areas for water sports, such as sailing, swimming and fishing, and new nature habitats like seasonal wetlands, woodlands and grasslands.

3 The planning process

3.1 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

- 3.1.1 On 11 June 2025, the Secretary of State (SoS) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs issued a direction under Section 35 of the Act, stating the Project is of national significance, and should be treated as development for which development consent is required. This means the Project can only be consented by a Development Consent Order (DCO), a type of planning consent required for nationally significant infrastructure projects.
- 3.1.2 The DCO application will be submitted to the SoS, via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the application and make recommendations to the SoS pursuant to the Act. The SoS will decide whether to grant or refuse development consent under the Act.
- 3.1.3 The National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure (July 2025³) forms the primary basis for examination by the Examining Authority and decision making by the SoS. It provides a clear national planning policy that facilitates the examination and determination of applications for water infrastructure projects under the Act.
- 3.1.4 Individuals and organisations can register as Interested Parties once the DCO application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Guidance for how to register can be found on the UK Government website at [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: How to register to have your say and make a relevant representation - GOV.UK](#)
- 3.1.5 The DCO process consists of six stages: pre-application, acceptance, pre-examination, examination, recommendation and decision, and post-decision.
- 3.1.6 During the pre-application stage, prior to submitting the application for development consent, applicants such as Thames Water are required to carry out public consultation on its proposals, to consider all responses and summarise these into a consultation report to be submitted with the application.
- 3.1.7 Following submission of the formal application, the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days in which to formally accept the application or not.
- 3.1.8 Once an application has been accepted, an Examining Inspector (or panel of Inspectors) will be appointed by the Planning Inspectorate as Examining Authority. Relevant Local Authorities automatically become 'Interested Parties'. A Preliminary Meeting will take place to consider procedural matters. This stage normally lasts about 3 months.

³ [National Policy Statement: water resources infrastructure - GOV.UK](#)

- 3.1.9 Examination starts the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting and must be completed within six months. The Examining Authority will invite Interest Parties to submit their views, hold hearings and will carefully consider all the evidence submitted. It is focused on written representations rather than being akin to a public enquiry, with hearings on issues only being held where necessary.
- 3.1.10 At the Recommendation and Decision stage, the Examining Authority must prepare a report, including a recommendation on whether to grant or refuse development consent within three months of the close of Examination. The Secretary of State then has a further three-month period in which to consider the recommendation and make a decision.
- 3.1.11 A six-week period follows the decision of the Secretary of State during which any decision may be challenged in the High Court by way of judicial review.
- 3.1.12 More information about the DCO process can be found on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/detailed-information>.

3.2 Timeline

- 3.2.1 The Project is currently in the pre-application stage of the planning process. We anticipate that our DCO application will be submitted to PINS in 2026. The application would seek the necessary powers to construct, maintain and operate the Project. Reservoir construction is expected to begin, after consent is granted, in 2029 with water available for use from 2040. Key Project milestones are set out in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3-1: Key Project milestones



3.3 Statutory consultation requirements

- 3.3.1 As part of the pre-application stage, we are required by the Act to undertake a statutory consultation on the Project. The Act sets out a number of requirements that our statutory consultation must comply with.
- 3.3.2 Section 42 of the Act requires us to consult specific statutory and prescribed bodies, Local Authorities and parties with an interest in land. Section 43 sets out which Local

Authorities we must consult on our Project. Section 44 sets out the different categories of parties with an interest in land to be consulted.

- 3.3.3 As outlined in the first chapter of this SoCC, Section 47 of the Act relates to the preparation of this document and our duty to consult the local community. Section 48 requires us to publicise the statutory consultation on the proposed application in a prescribed manner as set out in section 5.5 of this document.

4 Our previous non-statutory consultation

4.1 Non-statutory consultation overview

4.1.1 Thames Water held a non-statutory public consultation for the Project between 5 June and 28 August 2024.

4.1.2 The consultation sought feedback from the local community and stakeholders on emerging design options and an interim master plan for the proposed new reservoir.

4.1.3 During the non-statutory consultation, we:

- Sent postcards to nearly 75,000 addresses in the local area;
- Contacted local elected representatives, groups and organisations;
- Held seven public events which were attended by more than 1,200 people; and
- Received 1,598 consultation responses.

4.1.4 All responses received were reviewed and considered and a Statement of Response (SoR) document was published in summer 2025, which explained how we considered feedback to inform the ongoing design of the Project. The SoR and other documentation relating to the non-statutory public consultation can be found on our website www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro.

4.2 Other engagement

4.2.1 In addition to the non-statutory consultation described above, we have undertaken significant engagement with key stakeholders including Local Authorities, parish councils, statutory environmental bodies, landowners and local communities.

4.2.2 Since January 2024, we've held regular meetings with local authority officers representing Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, as the host Local Authorities, to share updates about the Project and its design. We've also shared technical subject specific information to inform our approach to assessing the potential impacts of the Project on the environment.

4.2.3 We have established a series of Technical Liaison Groups (TLGs) to work collaboratively with our statutory consultees throughout the development of the Project. These groups provide a forum for sharing information, developing methodologies, and ensuring coordinated input from key stakeholders. Participants include specialist officers from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England, National Highways, Network Rail, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation/Ministry of Defence, and the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and the Local Authorities.

- 4.2.4 As the Project has progressed, the TLGs have focused on a range of topic areas, including heritage; landscape and visual impacts; water-related issues such as flood risk and water quality; transport and traffic; engineering design; and ecology and biodiversity net gain.
- 4.2.5 Thames Water do not own all of the land that is required for the Project. Parties with an interest in land that may potentially be affected by the Project have been individually contacted via Land Interest Questionnaires. However, receiving this correspondence does not necessarily mean their land or property will be impacted by the final design. At this stage of the Project, we are in the process of determining the exact area of land needed and we will continue to engage and consult with landowners as we progress our application.
- 4.2.6 Parties with an interest in land, as defined in section 44 of the Act, will be notified of the statutory consultation under section 42 of the Act.
- 4.2.7 Where we need to secure land for the Project, our preference is to do this by agreement. If we cannot reach agreement, then we would seek to use compulsory acquisition powers that we'll request in our application for development consent under the Act but this would be a measure of last resort.

4.3 Summer 2025 community information update

- 4.3.1 In July 2025, we held four community information events across the area, in nearby towns and villages that may be affected by the Project, to provide a progress update on the Project. Over 600 members of the public attended.
- 4.3.2 These events provided an opportunity for us to feedback on the issues raised during the non-statutory consultation and outline how we have responded to them.
- 4.3.3 Parties with an interest in land or those who lived or worked within the 5km postcard mailing distribution zone of the Project were invited to attend these events. We also advertised the community information update using social media and print media advertising so that those outside the postcard distribution zone were aware of the update and our events.

5 How will we consult on our proposals?

5.1 Statutory consultation

- 5.1.1 As part of the pre-application stage, we are required by the Act to undertake a statutory consultation with people living in the vicinity of the Project before an application for development consent can be submitted. The Act sets out requirements which our statutory consultation must comply with.
- 5.1.2 Additionally, we will comply with the requirements for statutory consultation set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended), which can be found online at [The Infrastructure Planning \(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure\) Regulations 2009](#)
- 5.1.3 The involvement of communities, parties with land interests, Local Authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information about the potential impacts and benefits of the Project. This information can then be considered as our designs are developed and finalised. Where appropriate, additional mitigation measures can be included in our designs before an application for development consent is submitted.

5.2 Principles of our consultation

- 5.2.1 It is important to us that the consultation we are undertaking is in line with the Gunning Principles set out below:
- **Proposals are still at a formative stage and can still be changed**
 - **There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
 - **There is adequate time for consideration and response**
 - **'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
- 5.2.2 The feedback we receive during the statutory consultation period will be considered. If responses are received after the close of the consultation, then we cannot guarantee that they will be considered as part of the DCO application refinement process.

5.3 What will be consulted on?

- 5.3.1 The focus of statutory consultation will be our current designs for the Project, as well as construction and operation plans, the likely impacts and benefits, including the PEI Report.
- 5.3.2 Matters relating to the need for the Project, which is established through our Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP), and the role of bodies such as Ofwat and the Regulatory Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) are beyond the scope of the statutory consultation and will not be consulted upon. Further information on the WRMP and RAPID are available at <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/water-resources> and

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/rapid> respectively.

5.3.3 The WRMP sets out our preferred plan for ensuring efficient use of available water resources and increasing supplies in our area and includes our proposals for strategic resource options such as the proposed new reservoir.

5.3.4 Our WRMP was approved by Government in 2025, which establishes the need for the Project as set out in section 3.5.2 of the National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure:

“Information from the water resources management plan options appraisal process (and associated statutory assessments) will be relevant to demonstrate how alternative options have been considered, insofar as required under paragraph 3.5.1 and noting that the question of need would not be reopened when considering applications for development consent.”

5.3.5 The consultation material will make clear what is being consulted on and what is not.

5.3.6 At the start of the statutory consultation period, we will provide information on topics relating to the Project, including:

- Purpose and benefits of the Project;
- Draft Design Principles;
- Design and layout of the Project;
- Construction and operational management;
- Potential environmental enhancement
- Sustainability and legacy benefits; and
- Preliminary assessment of environmental effects.

5.3.7 A Scoping Report, which sets out what information will be included in the EIA and the methods that will be used to collect that information, was submitted to PINS for consideration in August 2024. In October 2024, PINS provided an opinion on the Scoping Report, the detail of which has informed the preparation of the PEI Report where appropriate. The Scoping Opinion is on the PINS website at [WA010005-000017-SESRO Scoping Opinion 2017 EIA Regs FINAL.pdf](#)

5.3.8 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, we will publish the PEI Report alongside the other consultation material and seek views on it as part of the statutory consultation. The PEI Report provides preliminary environmental information which has been gathered and analysed by us at the time of writing and reports on the potential likely significant effects of the Project (based on this preliminary information and using reasonable worst case scenarios).

5.3.9 To enable consultees to reach an informed view on those potential effects, in compliance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, more details of where the PEI Report will be available to view as part of the consultation can be found in Section 7.2 and in Appendix A of this SoCC.

5.3.10 The PEI Report will inform the EIA. An Environmental Statement will subsequently be produced which will set out the findings of the EIA once it has been completed. The Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.

5.4 When will the statutory consultation be?

5.4.1 The consultation is expected to start on 28 October 2025 and will close after 11 weeks at 11.59pm on 13 January 2026. Should the consultation dates need to be amended, we will inform people by posting amendments on our website (www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro) and through advertising on our social media channels and in print media.

5.5 Who will be consulted and how will they be notified?

5.5.1 Anybody with an interest in the Project is welcome to respond to our consultation. To directly notify those living closest to the proposed Project area, we have developed a distribution zone which extends a minimum of 5km from the draft Order limits. A postcard publicising the consultation and events will be distributed to all households, businesses and organisations within this zone at the start of the consultation period. A map is included in Appendix B to show the distribution zone.

5.5.2 The size of the zone is considered proportionate to the potential effects of the Project and is based on the draft Order limits which have been updated since our last consultation.

5.5.3 The postcard publicising the statutory consultation will provide signposting to information about the Project and the statutory consultation we are undertaking. It will explain when and where the community can access information and how consultees can respond to the consultation.

5.5.4 We will also seek to contact the following stakeholders:

- Community, interest, and seldom heard groups in the vicinity of the Project;
- Local elected representatives, including local authority councillors and Members of Parliament; and
- Any person, business or organisation that has previously engaged with the Project and for whom we have appropriate contact details and permission to contact.

5.5.5 To comply with Section 48 of the Act and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, statutory notices must be published once in:

- One national newspaper (The Times)
- The London Gazette (daily journal)

And for two consecutive weeks in:

- At least one (weekly) local newspaper in the vicinity of the Project (see below)

5.5.6 We will be publishing Section 48 notices in publications covering all three host Local Authorities, which means publishing three local newspaper notices for the two weeks prior to the launch of statutory consultation, along with the national newspaper and London Gazette. The local newspapers will be:

- Herald Series - Abingdon, Wantage, Wallingford, and Didcot
- Oxford Mail; and
- Oxford Times.

5.5.7 We will also send press releases to at least these publications with a view to them being published when the statutory consultation is launched. Information regarding the consultation, including posters, will be provided directly to host and neighbouring Local Authorities and local interest groups so that they can raise awareness of the consultation through their own communication channels. Where we have received permission, on the day of statutory consultation launch or shortly thereafter, we will place posters in deposit locations and Information Points (see Appendix A) in the vicinity of the Project.

5.5.8 To further advertise the consultation, we will deliver a targeted social media campaign. Using platforms like Facebook, Spotify, Instagram and LinkedIn, we will share information about the Project and provide links to the consultation website, encouraging people to take part. We will also use social media to share details of the public information events that are listed in section 6.2 and section 6.3 to encourage attendance.

5.5.9 As well as consulting with the community under Section 47 and publicising the consultation under Section 48 of the Act, we will also consult with organisations and individuals identified in Section 42 of the Act including prescribed bodies, Local Authorities with jurisdiction covering the area in which the Project is located and neighbouring Local Authorities. A non-exhaustive list is presented in Appendix E.

5.6 Engagement with elected representatives

5.6.1 We will ensure that Members of Parliament and councillors in constituencies and wards within, or partially within, the draft Order limits (as shown in Appendix B) are notified of the statutory consultation. We will offer opportunities for meetings and briefings to explain the proposals.

5.7 Engagement with seldom heard and local interest groups

5.7.1 Seldom heard groups are those individuals or groups that are less likely to respond to consultations and who would benefit from additional support and encouragement to access consultation materials and provide responses.

5.7.2 We will engage and consult seldom heard groups and the organisations that represent them, as well as local interest groups as identified through previous community

engagement, desktop research, and discussions with the host Local Authorities.

5.7.3 Our approach to engaging with seldom heard and local interest groups has been to consider the requirements of identified groups.

5.7.4 Our approach to advertising the statutory consultation using a variety of digital and non-digital channels will ensure a wide awareness of the consultation and how to participate. Materials will be accessible and written in plain English. Our approach will include:

- utilising a range of awareness raising methods such as newspapers, social media, posters;
- posters will be placed at community venues where seldom heard groups may frequent;
- we will be contacting gateway organisations and community representatives by email to share information about the consultation with their wider network at the start of the statutory consultation period;
- we will ensure our telephone number and email address are available for those who may have questions or find it difficult to submit comments. These channels can also be used to request material in different formats or languages;
- information events are being held at times and places convenient and accessible to as many people as possible;
- provision of online events to reach those that find it difficult to physically attend events; and
- provision of a translation service (Language Line) so that those for whom English is not a first language are not excluded from participating.

6 Consultation activities

6.1 Activities taking place during the consultation period

- 6.1.1 To allow anyone with an interest in the Project to hear from members of the Project team, we will be holding a series of consultation events comprising seven in-person public information events and two online events during the consultation period.
- 6.1.2 Details of events will be included on the postcard sent to all addresses within the distribution zone (see Appendix B), as well as being available on the Project website, in local newspapers, and in social media posts.
- 6.1.3 Where an event cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, we will, wherever reasonably practicable, substitute that event with a similar one. This would be publicised via the statutory consultation website, on our social media channels and we would also notify local media via a press release.

6.2 In-person public information events

- 6.2.1 We plan to hold seven in-person public information events during the consultation period. These events will include information about the Project, the consultation process and will explain to attendees how they can provide feedback on the proposals. During these events, members of the Project team will be on hand to answer questions.
- 6.2.2 Consultation materials, as outlined in Table 7.1, will be available to view at each public information event, and copies of the statutory consultation brochure and feedback form will be available for attendees to take away.
- 6.2.3 Public information events will be held at publicly accessible venues that are within or near the postcard distribution zone, covering a range of times during the week and at the weekend. Event venues have been selected after discussion with the host Local Authorities and after considering feedback from previous consultation and engagement events.
- 6.2.4 Provisional event locations, dates and times are presented in Table 6.1. These dates and times are provisional and may be subject to change. If so, we will publicise any changes on our website and through updates on our social media channels.

Table 6.1: Public information events

Event venue	Date	Time
Didcot Civic Hall Civic Hall, Britwell Rd, Didcot OX11 7HN	Monday 10 November 2025	2-8pm
Abingdon Guildhall Guildhall, Abbey Cl, Abingdon OX14 3JD	Wednesday 12 November 2025	2-8pm

Event venue	Date	Time
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall Hobbyhorse Lane, Abingdon OX14 4BB	Saturday 15 November 2025	10am-4pm
Marcham Centre Barrow Close, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6TY	Thursday 20 November 2025	2-8pm
Hanney War Memorial Hall Brookside, East Hanney, Wantage OX12 0JL	Friday 21 November 2025	2-8pm
The Beacon Portway, Wantage OX12 9BX	Wednesday 26 November 2025	2-8pm
Milton Hill House Hotel Steventon, Milton Hill, Abingdon OX13 6AF	Thursday 27 November 2025	2-8pm

6.3 Online events

6.3.1 We will host two virtual online events during the statutory consultation period. These online events will include a presentation from the Project team summarising the proposals, the consultation process and how to respond. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions of technical specialists.

6.3.2 Events will be hosted via Microsoft Teams, or similar online platform, with a public registration set up available via the consultation website. Both events will be recorded and made available on the website, to allow those who were unable to attend to view the event. Indicative dates and times for the virtual events are provided in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Virtual events

Date	Time
Tuesday 18 November	1-2pm
Monday 24 November	7-8pm

7 What information will be available and where?

7.1 What information will be available?

- 7.1.1 A range of consultation materials providing information about the Project – as presented in Table 7.1 – will be made available for statutory consultation.
- 7.1.2 In addition to the consultation materials listed below, we'll also make the SoCC available for inspection in accordance with Section 47 of the Act. Details of where and when the SoCC can be inspected will be provided in the relevant Section 47 notice. The SoCC will also be available to view on the consultation website before the statutory consultation begins. However because the SoCC does not form part of the consultation materials, we will not invite comments on its content during consultation.

Table 7.1: Consultation materials, which will be available in digital and paper formats

Document Title	Detail
Consultation brochure	<p>This document will include a summary of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Project is and how it works • Why and how we are consulting, including information about the consultation materials • How we have designed the Project • Our proposed masterplan for the Project • Benefits of the Project, including opportunities for local legacy • Indicative information about how we would build the Project • The predicted environmental effects during construction and operation • Information for parties with an interest in land • How to provide feedback on the proposals.
Draft Design Principles	A document providing information about the design development of the Project.
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report	The PEI Report will contain preliminary information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project as we have ascertained them so far, and how we propose to mitigate these effects and deliver the benefits of the Project. Includes the draft Code of Construction Practice as an appendix.
PEI Report Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	A non-technical summary of the PEI Report.
Feedback form	This will allow consultees to provide feedback on the Project via a set of 'closed' and 'open' questions.

Document Title	Detail
Map book	Maps showing the proposed land use and extents of the Project.
Delivering a sustainable legacy for people and nature	This document outlines our sustainability and legacy strategy

7.1.3 Supporting materials for the consultation include factsheets, videos about the project and an interactive version of the PEI Report non-technical summary (available online only). A 3D experience will also be available at in-person events.

7.2 Where will the information be available?

7.2.1 As described in Table 7.1, and in accordance with the Government's approach to digital communication, all statutory consultation materials will be available on the dedicated consultation website. The address will be www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro/statcon2025. The website will be easy to navigate and information will be easy to find.

7.2.2 Reference copies of the consultation materials, plus the SoCC, will be made available to view at the proposed deposit locations listed in Appendix A. In addition, copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form will be available to take away from these deposit locations.

7.2.3 Printed copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form will also be available to take away from the information points, which are also identified in Appendix A.

7.2.4 All consultation materials (with the exception of digital material) will be delivered to the deposit locations and information points on the launch day of the statutory consultation, or as soon as possible thereafter. Regular checks will be made during the statutory consultation period to keep deposit locations and information points stocked with the appropriate consultation materials. Where possible we will agree layout plans with the relevant Local Authority or venue to ensure normal library service is unaffected by the display of the material. Material will be available to view at these locations for the duration of the consultation period.

7.2.5 Deposit location and information point venues may be subject to change at late notice, with any changes advertised on the consultation website.

7.2.6 Printed copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form will be posted free of charge to consultees (one set per household, business or organisation) on request. There may be a charge for printed copies of other consultation materials, such as the PEI Report, of £200 (including VAT, postage and packing).

- 7.2.7 We will accommodate any reasonable request for alternative formats of consultation materials such as translations in other languages, large print version, or braille, ensuring specialist providers are engaged as required.
- 7.2.8 An email address and statutory consultation telephone number are provided in section 10.1, which can be used by consultees to request printed copies of the consultation materials or to discuss alternative formats.

8 Providing feedback

8.1 Consultation feedback channels

- 8.1.1 This consultation is an important opportunity for anyone with an interest in the Project to provide feedback about the information we are presenting. We will have regard to the feedback received and it will be taken into account as we further develop and refine our proposals as part of the finalisation of our DCO application.
- 8.1.2 Comments on the proposals should be received during the statutory consultation period. If responses are received after the close of the consultation, then we cannot guarantee that they will be considered as part of the DCO application refinement process.
- 8.1.3 The consultation is expected to start on 28 October 2025 and will close after 11 weeks at 11.59pm on 13 January 2026.
- 8.1.4 Feedback on the proposals will only be accepted if submitted via one of the following channels:
- **Online feedback form:** Available to fill in on the consultation website www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro/statcon2025;
 - **Printed feedback form:** Available at public information events, deposit locations and information points as outlined in Appendix A. Completed feedback forms should be sent to the dedicated FREEPOST address (FREEPOST SESRO consultation). Pre-printed envelopes with the FREEPOST address will also be made available where there are printed feedback forms. No stamp is needed;
 - **Written feedback:** Letters may be posted to the dedicated FREEPOST address, and no stamp is required; and
 - **Email address:** A dedicated email address (SESRO@ipsos.com) will be provided to allow consultees to email their feedback to us.
- 8.1.5 We cannot accept consultation responses submitted via channels other than those listed in section 8.1.4. For example, we will not accept social media comments, calls made to Thames Water's customer contact centre or voicemails left on the statutory consultation telephone line (0800 033 6677).
- 8.1.6 Stakeholders who need accommodations to complete their response should contact the statutory consultation telephone line to discuss alternative options for submitting feedback.

9 Next steps

9.1 How will we use your feedback?

- 9.1.1 We will review all formal responses received during the consultation and we will summarise our findings in a Consultation Report. The Consultation Report will form part of the application for development consent which will be submitted to PINS.
- 9.1.2 The Consultation Report will include an anonymised summary of the consultation responses received, detail how the issues raised have been addressed or responded to, describe how the DCO application was informed by the consultation responses, and provide an explanation of any changes made as a result of the feedback.
- 9.1.3 PINS will decide whether the application for development consent meets the required standards to be accepted, which includes whether our consultation has been adequate.

9.2 Further consultation and engagement

- 9.2.1 In addition to the statutory consultation, ongoing engagement with interest groups and statutory consultees will continue during the pre-application period. This will include with directly affected landowners, lessees, tenants, occupiers and those with an interest in the land that falls within our draft Order limits.
- 9.2.2 Following the close of statutory consultation, there may be some additional changes to the Project that were not made as a result of the statutory consultation. If these changes are considered significant, or affect new or additional statutory consultees, further targeted consultation may be required to ensure those affected have the opportunity to provide their feedback on the changes to the proposals. If further targeted consultation is considered necessary, this would be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in this SoCC but will be proportionate in nature and duration to the matters being consulted upon.

9.3 Local Plan public consultations

- 9.3.1 We are not aware of any NSIP or Local Plan consultations that are ongoing, or are likely to be ongoing, in the Project area at the same time that could influence or impact upon the consultation we have described in this SoCC.
- 9.3.2 In the event that we become aware of such consultations we'll consider if it's appropriate for us to extend our consultation period or move our information events so as to avoid unnecessary clashes.

10 Enquiries and further information

10.1 Contact information

10.1.1 During the consultation we will make channels available so that consultees can ask questions about the proposals. These channels can also be used to request hard copies, or alternative formats, of the consultation materials.

- Email (info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk); and

10.1.2 Statutory consultation phone line (0800 033 6677).

10.1.3 This will be a telephone messaging service, where consultees can leave a message to ask questions about the Project, or request materials. Messages will be checked frequently during office hours and any questions or requests for materials will be handled promptly by the Project team. This is not a formal feedback channel, and these calls will not be recorded as feedback to the consultation.

10.2 Data protection and privacy

10.2.1 We are committed to protecting any personal information that is shared with us.

10.2.2 We will store and use personal data in relation to the Project. This is important so we can record accurately and analyse any feedback and/or questions raised.

10.2.3 In addition to information being handled and used by us, we may also be required to send respondents' information to PINS who will be considering our application for permission to build the Project.

10.2.4 To find out more about how we use and protect personal data including data subject rights please visit our main website [Privacy notice | Legal services | Thames Water](#).

11 References

Documents and legislation referenced in the SoCC are shown in the tables below.

Documents

Title	Document Date
Water Resources Management Plan (Thames Water)	August 2024
SESRO Scoping Report	August 2024
SESRO Scoping Opinion	October 2024
Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	April 2024
Planning Inspectorate Guidance Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report	March 2025
National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure	July 2025

Legislation

Title
Planning Act 2008 (as amended)
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Appendix A. Deposit locations and information points

A.1 Deposit locations

A.1.1 Consultation materials will be available to view at the deposit locations listed in Table A.1 below, until at least the end of the statutory consultation period. Consultation brochures and feedback forms will be available to take away from deposit locations. Deposit location venues may be subject to change at late notice for reasons out of our control. Any changes will be publicised on the consultation website and via other channels.

Table A.1 Details of the deposit locations

Location	Local authority area	Opening Times
Abingdon Library, The Charter, Abingdon, OX14 3LY	Vale of White Horse District Council	Monday to Wednesday 9am – 7pm Thursday 9am – 1pm Friday 9am – 7pm Saturday 9am – 4.30pm Sunday closed
Wantage Library, Stirlings Road, Wantage OX12 7BB	Oxfordshire County Council	Monday 9am – 8pm Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 5.30pm Thursday 9am – 1pm Friday 9am – 8pm Saturday 9am – 4.30pm Sunday closed

A.2 Information points

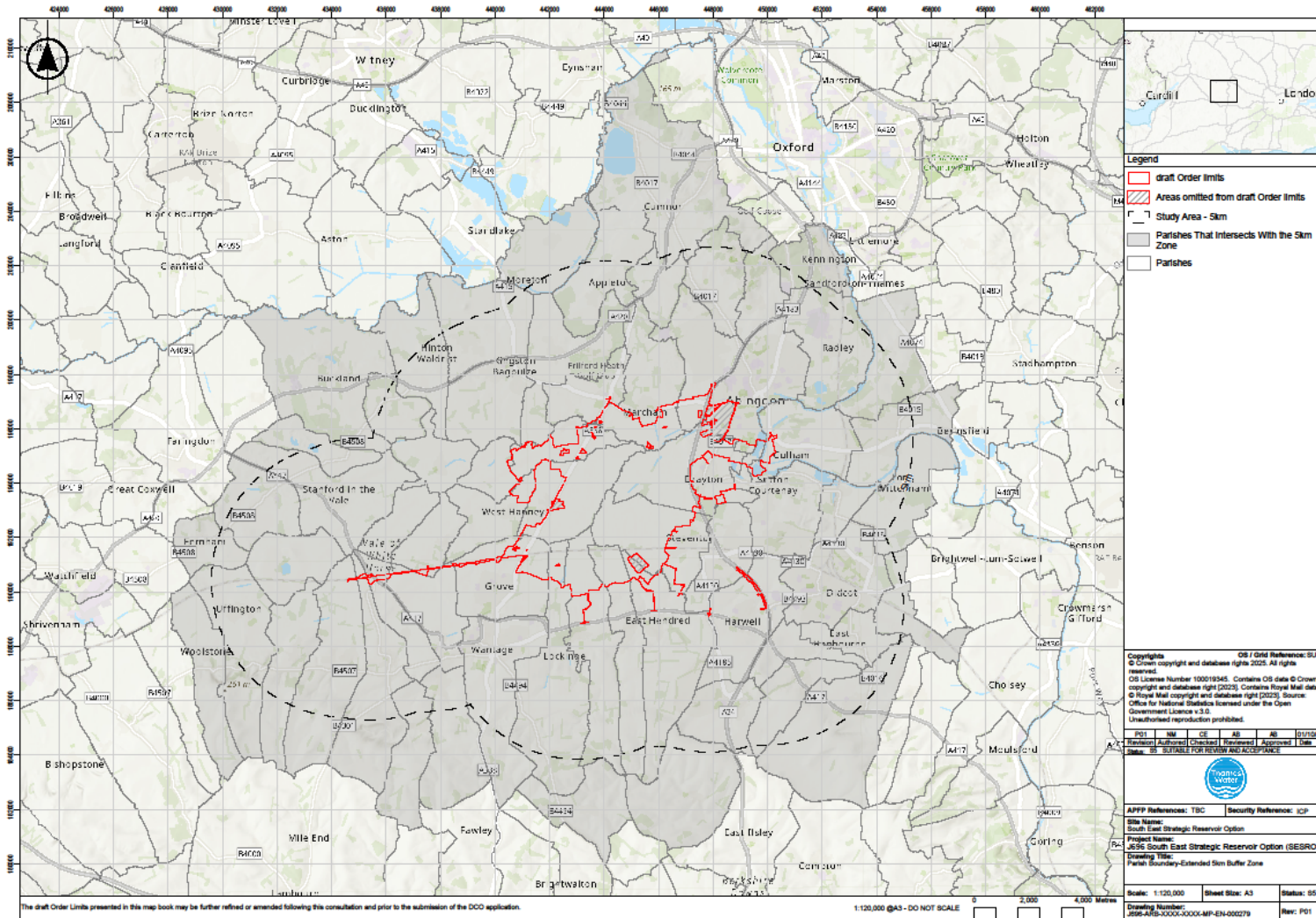
A.2.1 The information points, which are shown in Table A.2, will hold copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form, which are available to take away during the consultation period. Information points may be subject to change at late notice for reasons out of our control. Any changes will be publicised on the consultation website and via other channels.

Table A.2 Details of the information points

Location
GWP District Community Centre, 1 Gentian Mews, Didcot, OX11 6GR
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
St Peters Church, 6 Church Lane, Drayton, OX14 4JS
Grove Parish Council, Old Mill Hall, School Lane, OX12 7LB
The Marcham Centre - Barrow Close, Marcham, OX13 6TY
The Crown Public House - Marcham, 1 Packhorse Lane, OX13 6NT

Location
St Michael & All Angels Church, Church Lane, Steventon, OX13 6SN
Steventon Village Hall, The Green, OX13 6RR
All Saints Church, All Saints Lane, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE
St Blaise Church, High Street, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4EW
St Peter's & St Paul's, Church Street, Appleford, Abingdon OX14 4NX

Appendix B. Postcard distribution zone



Appendix C. Our response to LPA feedback

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>Paragraph 1.1.7: Elaboration on the relationship between the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Statement (ES) is required. Consultees are unlikely to have knowledge of the interaction between these documents.</p>	<p>Explained in paragraphs 5.3.7 to 5.3.10. The PEI Report provides Preliminary Environmental Information which has been gathered and analysed by us at the time of writing. An Environmental Statement will subsequently be produced which will set out the findings of the EIA once it has been completed. The Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.</p>
<p>Paragraph 1.1.8: Explanation of how the SoCC and Consultation Report (CR) are related is required.</p>	<p>Explained in paragraphs 1.1.5 and 1.1.10. The SoCC sets out how we will consult communities during the statutory consultation. Following statutory consultation, we will prepare a Consultation Report. The Consultation Report is a summary of the engagement and consultation that has been carried out during the development of the Project and will be part of the suite of documents submitted as part of the Development Consent Order application. The SoCC will be included within the Consultation Report as an appendix.</p>
<p>Paragraph 1.2.3: Should include the actual dates the formal consultation occurred (18th August – 16th September).</p>	<p>Agreed and text amended.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.1.2: Should include reference to all reasons for water stress, including ageing existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>Text amended, and paragraph 2.1.3 added.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.1.6: Should explain the Water Resources Management Plan and how the need has been established through its adoption.</p>	<p>Text has been added in paragraphs 5.3.2 – 5.3.4 to explain the WRMP and how the need for the Project has been established through it.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.1.7: This states “the proposed reservoir provides an opportunity to deliver new recreational and nature facilities. These could include new walking and cycling trails, bridleways”. Policy 2b of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan states that new developments must have safe and attractive walking and cycling routes connecting the site and within the development itself. As such “could” is inappropriate wording here and we request it is changed.</p>	<p>Some elements of the proposals are committed to, while others are still under consideration. As such ‘could’ is more appropriate in this context.</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>Paragraph 2.1.7: It should be made clear here what will actually be included in the DCO and what is considered an “Opportunity” by Thames Water and will therefore not be provided as part of the application scheme.</p>	<p>Our designs are still under development and as such what will be included in the DCO is not finalised. We will also need to review responses to our statutory consultation to inform the ongoing design development. No changes made to text.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.1.1: Explanation of what a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required.</p>	<p>We have added text to paragraph 3.1.1 to explain that a DCO is a type of planning consent, required for nationally significant infrastructure projects.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.1.1: Explanation what role the Reservoir Act 1975 will play in the examination is required.</p>	<p>The purpose of the SoCC is to set out the mechanics of how Thames Water will consult the community about the Project. In this context, it is not considered necessary to include commentary on the Reservoirs Act 1975 in section 3.1, given that it is only one of many factors relevant to the application. In particular, how the Reservoirs Act 1975 will be treated during the Examination will be a matter for the Examining Authority, not Thames Water. The relevance of the Reservoirs Act 1975 to the Project is, however, commented upon in various consultation documents, including the Consultation Brochure and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which consultees will have an opportunity to review and comment upon.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.1.3: Provide information on how members of the public can register as interested party and submit their views once the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.</p>	<p>We have added text to paragraph 3.1.4 to signpost to guidance on how to register as an Interested Party and included a link to Government guidance.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.1.4: Please provide a link to the Statement of Response (SoR). A short synopsis of feedback to this consultation in the SOCC would also be helpful.</p>	<p>Link included in paragraph 4.1.4. The Statement of Response provides a summary of the feedback received at that time.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.2.1: This states “we have undertaken significant amounts of engagement with key stakeholders including Local Authorities”. The Councils strongly disagree with this assertion, and we request it is removed.</p>	<p>Noted but this is not agreed. Thames Water has undertaken significant amounts of engagement with the key stakeholders, including the local authorities. Over the past two years, the SESRO project team has met regularly with planning officers to ensure consistent coordination and progress. In parallel, a senior Thames Water officer has held monthly strategic meetings with the Councils’ senior leadership team. We have also hosted a series of roundtable briefings for councillors and officers covering key topics such as the clay compaction trial, the design of a non-impounding reservoir, and flood risk management.</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
	<p>The Councils continue to play an active role in our Technical Liaison Group (TLG) meetings, which cover specialist areas including Surface Water and Aquatic Ecology, Flood Risk, Highways and Transport, Terrestrial Ecology, Heritage, and Landscape and Visual matters. In addition, we hold pre-briefing sessions for Council leaders ahead of any community engagement events, as well as ad-hoc technical meetings outside of the formal TLG programme.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.2.2: This states “We’ve also shared technical subject specific information to inform our approach to environmental assessment”. The Councils do not consider that the level and amount of technical information provided to be sufficient for the Councils to have a significant input on the approach to assessments</p>	<p>Noted. Prior to the submission of our Scoping Report, meetings were held with the Local Authorities in order to involve their officers on the aspects to be included and the approach to assessments. Since that time engagement on technical subject matters has been ongoing, via the TLGs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.2.3: This states that the TLGs have provided a forum for “developing methodologies”. The Councils have rarely had an opportunity to effectively input into the development of methodologies, and have usually had them presented to us for agreement rather than having a hand in their development.</p>	<p>Noted. Prior to us undertaking specific surveys (for example arboricultural (tree) surveys, or traffic surveys), we have held meetings with the relevant officers to ensure they are comfortable with our methodology, and to discuss suitable locations for those surveys.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.2.4: Please provide a full list of the Technical Liaison Groups (TLGs) that have been established</p>	<p>Water Quality Heritage Geology and Hydrogeology Health Highways and Transport Surface Water and Aquatic Ecology Terrestrial Ecology Flood Risk Landscape and Visual Modelling & Licensing</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.2.5: Confirmation as to whether the landowner consultation based on the proposed new redline boundary is required.</p>	<p>Yes, we are consulting with landowners within the proposed red line boundary (RLB) as Category 1 and 2 land interests, as defined in Section 44 of the Planning Act. We are also consulting with Category 3 interests, as far as we can identify at this time, outside the proposed RLB.</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
Paragraph 4.2.6: Should clarify at this point that Thames Water do not own the land, and will need to go through some sort of CPO process. Explain this process at a high level here.	Text in paragraphs 4.2.5 and 4.2.7 amended to explain that we do not own all of the land required, and that compulsory acquisition powers would be a measure of last resort.
Paragraph 5.1.2: Please provide a link to Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).	Link has been added to paragraph 5.1.2
Paragraph 5.2.1: The four Gunning Principles ought to be listed. The way this is set out suggests that the five principles listed are the Gunning Principles, which isn't the case.	Text has been amended in paragraph 5.2.1 to list the four Gunning Principles.
Paragraph 5.3.2: Please provide a reference to the National Policy Statement (NPS) for water resources infrastructure July 2025 and provide a link. Explain the role of the NPS in the examination.	Text to explain the role of the National Policy Statement and link added to paragraph 3.1.3.
Paragraph 5.3.2: Some explanation of alternative options, including what was considered and not taken forwards, should be included here – it reads like there is no need to talk about alternatives, which is not the case. At the very least, it would help to explain how the reservoir option has been chosen.	We are not consulting on alternative options for the project during this statutory consultation. This took place during the WRMP consultation held in 2022/3. However, alternatives in terms of Project design and mitigations will be reported on further as part of the EIA process. We have provided links to the WRMP.
Figure 5.1: Explanation of how that “need” is addressed in the NPS is required.	The need for the project is established in the WRMP, as explained in paragraphs 5.3.3 and 5.3.4.
Paragraph 5.3.4: An estimate of the peak construction workforce and in what year you anticipate it to occur ought to be included.	This will be presented in statutory consultation materials rather than in the SoCC.
Paragraph 5.3.5: Please provide link to the PINS Scoping Opinion.	Link added to paragraph 5.3.7
Paragraph 5.3.7: An explanation as to the connection between the PEIR and EIA/ES ought to be included.	Text has been added to paragraphs 5.3.7 to 5.3.10.
Paragraph 5.4.1: The consultation period should be extended by at least a week into January to account for the holiday period over Christmas.	We have extended the consultation period to now close on 13 January 2026. Link to website added to paragraph 5.4.1.

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>Please provide a link to the project website here.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 5.5.1: Can you confirm that the 5km extends from the furthest extents of the new red line boundary? Could you also confirm the number of households, businesses and organisations within this zone?</p>	<p>We can confirm that the 5km boundary extends from the furthest extents of the draft Order limits as recently updated. The number of addresses is likely to be in excess of 73000 and will be confirmed in our Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.5.1: It is not clear how members of the public living outside the consultation area can register an interest and be added to the register of interested individuals to ensure consultation going forwards. This should be explained here.</p>	<p>Anyone with an interest in the project can provide feedback during the consultation period, as stated in paragraph 5.5.1.</p> <p>On the feedback form there will be provision for those interested to sign up for future Project updates. This option was also available on the 2024 consultation feedback form.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.5.2 states “The size of the zone is considered to be proportionate to the effects of the Project and has been confirmed after discussions with the host Local Authorities”. This is incorrect, we had a meeting and discussed the 5km zone and the Local Authorities requested a map showing the red line boundary and the consultation zone so we could ascertain if this was suitable. This was never presented to us and as such we have not agreed the consultation zone. Additionally, the Draft Order Limits have increased substantially since we last discussed the consultation zone and we have not been presented with a more up to date map. The consultation zone should now extend 5km out from all the bits of the red line boundary, including along the rail line and at the very least across the river to Culham as there will be additional flood risk there. The map shown in Appendix B does not include the red line boundary and so the site is not shown – this makes it impossible to ascertain if the consultation area is suitable.</p>	<p>The RLB has been updated since our last public consultation, and a plan showing the updated RLB was shared with the LPAs in July 2025 in a meeting presentation. As we had not yet made contact with each person with an interest in land potentially affected by that updated RLB, the decision was made to only show the provisional mailing zone, with a 5km buffer zone included, in the draft SoCC shared with the local authorities.</p> <p>Using a 5km buffer zone has been our approach to the mailing zone throughout this pre-application stage.</p> <p>We can confirm that the mailing zone extends to all addresses within all parishes that are within 5km of any part of the updated RLB; it includes Abingdon and Culham, and is likely to be in excess in 73,000 addresses, The exact number will be confirmed in our Consultation Report.</p> <p>The map in Appendix B has now been updated to show the updated RLB as well as the mailing zone.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.5.4: More detail on your stakeholder mapping is required. OCC requests that its cabinet</p>	<p>Noted. Appendix D is now included with this information.</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>members and water champions be specifically consulted. The District Councils also request that all Councillors are directly consulted. A full list of the groups suggested here should be included as an appendix.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 5.5.6: It is disappointing that the newspapers selected are Oxford City based as opposed to the more localised newspapers that were options in previous draft versions of this statement. More local newspapers should be included. The Herald series has an Abingdon, Didcot, Wallingford and Wantage section, which may be worth considering in addition to those mentioned here, and would certainly be more appropriate than the Oxford part of the series.</p>	<p>We have replaced the Herald series (Oxford) with (Abingdon, Didcot, Wallingford and Wantage section) as suggested.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.5.7: The District Councils received some criticism of our local plan consultation that there were no physical posters. Thames Water should consider posting in Parish Notice boards and other locations where notices can be placed physically.</p>	<p>We have planned to use posters in suitable locations where permission has been given.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.5.9: A full list of these bodies should be included as an appendix.</p>	<p>The list of stakeholders from the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 is presented in Appendix E. The list of consultees will be kept under ongoing review to ensure it is maintained and up-to-date.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.6.1: Elected representatives whose wards are either wholly or partially within the 5km buffer should be directly contacted regarding the statutory consultation, not just those within the Draft Order Limits.</p>	<p>All elected representatives whose wards are within the mailing zone will be directly contacted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.7.1: The approach here is not proactive on hard to reach groups. Thames Water need to set out a strategy for this rather than ad-hoc provision of materials when these groups are discovered. The hard to reach groups should be listed in an</p>	<p>We have identified a range of seldom heard groups and have selected publicity methods and channels to encourage participation in the consultation by as wide an audience as possible. Materials will be accessible and written in plain English. Our approach will include:</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>appendix, with a clear approach on how to engage each group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising a range of awareness raising methods such as newspapers, social media, posters. • Posters will be placed at community venues where seldom heard groups may frequent. • We will be contacting gateway organisations and community representatives by email to share information about the consultation with their wider network at the start of the statutory consultation period. • We will ensure our telephone number and email address are available for those who may have questions or find it difficult to submit comments. These channels can also be used to request material in different formats or languages. • Information events are being held at times and places convenient and accessible to as many people as possible. • provision of online events to reach those that find it difficult to physically attend events. • Provision of a translation service (Language Line) so that those for whom English is not a first language are not excluded from participating. <p>Additional text has been added in paragraph 5.7.4</p>
<p>Paragraph 6.2.1: Previous drafts stated they would hold between 7 and 9 consultation events, as opposed to the 6 now stated. Why has this been reduced?</p>	<p>We have confirmed venue bookings for 7 events; the 7th was confirmed during the statutory consultation period and so was not shown on the draft shared with the Local Planning Authorities.</p>
<p>Table 6.1: Events at schools should be considered during the consultation period to allow for young people to be involved in the consultation process.</p>	<p>Our experience suggests that events at schools are generally not well attended. Our Education Manager has held outreach sessions with several local schools and is encouraging them to attend one of our already planned events.</p>
<p>Table 6.1: Events in both Wantage and Grove should be added.</p>	<p>We have replaced one of the proposed events at a venue with limited public transport connections with one in Wantage.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6.3.1: Previous drafts stated that technical specialists would be in attendance at virtual events- this appears to no longer be the case. There should be an opportunity for questions to be asked in advance so those who can't attend can still have their questions answered- this will</p>	<p>This is still the case. Text has been amended to clarify at paragraph 6.3.1.</p>

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
also give the opportunity for specialists to give detailed and thought-out answers.	
Paragraph 6.3.2: Will these be open engagement events online? Will people be able to ask questions, or will it be a restrictive “camera and mics turned off” event?	These events will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. There will be an opportunity to ask questions through a ‘chat’ function.
Table 7.1: In previous drafts this table included and Interactive Map Tool and both the S47 and S48 Notices- will these no longer be included? Why not? From our perspective this ought to be included in order to show what the project will actually look like.	The S47 and S48 notices are not considered consultation material and have so been removed from the table. The interactive map will be part of the digital PEIR NTS.
Table 7.1: We have requested on multiple occasions that it is made clear to the public exactly what will be included in the DCO application itself, and what are additional projects that may be completed at a later date. It is critical for clear and transparent consultation that this is laid out in a way that is clear for members of the public and doesn’t accidentally imply infrastructure/benefits etc. that won’t be built by Thames Water.	Our designs are still under development and as such what will be included in the DCO is not finalised. We will also need to review responses to our statutory consultation to inform the ongoing design development. No changes made to text.
Paragraph 7.2.3: Consultation materials should also be available on USB drives at Libraries so that if there are issues with internet connection, materials can still be accessed.	Providing material on USBs at deposit locations is not possible due to the size of the digital files. We’ll consider any reasonable request for access.
Paragraph 7.2.7: This states that “we will consider on a case-by-case basis any requests for alternative formats of consultation materials such translations in other languages, large print version, or braille”. This position risks not being compliant with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 which Thames Water is subject to as a hybrid authority. There should instead be a presumption in favour of providing accessible consultation materials. This would also make it easier for hard-to-reach groups to interact with the consultation.	We are fully committed to providing materials upon any reasonable request in different languages or formats. Paragraph 7.2.7 has been updated to reflect this.

Feedback	Our response to the feedback
<p>Paragraph 8.1.3: Please confirm whether the consultation period accounted for the holiday period in December/January? It should be extended further into January to account for holiday period over Christmas</p>	<p>The originally proposed 10 week consultation period is longer than the statutory minimum of 28 days and allows for the holiday period. However, we will extend the consultation period by one week to 11 weeks.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8.1.5: Telephone calls and voicemails should be recorded and counted as consultation responses- there are no ways for people to give non-written feedback which is an accessibility issue.</p>	<p>The telephone line is for consultation queries only, which include flagging accessibility issues. Where we become aware of someone wishing to provide a non-written response because of accessibility issues, we will be happy to assist by scribing on their behalf through dictation, or other alternative means. We have added text in paragraph 8.1.6 to address this.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9.3.1: The South and Vale Joint Local Plan might be in Main Modifications Consultation at this time. There will also be hearings for Botley West Solar Farm NSIP during the timeframe. TW should remain in contact with the Councils regarding potential clashes when dates for the above are confirmed.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Appendix D. Elected representatives

Oxfordshire County Council - cabinet members

- Cllr Liz Leffman
- Cllr Neil Fawcett
- Cllr Ben Higgins
- Cllr Sean Gaul
- Cllr Judy Roberts
- Cllr Dan Levy
- Cllr Andrew Gant
- Cllr Tim Bearder
- Cllr Kate Gregory
- Cllr Jenny Hannaby

Oxfordshire County Council – Water Resources Champions

- Cllr Andy Graham
- Cllr Peter Stevens

Vale of White Horse District Councils – 38 councillors

South Oxfordshire District Council – 36 councillors

All Parishes within 5km of updated draft Order limits – via clerks

Appendix E. Statutory consultee list

S42(1)(a) list

The Secretary of State for Defence
Abingdon on Thames Parish Council
Appleton with Eaton Parish Council
Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council
Appleford on Thames Parish Council
Chilton Parish Council
Clifton Hampden Parish Council
Culham Parish Council
Didcot Parish Council
Drayton Parish Council (Abingdon)
East Challow Parish Council
East Hendred Parish Council
East Hanney Parish Council
Farnborough Parish Council
Fyfield and Tubney Council
Garford Parish Council
Grove Parish Council
Harwell Parish Council
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council
Lockinge Parish Council
Marcham Parish Council
Milton Parish Council
Nuneham Courtney Parish Council
Baulking Parish Council
Buckland Parish Council
Besselsleigh Parish Council
Cumnor Parish Council
Childrey Parish Council
Charney Bassett Parish Council
Denchworth Parish Council
East Hagbourne Parish Council
Frilford Parish Council
Radley Parish Council
Steventon Parish Council
St Helen Without Parish Council
Sunningwell Parish Council
Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Wantage Parish Council
Sparsholt Parish Council
Shellingford Parish Council
Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
Uffington Parish Council
Upton Parish Council
West Hagbourne Parish Council
Woolstone Parish Council

West Challow Parish Council
Fernham Parish Council
Goosey Parish Council
Hinton Waldrist Parish Council
Hatford Parish Council
Kingston Lisle Parish Council
Kennington Parish Council
Letcombe Regis Parish Council
Letcombe Bassett Parish Council
Long Wittenham Parish Council
Longworth Parish Council
Lyford Parish Council
Northmoor Parish Council
Pusey Parish Council
South Moreton Parish Council
West Hanney Parish Council
West Hendred Parish Council
West Ilsley Parish Council
Western Valley Parish Council
Wootton Parish Council
The Environment Agency
Natural England
The Forestry Commission
Chilterns National Landscape
North Wessex National Landscape
Cotswolds National Landscape
Historic England
Oxfordshire County Council Highways Team
Warwickshire County Council Highways
National Highways
OCC Transport Development Management Team
The Civil Aviation Authority
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
The Canal & River Trust
National Highways Historical Railways Estate
The Health and Safety Executive
Health Security Agency
NHS England
The Crown Estate Commissioners
Thames Valley Police Design Out Crime Officer
Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
NHS Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board
Royal Mail Group
Homes England
NATS En-route Safeguarding

Thames Water
Thames Water Commercial Services
Cadent Gas Limited
Northern Gas Networks Limited
Scotland Gas networks plc
Southern Gas Networks plc
Wales and West Utilities Ltd
CNG Services Ltd
Energy Assets Pipeline Limited
ES Pipelines Ltd / ESP Utilities Group Ltd
ESP Connections Ltd
ESP Networks Ltd
ESP Pipelines Ltd
Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
GTC Pipelines Limited
Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
Independent Pipelines Limited
Indigo Pipelines Limited
Inovyn Enterprises Ltd
Last Mile Gas Ltd
Leep Gas Networks Limited
Mua Gas Limited
Quadrant Pipelines Limited
Stark Works Limited
National Gas
RWE Generation UK Plc - Didcot Power Station (A and B)
SSE - Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc
Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
Aidien Ltd
Aurora Utilities Ltd
Eclipse Power Network Limited
Energy Assets Networks Limited
ESP Electricity Limited
Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
Independent Power Networks Limited
Indigo Power Limited
Last Mile Electricity Ltd
Leep Electricity Networks Limited
Mua Electricity Limited
Optimal Power Networks Limited
Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
The Electricity Network Company Limited
UK Power Distribution Limited
Utility Assets Limited
Vattenfall Networks Limited
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited
Gigaclear Limited
Neos Networks
OCU Group Ltd
Openreach Limited
Virgin Media Limited
CityFibre
Linesearch
Netomnia
Verizon
Radiance Energy
Anesco and Foresight Solar
INRG Solar

S42(1)(b) list

Oxford City Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Cotswold District Council
Cherwell District Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Warwickshire County Council
Gloucestershire County Council

Non-prescribed consultees

Abingdon Lions Club
Cornerstone Arts Centre
Drayton Community Trust
Drayton Millenium Green Trust
Friends of Abbey Meadows Outdoor Pool (FOAMOP)
Hanney Drama Group
Hanney Gardening Club
Marcham Community Group
Rotary Club of Abingdon
SARINC (Steventon Allotment and Relief in Need Charity)
St John Ambulance
Womens Institute - Oxfordshire Federation
Abingdon and District National Trust Association
Abingdon Carbon Cutters
Abingdon Civic Society
Abingdon Museum Friends
Angling Trust
BBOWT
British Horse Society (South)
Byways and Bridleways Trust
Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire
Community First Oxfordshire

Country Land and Business Association
East Hanney Flood Group
East Hendred Heritage Trust (Museum)
Environmental Protection UK
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South East
Fields in Trust
Freshwater Habitats Trust
Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings Trust
Hendreds Environment Group
The Inland Waterways Association
Letcombe Brook Project
National Farmers Union
OCC Environmental Lead
One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre
Open Spaces Society
Oxford Cycling
Oxford Preservation Trust
Oxford Transport and Access Group
Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action
Oxfordshire Community Foundation
Oxfordshire Conservation Forum
Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum
Oxfordshire Ramblers
Radley History Club
Radley Lakes Trust
RSPB
South and Vale - Senior Ecology Officer
Sustainable Wantage - Community Action Group focused on protecting and enhancing the natural environment
Water Resources South East
Wild Oxfordshire
Woodland Trust
Abbey Sailing Club - Abingdon
Abibike - Cycling Group
Abingdon and Vale Triathlon Club
Abingdon Arts Society
Abingdon Astronomical Society
Abingdon Athletics Club
Abingdon Camera Club
Abingdon Community Walks
Abingdon Cycling Club
Abingdon Freewheeling Cycling Club
Abingdon Horticultural Society
Abingdon Riding For Disabled
Abingdon Rowing Club
Active Oxfordshire
British Canoeing
British Horse Society

Corallian Cycling Club
Cycling UK Oxfordshire Cycling Network
Didcot Phoenix Cycling Club
Disabled Ramblers LTD
Drayton Road Allotment Association
Hanney Senior Citizens Club (Royal Voluntary Service)
Harmony InSpires - Acapella Chorus
Healthy Abingdon
Kingfisher Canoe Group
Marcham Cricket Club
Mens Breakfast Club - Marcham
Oxford Airport
OCC Public Rights of Way
OSTMA - Oxford Sport and Traditional Martial Arts
Oxford and District Woodcarvers Club
Oxford Sailing Club
Oxford Sea Cadets
Oxford University Rowing
Oxfordshire Archaeological & Historical Society
Oxfordshire Girl Guiding
Oxfordshire Strollers - Ramblers Association
Ramblers Vale of White Horse Group
RNLI
Silverdown Stables
Steventon History Society
Steventon Sports and Social Club
Stonehill Riding School
Sustrans
The Hanney History Group
The Marcham Society
The Royal Yachting Association
Thirsty Cafe Marcham
Trinity Evergreens
U3A - University Of The Third Age
VOWH District Council - Active Communities
West End Allotments (Marcham)
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
St Edmunds Catholic Primary School
Thameside Primary School
St Nicholas C of E Primary School
Abingdon School - Independent Day and Boarding for boys 11 to 18 (Abingdon Foundation)
Abingdon Prep School - Independent Day School for boys 4 - 13 (Abingdon Foundation)
Caldecott Primary School
Carswell Community School - Primary
Larkmead School - Secondary
Our Lady's Abingdon School - Catholic Independent, ages 7 - 18, (Lower, Senior and 6th Form)
St Helen and St Katharine - Independent - Girls age 9 - 18
The Unicorn School - Ages 6 -17 - Special Educational Needs

Europa School UK - Multilingual School, Ages 4 - 18 (Primary/Secondary/6th Form)
Drayton Community Primary School
St James C of E Primary School
The Hendreds C of E Primary School
St Amand's Catholic Primary School
Grove C of E Primary School
Millbrook School - Primary School
St John's CE Academy - Ages 2 - 16 (Nursery/Primary/Secondary) - All Through School
Marcham C of E School - Primary
St Blaise C of E Primary School
Dunmore Primary School
Long Furlong Primary School
Rush Common Primary School
Thomas Reade Primary School
Fitzharrys School - Secondary
John Mason School - Secondary
Kingfisher School - Special Educational Needs - Ages 2 - 19
Abingdon and Witney College (Abingdon Campus) - Further Education - Ages 16+
Radley C of E Primary School
The Manor Preparatory School - Independent - Ages 2 - 11
St Michaels C of E Primary School
Sunningwell C of E Primary School
Sutton Courtenay C of E Primary School
Wantage C of E Primary School
Charlton Primary School
Fitzwaryn School - Special Educational Needs - Age 3 - 19
King Alfred's Academy - Secondary School plus 6th Form - Site 1
King Alfred's Academy - Secondary School plus 6th Form - Site 2
Stockham Primary School
Wantage Primary Academy - Primary School
Huckleberry Therapeutic School - Primary - Special Educational Needs
Wootton St Peters's C of E Primary School
6th Abingdon Scouts – Trinity
Challenger Explorer Scout Unit
2nd Abingdon Scouts
Oxfordshire Youth
Youth Challenge Oxfordshire
Girl Guides
Thames Ridge Scouts - Ages 6 - 25
Abingdon Sea Cadets
King Alfred District Scouts
Abingdon Young Farmers
The Abingdon Bridge
St John Ambulance Cadets
RAPID
DWI
GARD
Just stop oil

Extinction Rebellion
Alzheimer Society
Age UK Oxfordshire
The Archway Foundation
Christ Church - Sixty Plus - Abingdon
Oxford Jewish Congregation
Wilaya Trust
Al Ansaar - The Helpers
Oxfordshire Asian Women's Voice
Banbury Buddhist Group
Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre
St. Mungo's
Homeless Oxfordshire
Home Start - Southern Oxfordshire
Grove and Wantage Family Community Group (Grow)
Abingdon Carousel Family Centre
Abingdon Children And Family Centre
Response
Oxfordshire Mind
Headway Oxfordshire
Abingdon Community Support Service
Refugee Resource
Asylum Welcome
Abingdon Muslims
Syrian Sisters
Yellow Submarine
The October Club
My Vision Oxfordshire
Style Acre
Enrych Oxfordshire
Vale Community Impact
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale
Connection Support
Sean Woodcock MP
Olly Glover MP
Layla Moran MP
Anneliese Dodds MP
Freddie Van Mierlo MP
Charlie Maynard MP
Calum Miller MP



It's everyone's water