

The Rt. Hon. Emma Reynolds M.P.
Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food & Rural
Affairs
Seacole Building
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Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

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By email only

10 July 2026

Dear Ms Reynolds,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to the SESRO / White Horse Reservoir and Thames Water's potential application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in November 2026.

To assist the Vale in contributing towards a DCO Adequacy of Consultation milestone report, we are asking that Thames Water undertakes a targeted consultation covering the following areas of immediate concern:

- Flood risks – fluvial and groundwater.
- Dam breach analysis and emergency planning.
- The viability and effects of emergency drawdown.
- Water quality in the reservoir and water environment.
- Biodiversity analysis and net gain proposals.
- Construction and logistics strategy and related community impacts, including traffic effects and access and management of construction.
- Security implications of this unparalleled fully-bunded reservoir and major strategic asset.

In order to help achieve this, the council are, therefore, hoping HM Government will support our request to Thames Water for a targeted consultation to address these areas of concern.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council