

Secretary of State c/o

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

24/10/2025

# South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project

# Section 46 Planning Act 2008 – Notification of Proposed Application

Dear Mr

I am hereby notifying you under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) that Thames Water Utilities Ltd intends to submit an application under section 37 of the Act for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate, and maintain the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project (the Project), directed by the Secretary of State as a project of national significance under section 35 of the Act.

The DCO application will contain full details on the Project and will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement in accordance with the Act and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).

## About the Project

The Project would include the following water and non-water infrastructure:

- A fully bunded 150 million metres cubed (Mm3) raw (untreated) water storage reservoir;
- A new pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows between the reservoir and pumping station;

- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows from the pumping station to the River Thames;
- A new intake/outfall structure on the River Thames from which the Project would abstract water to be stored in the reservoir and potentially form a future Severn to Thames Transfer ("STT") project;
- A new water treatment works ("WTW") in the vicinity of the reservoir to facilitate the Thames to Southern Transfer ("T2ST") project and associated pipework;
- A new main access road into the reservoir site from A415 Marcham Road;
- Diversion of the existing East Hanney to Steventon Road;
- Minor improvements to highways outside of the reservoir site including the A34 Marcham Interchange;
- Temporary rail sidings during construction;
- Provision for the Wilts and Berks Canal, to be provided as a water channel to allow for future provision of operational features such as locks;
- Public access, new active travel provision, parking, recreational facilities and public education facilities and buildings;
- Biodiversity habitat, priority areas for biodiversity and landscaping works;
- New recreational lakes:
- Watercourse diversions and associated areas to provide for flooding and ground water drains encircling the reservoir and associated floodplains;
- Provision of renewable energy infrastructure including floating solar, solar on structures and hydroelectric turbines. In addition, potential for ground mounted solar that is assumed to be included at this stage to replace three existing solar farms that would be lost as a result of the Project; and
- Other associated and ancillary development.

SESRO is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the EIA Regulations. As such, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which will inform consultation and the production of an Environmental Statement. We have previously notified the Secretary of State under regulation 8(1)(b) that we propose to provide an Environmental Statement by letter dated 28 August 2024.

#### Statutory consultation on the Project

Statutory consultation will run from 28 October 2025 to 11:59pm on 13 January 2026, which exceeds the minimum 28-day period prescribed by section 45(2) of the Act.

All consultation documents will be available from 28 October 2025 to 11:59pm on 13 January 2026 to view and download free of charge at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025.

Hard copies of the consultation documents will also be available on request and will also be available to view at Deposit Locations and Information Points identified in the Project's Statement of Community Consultation and on our website thamessro.co.uk/sesro. Details on how to request hard copies and any related charges are set out in the section 48 notice (and are also provided in the Project's Statement of Community Consultation).

#### **Enclosed documentation**

In accordance with section 46 of the Act, please find enclosed electronic copies of the following documents, comprising the consultation documents, supplied to relevant consultees in accordance with section 42 of the Act:

- 1. Template letter sent to consultees under section 42(1)(a) to (c) of the Act (including those prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009;
- 2. Template letter sent to persons with land interests as defined in section 44 of the Act, as required by section 42(1)(d) of the Act;
- 3. The notice publicising consultation on the proposed DCO application, in accordance with section 47 of the Act, as published in the following publications listed below;
  - The Oxford Times on Thursday 16 October 2025;
  - The Oxford Mail on Wednesday 15 October 2025; and
  - o The Herald on Wednesday 15 October 2025.
- 4. The notice publicising the proposed DCO application under section 48 of the Act, as published in the following publications listed below:
  - The Oxford Times on Thursday 16 October 2025 and Thursday 23 October 2025:
  - The Oxford Mail on Wednesday 15 October 2025 and Wednesday 22 October 2025;
  - The Herald on Wednesday 15 October 2025 and Wednesday 22 October 2025;
  - o The Times on Thursday 16 October 2025; and
  - The London Gazette on Wednesday 15 October 2025.

- 5. Statement of Community Consultation;
- 6. Statutory Consultation Brochure;
- 7. Draft Design Principles;
- 8. Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) including the Draft Code of Construction Practice;
- 9. Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR;
- 10. Map Book;
- 11. Delivering a sustainable legacy for people and nature; and
- 12. Feedback Form.

Supporting materials for the construction 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.

We would be grateful if you could please acknowledge that this section 46 notice has been received, as a record of compliance.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Engagement, Land and Consents



Title First Name Surname
First line of address
Second line of address
Third line of address
Postcode

[date]

# South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project

# Statutory Consultation under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the Planning Act 2008

Hello <name>,

We are writing to you regarding the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project ('the Project'). This letter has been sent to you to formally notify you of the statutory consultation on the Project which launches on 28 October 2025 and lasts for 11 weeks until 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. We have a statutory duty to consult you under section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') because you have been identified as a party with an interest in land as set out in section 44 of the Act in one of the following categories:

- You are an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land which is within the proposed draft Order limits for the Project;
- You have an interest in the land or have the power to sell or convey some of the land or release the land which is within the proposed draft Order Limits; or
- Your property or land may, in due course, be affected by the carrying out of or the use of the Project which may entitle you to bring a claim for compensation in the future.

As part of the identification process, you will have recently received a Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) recently relating to interests we believe you have in the Project through our initial investigations. It is very important that we confirm that we have correctly identified you and your interests in this land and property, therefore if you have not yet responded to the LIQ, please do, so that we can update our records and keep you updated as the Project progresses. If you have already responded to the LIQ, thank you, and you can disregard this point.

The Project is being promoted by Thames Water Utilities Ltd of Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 8DB. As a statutory undertaker, we are legally obligated to provide water and sewerage services to our customers. This includes responsibility for maintaining public water mains and sewers, as well as treating wastewater.

### The Project

The Project would include the following water and non-water infrastructure:

- A fully bunded 150 million metres cubed (Mm3) raw (untreated) water storage reservoir;
- A new pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows between the reservoir and pumping station:
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows from the pumping station to the River Thames:
- A new intake/outfall structure on the River Thames from which the Project would abstract water to be stored in the reservoir and potentially form a future Severn to Thames Transfer ("STT") project;
- A new water treatment works ("WTW") in the vicinity of the reservoir to facilitate the Thames to Southern Transfer ("T2ST") project and associated pipework;
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- Diversion of the existing East Hanney to Steventon Road;
- Minor improvements to highways outside of the reservoir site including the A34 Marcham Interchange;
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- Provision of renewable energy infrastructure including floating solar, solar on structures and hydroelectric turbines. In addition, potential for ground mounted solar that is assumed to be included at this stage to replace three existing solar farms that would be lost as a result of the Project; and
- Other associated and ancillary development.

The Project is vital infrastructure designed to provide a reliable and sustainable source of water for millions of customers served by Thames Water, Affinity Water, and Southern Water in Oxfordshire and the wider South East region. Located approximately 5km south-west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, the reservoir and strategic

inter-company water transfers will play a pivotal role in strengthening the region's resilience to climate change, population growth, and drought risk.

We sought and obtained a direction from the Secretary of State under section 35 of the Act which confirms that the Project will be treated as development of national significance for which development consent is required. We intend to make an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under Section 37 of the Act. It is anticipated that the proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of the Project and associated and ancillary development;
- The compulsory acquisition of land rights in or over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and the temporary use of land;
- The application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including that relating to the compulsory acquisition of land; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development as defined in the EIA Regulations. Therefore, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'), which will inform consultation and the production of an Environmental Statement.

#### The Statutory Consultation process

Our consultation runs for 11 weeks, from 28 October 2025 to 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. There are many ways you can get involved, find out more about the Project and have your say on the proposals. We have prepared consultation materials to explain our proposals, which include (among others):

- Statutory consultation brochure
- Feedback form
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
- Draft Design Principles
- Delivering a sustainable legacy for people and nature
- Map Book

All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the consultation period at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025.

Hard copies of the consultation materials can be requested by calling 0800 033 6677 or by emailing info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk. Printed copies of all consultation documents may also be requested, although a charge of up to £200 (including VAT, postage and packing) may apply.

The documents will also be available to view free of charge from the start of consultation at:

Location	Opening times
	Monday - Wed 9am - 7pm
Abingdon Library, The	Thursday - 9am - 1pm
Charter, Abingdon,	Friday - 9am - 7pm
OX14 3LY	Saturday -9am - 4.30pm
	Sunday - Closed
	Monday - 9am - 8pm
	Tuesday - Wednesday - 9am - 5.30pm
Wantage Library, Stirlings Road, Wantage, OX12 7BB	Thursday - 9am - 1pm
	Friday - 9am - 8pm
	Saturday - 9am - 4.30pm
	Sunday - Closed

## Land interest parties – drop-in sessions

If you would like to discuss the impact the Project may have on your land, we have a number of dedicated landowner appointments available. Appointments are on offer at the following times listed below.

Venue	Date	Time
Didcot Civic Hall	Wednesday 5	14:00 – 20:00
	November 2025	
Milton Hill House	Thursday 6 November	14:00 – 20:00
	2025	

Further appointments are also available during the statutory consultation period. Please call 0203 538 2517 to arrange your appointment.

#### Community information events

We are hosting seven in-person drop-in community information events where you can find out more about the Project and ask questions of the Project team.

Venue	Date	Time
Didcot Civic Hall, Didcot	Monday 10 November 2025	14:00-20:00
Abingdon Guildhall, Abingdon	Wednesday 12 November 2025	14:00-20:00
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay	Saturday 15 November 2025	10:00-16:00

Marcham Centre, Marcham	Thursday 20 November 2025	14:00-20:00
War Memorial Hall, East Hanney	Friday 21 November 2025	14:00-20:00
The Beacon, Wantage	Wednesday 26 November 2025	14:00-20:00
Milton Hill House, near Steventon	Thursday 27 November 2025	14:00-20:00

#### Online information events

We are also hosting two online events which 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 to the Project team. All webinars will present the same information. Details of how to register can be found on the consultation website at thames-sro.co.uk/events.

Webinar	Date	Time
Online information event 1	18 November 2025	13:00
Online information event 2	24 November 2025	19:00

### How to provide feedback

We encourage you to have your say on the Project by giving us your written feedback in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the online feedback form, accessible via the consultation website which you can find at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025;
- Email our dedicated consultation response email address at SESRO@ipsos.com;
- Fill in one of our printed feedback forms, which are available from one of our seven public information events, from locations within the community, or by requesting that one is posted to you by the Project team. Completed printed Feedback forms may be posted free of charge to FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION. Pre-printed envelopes with the FREEPOST address are available where there are printed feedback forms. No stamp is needed;
- Write to us free of charge at FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION.

All feedback must be received in writing by 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. Responses received after that date may not be considered. We cannot guarantee acceptance of consultation responses submitted via other channels.

If you have any questions about the consultation materials or process, please contact the Project team at info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk.

## Your sincerely,



Head of Engagement, Land and Consents

Please note that representations received and any accompanying personal data, such as the names of persons over 18, may be made public. Those not wishing their personal information to be made public should state so when submitting their representation. Responses and personal data may be provided to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate or other relevant statutory authorities in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. To find out about how we will manage your personal data please refer to our Privacy Notice www.thameswater.co.uk/legal/privacy-notice.



[Title First Name Surname First line of address Second line of address Third line of address Postcode]

# South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project

# Statutory Consultation under Sections 42(1)(d) and 44 of the Planning Act 2008

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you regarding the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project ('the Project'). This letter has been sent to you to formally notify you of the statutory consultation on the Project which launches on 28 October 2025 and lasts for 11 weeks until 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. We have a statutory duty to consult you under section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') because you have been identified as a party with an interest in land as set out in section 44 of the Act in one of the following categories:

- You are an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land which is within the proposed draft Order limits for the Project;
- You have an interest in the land or have the power to sell or convey some of the land or release the land which is within the proposed draft Order Limits; or
- Your property or land may, in due course, be affected by the carrying out of or the use of the Project which may entitle you to bring a claim for compensation in the future.

As part of the identification process, you will have recently received a Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) recently relating to interests we believe you have in the Project through our initial investigations. It is very important that we confirm that we have correctly identified you and your interests in this land and property, therefore if you have not yet responded to the LIQ, please do, so that we can update our records and keep you updated as the Project progresses. If you have already responded to the LIQ, thank you, and you can disregard this point.

The Project is being promoted by Thames Water Utilities Ltd of Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 8DB. As a statutory undertaker, we are legally obligated

to provide water and sewerage services to our customers. This includes responsibility for maintaining public water mains and sewers, as well as treating wastewater.

# The project

The Project would include the following water and non-water infrastructure:

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- Other associated and ancillary development.

The Project is vital infrastructure designed to provide a reliable and sustainable source of water for millions of customers served by Thames Water, Affinity Water, and Southern Water in Oxfordshire and the wider South East region. Located approximately 5km south-west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, the reservoir and strategic inter-company water transfers will play a pivotal role in strengthening the region's resilience to climate change, population growth, and drought risk.

We sought and obtained a direction from the Secretary of State under section 35 of the Act which confirms that the Project will be treated as development of national significance for which development consent is required. We intend to make an application for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under Section 37 of the Act. It is anticipated that the proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- The construction, operation and maintenance of the Project and associated and ancillary development;
- The compulsory acquisition of land rights in or over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and the temporary use of land;
- The application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Project including that relating to the compulsory acquisition of land; and
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development as defined in the EIA Regulations. Therefore, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'), which will inform consultation and the production of an Environmental Statement.

## The Statutory Consultation Process

Our consultation runs for 11 weeks, from 28 October 2025 to 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. There are many ways you can get involved, find out more about the Project and have your say on the proposals. We have prepared consultation materials to explain our proposals, which include the following (among others):

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- Draft Design Principles
- Delivering a sustainable legacy for people and nature
- Map Book

All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the consultation period at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025.

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	Friday - 9am - 7pm
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	Sunday - Closed
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	Friday - 9am - 8pm
	Saturday - 9am - 4.30pm
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### Public information events

We are hosting seven in-person drop-in public information events where you can find out more about the Project and ask questions of the Project team. You can register your interest for these events by visiting thames-sro.co.uk/events.

Venue	Date	Time
Didcot Civic Hall, Didcot	Monday 10 November 2025	14:00- 20:00
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#### Online information events

We are also hosting two online events which 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 to the Project team.

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### How to provide feedback

We encourage you to have your say on the Project by giving us your written feedback in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the online feedback form, accessible via the consultation website which you can find at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025;
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Yours sincerely,



Head of Engagement, Land and Consents

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Title First Name Surname
First line of address
Second line of address
Third line of address
Postcode

# South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project

Statutory Consultation under Section 42(1)(a) to (c) of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

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• Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development as defined in the EIA Regulations. Therefore, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR'), which will inform consultation and the production of an Environmental Statement.

Please also find enclosed a copy of the notice which publicises the proposed application, as required by Section 48 of the Act and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

## The Statutory Consultation process

Our consultation runs for 11 weeks, from 28 October 2025 to 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. There are many ways you can get involved, find out more about the Project and have your say on the proposals. We have prepared consultation materials to explain our proposals, which include (among others):

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Friday	9am - 8pm
Saturday	9am - 4.30pm
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#### Online information events

We are also hosting two online events which 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 the Project team. All webinars will present the same information. Details of how to register can be found on the consultation website at thames-sro.co.uk/events.

Webinar	Date	Time
Online information event 1	18 November 2025	13:00
Online information event 2	24 November 2025	19:00

## How to provide feedback

We encourage you to have your say on the Project by giving us your written feedback in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the online feedback form, accessible via the consultation website which you can find at thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025;
- Email our dedicated consultation response email address at SESRO@ipsos.com;
- Fill in one of our printed feedback forms, which are available from one of our seven public information events, from locations within the community, or by requesting that one is posted to you by the Project team. Completed printed Feedback forms may be posted free of charge to FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION. Pre-printed envelopes with the FREEPOST address are available where there are printed feedback forms. No stamp is needed;
- Write to us free of charge at FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION.

All feedback must be received in writing by 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. Responses received after that date may not be considered. We cannot guarantee acceptance of consultation responses submitted via other channels.

If you have any questions about the consultation materials or process, please contact the Project team at info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Engagement, Land and Consents

Please see the s48 notice enclosed.

Please note that representations received and any accompanying personal data, such as the names of persons over 18, may be made public. Those not wishing their personal information to be made public should state so when submitting their representation. Responses and personal data may be provided to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate or other relevant statutory authorities in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. To find out about how we will manage your personal data please refer to our Privacy Notice www.thameswater.co.uk/legal/privacy-notice.

#### South East Strategic Reservoir Option

# Notice publicising a Statement of Community Consultation in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

#### The project

Thames Water Utilities Ltd of Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 8DB ('the Applicant') is proposing to develop the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project ('the Project').

The Project would include the following water and non-water infrastructure:

- A fully bunded 150 million metres cubed (Mm3) raw (untreated) water storage reservoir;
- A new pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows between the reservoir and pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows from the pumping station to the River Thames;
- A new intake/outfall structure on the River Thames from which the Project would abstract
  water to be stored in the reservoir and potentially form a future Severn to Thames
  Transfer ("STT") project;
- A new water treatment works ("WTW") in the vicinity of the reservoir to facilitate the Thames to Southern Transfer ("T2ST") project and associated pipework;
- A new main access road into the reservoir site from A415 Marcham Road;
- Diversion of the existing East Hanney to Steventon Road;
- Minor improvements to highways outside of the reservoir site including the A34 Marcham Interchange;
- Temporary rail sidings during construction;
- Provision for the Wilts and Berks Canal, to be provided as a water channel to allow for future provision of operational features such as locks;
- Public access, new active travel provision, parking, recreational facilities and public education facilities and buildings;
- Biodiversity habitat, priority areas for biodiversity and landscaping works;
- New recreational lakes;
- Watercourse diversions and associated areas to provide for flooding and ground water drains encircling the reservoir and associated floodplains;
- Provision of renewable energy infrastructure including floating solar, solar on structures and hydroelectric turbines. In addition, potential for ground mounted solar that is assumed to be included at this stage to replace three existing solar farms that would be lost as a result of the Project; and
- Other associated and ancillary development.

The Project is vital infrastructure designed to provide a reliable and sustainable source of water for millions of customers served by Thames Water, Affinity Water, and Southern Water in Oxfordshire and the wider South East region. Located approximately 5km south-west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, the reservoir and strategic inter-company water transfers will play a pivotal role in strengthening the region's resilience to climate change, population growth, and drought risk.

The Applicant intends to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. As such, the Applicant has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which will inform consultation and the production of a final Environmental Statement.

#### **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

The Applicant is required to consult the local community on the Project, under Section 47 of the Act. The Applicant has prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which explains how people living in the vicinity of the Project will be consulted. The consultation process is designed to provide information on the Project, through the PEIR and other documents, plans and maps, and give the local communities the opportunity to have their say on the Project.

The Applicant has consulted with Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council in the development of the SoCC and the approach to the consultation process. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC, which can be viewed at **thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO**. Printed copies of the SoCC will be available to view free of charge at a number of local libraries from 28 October 2025 as set out in the table included in this notice.

#### The consultation process

Consultation on the project will take place from 28 October 2025 to 13 January 2026. The Applicant will be hosting a series of in-person and online public information events during November 2025. To find out more about these events visit **thames-sro.co.uk/events**.

All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the consultation period online at **thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025**. Members of the community will be able to view printed copies of the consultation documents free of charge at a number of local libraries which are set out below. Printed consultation brochures and feedback forms will also be available to collect free of charge from these locations.

Location	Opening hours	
Abingdon Library, The Charter, Abingdon, OX14 3LY	Monday – Wed	9am – 7pm
	Thursday	9am – 1pm
	Friday	9am – 7pm
	Saturday	9am – 4:30pm
	Sunday	Closed
Wantage Library, Stirlings Road, Wantage, OX12 7BB	Monday	9am - 8pm
	Tuesday - Wed	9am - 5.30pm
	Thursday	9am - 1pm
	Friday	9am - 8pm
	Saturday	9am - 4.30pm
	Sunday Clo	sed

From 28 October 2025, the Applicant will post out printed copies of the brochure and feedback form free of charge (one set per household) on request. Printed copies of all the consultation documents can also be requested, although there may be a charge for this, up to a maximum of £200 (including VAT, postage and packing). Visit **thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025** from 28 October 2025 for details.

From 28 October 2025, the Applicant encourages consultees to give written feedback on the Project in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the online feedback form, accessible via the consultation website at thamessro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025:
- Email our dedicated consultation response email address at SESRO@ipsos.com;
- Fill in one of our printed feedback forms, which are available from one of our seven public
  information events, from locations within the community, or by requesting that one is
  posted to you by the Project team. Completed printed Feedback forms may be posted
  free of charge to FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION. Pre-printed envelopes with the
  FREEPOST address are available where there are printed feedback forms. No stamp is
  needed;
- Write to us free of charge at FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION.

#### All consultation feedback must be received by 11:59pm on 13 January 2026.

For further information or assistance on this project and how you can be involved in the consultation process, please contact the Project team at **info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk** or leave us a message on our dedicated project freephone line at 0800 033 6677.

Please note that representations received and any accompanying personal data, such as the names of persons over 18, may be made public. Those not wishing their personal information to be made public should state so when submitting their representation. Responses and personal data may be provided to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate or other relevant statutory authorities in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. To find out about how we will manage your personal data please refer to our Privacy Notice www.thameswater.co.uk/legal/privacy-notice.

#### South East Strategic Reservoir Option

#### Section 48 Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice is hereby given that Thames Water Utilities Ltd of Clearwater Court Vastern Road Reading, RG1 8DB ('the Applicant') intends to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for development consent ('the Application') for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project ('the Project').

The Project would include the following water and non-water infrastructure:

- A fully bunded 150 million metres cubed (Mm3) raw (untreated) water storage reservoir;
- A new pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows between the reservoir and pumping station;
- A conveyance tunnel to transfer flows from the pumping station to the River Thames;
- A new intake/outfall structure on the River Thames from which the Project would abstract water to be stored in the reservoir and potentially form a future Severn to Thames Transfer ("STT") project;
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The Project is vital infrastructure designed to provide a reliable and sustainable source of water for millions of customers served by Thames Water, Affinity Water, and Southern Water in Oxfordshire and the wider South East region. Located approximately 5km south-west of Abingdon in Oxfordshire, the reservoir and strategic inter-company water transfers will play a pivotal role in strengthening the region's resilience to climate change, population growth, and drought risk.

SESRO is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. As such, the

Applicant has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which will inform consultation and the production of a final Environmental Statement.

Consultation on the Project will take place from 28 October 2025 to 13 January 2026. The Applicant will make available the PEIR, a non-technical summary (NTS) of the PEIR, a consultation booklet, Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and other documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project.

From the start of the consultation these documents and information will be available to view and download free of charge via the consultation website at **thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025**. The consultation documents and information will all be available for at least the duration of the statutory consultation period.

Printed copies of the consultation documents can be viewed free of charge at a number of local libraries. Printed consultation brochures and feedback forms will also be available to collect free of charge from these locations. The Project website at **thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025** includes details of these library locations and opening hours.

From 28 October 2025, the Applicant will post out printed copies of the brochure and feedback form free of charge (one set per household) on request. Printed copies of all consultation documents may also be requested although there may be a charge for this, up to a maximum of £200.00 (including VAT postage and packing).

The Applicant is hosting the following in-person public information events:

Venue	Time and date
Didcot Civic Hall, Didcot	Monday 10 November 2025, 14:00-20:00
Abingdon Guildhall, Abingdon	Wednesday 12 November 2025, 14:00-20:00
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay	Saturday 15 November 2025, 10:00-16:00
Marcham Centre, Marcham	Thursday 20 November 2025, 14:00-20:00
War Memorial Hall, East Hanney	Friday 21 November 2025, 14:00-20:00
The Beacon, Wantage	Wednesday 26 November 2025, 14:00-20:00
Milton Hill House, near Steventon	Thursday 27 November 2025, 14:00-20:00

The Applicant will also be hosting two online information events which require registration in advance. All online information events will present the same information and details of how to register can be found on the Project website at **thames-sro.co.uk/events**.

Online event	Time and date
Online information event 1	18 November 2025, 13:00
Online information event 2	24 November 2025, 19:00

From 28 October 2025, the Applicant encourages consultees to give feedback on the Project in one of the following ways:

- Fill in the online feedback form, accessible via the consultation website at thamessro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025;
- Email our dedicated consultation response email address at SESRO@ipsos.com;
- Fill in one of our printed feedback forms, which are available from one of our seven public
  information events, from locations within the community, or by requesting that one is
  posted to you by the Project team. Completed printed Feedback forms may be posted
  free of charge to FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION. Pre-printed envelopes with the
  FREEPOST address are available where there are printed feedback forms. No stamp is
  needed;
- Write to us free of charge at **FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION**.

#### All feedback must be received in writing by 11:59pm on 13 January 2026.

For further information please contact the Project team at info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk or leave us a message on our dedicated Project freephone line at 0800 033 6677.

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