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## THAMES WATER'S PROPOSED ABINGDON RESERVOIR IS NOT NEEDED

“There are far better, cheaper and more sustainable alternatives to the massive reservoir Thames Water wants to build, covering a site of some 5000 acres of prime agricultural land,” said GARD’s Chairman, Nick Thompson, announcing GARD’s new website [www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk](http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk).

“We urge local people and Thames Water customers to inform themselves of the issues by visiting this website. In addition to the disruption and impact on the villages adjacent to the construction site, Drayton, Steventon, Marcham and the Hanneys, this huge £1 billion proposal, if accepted, is likely to affect the whole locality, particularly Abingdon, both during and after the 9 year construction phase. Whilst the Environment Agency would not sanction the design if it increased the long term flood risk, the site displaces large areas of the existing flood plain west of Abingdon and also lies over a strip of pervious greensand so there are considerable engineering problems to be overcome.”

The Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) is proposing a range of viable alternatives which will more than meet Thames Water forecast increases in demand, specifically for London’s supply of water over the next 25 years.

“In their thousand of pages of plans Thames Water have ignored, distorted or dismissed many of the alternatives put forward by GARD, which include increased water re-use by conventional methods, and water transfer from the Severn into the Thames which was an option strongly advocated by the Environment Agency’s predecessor, the Water Resources Board, over 20 years ago.”

Nick Thompson added, “The new website explains the implications and risks of what Thames Water are proposing, and sets out what we, in GARD, are putting forward as much less costly and more environmentally sustainable alternatives. If approved, the Abingdon reservoir would greatly increase the asset value of Thames Water and would be paid for by their customers, and by their own admission it is by far the highest capital cost option.”