

Nevil Muncaster
Strategic Resources Director
Clearwater Court
Vastern Road
Reading
RG1 8DB

Dear Mr Muncaster

SESRO – request for inclusion of South Abingdon in the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping

I am writing to you as Chair of Abingdon Town Council Planning Committee to highlight and ask for your help with our ongoing request for inclusion of South Abingdon in the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping, which had been omitted from the original scoping and needs to be included as a matter of urgency.

This area is in close proximity to the River Ock which is prone to both fluvial, ground and surface water flooding, which has been getting far worse over the last few years. I have attached a plan showing the area the Town Council feels must be included in view of comments that SESRO will increase ground water levels in the River Ock area.

The chain of events for the Town Council's request that South Abingdon to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping is:

- The request for inclusion was originally made in our submission to the Planning Inspectorate last year for the Scoping examination.
- Three flood events seriously affecting residents occurred in that area in 2024, two in very close succession.
- Multiple residents were flooded out on every occasion.
- Oxfordshire County Council completed a S19 Flood Incident Report early this year following those three flood events in 2024.

The Report led them to conclude that the area was one of the most vulnerable in the County. (copy attached).

- Abingdon Town Council contacted the Rt Hon Steve Reed, the Secretary of State at DEFRA concerning South Abingdon's inclusion following assertions from your Community Engagement Team that only Government could change the scoping boundaries and have to date received two replies from Rt Hon Emma Hardy.

The second letter from Ms Hardy confirmed that Thames Water set and can amend the boundaries for the Environmental Impact Assessment. (copy attached).

In view of that letter I would welcome your confirmation that this amendment can be made so that our understandably anxious and concerned residents are given the full and fair treatment and consideration they deserve.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Giddins

Cllr. Mark Giddins

Chair of Planning Committee

Cc:

Rt Hon Layla Moran MP

Councillor Bethia Thomas – Leader Vale of White Horse District Council

Lewis Purbrick - Flood Officer Oxfordshire County Council

Planning Inspectorate