



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Emma Hardy MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House, Abbey Close
Abingdon, OX14 3JE
executivesupportsav@southandvale.gov.uk

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11 February 2025

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January to the Secretary of State about the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Defra officials are currently considering the Planning Inspector's Report into the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Compulsory Purchase Order and the evidence to the inquiry, ahead of making their recommendation to me. In due course we will write to all interested parties to inform them of the outcome.

As you mentioned, following the autumn budget the government announced that we will be investing £2.65 billion over two years – 2024/25 and 2025/26 – into building, repairing and maintaining flood defences. The Environment Agency (EA) is currently going through its annual refresh process to determine which schemes are to receive funding in 2025/26. The list of schemes to receive funding will be consented by Regional Flood and Coastal Committees over the coming months, as per the EA's usual process. Once this has been concluded, we will publish the full list of schemes going ahead in April.

Yours sincerely,

EMMA HARDY MP