

Thames Water MYTH versus REALITY



“It’s another reservoir like Farmoor”. **NO!** It’s an experimental, untried design, none like it in Europe, a giant artificial tank for 150 million tons of water built above ground.

“There’ll be great leisure facilities – boating, horse riding, walking”. **NO!** The reservoir, too big for the site, leaves no room for ‘leisure space’. The water surface, 80 feet up in air with solar panels, has a risk of producing poisonous algae which would pollute the Thames once returned. The risk of invasive species and security risk mean high fences and no public access.

“There’s no increased flood risk”. **NO!** the site removes essential flood plain. There is also risk of CATASTROPHIC INUNDATION through accident or terrorism and no way of emptying the reservoir fast.

“It won’t cost us anything” **NO!** Customers will pay the £2 billion construction bill in water charges while Thames Water and shareholders take the profit, avoiding corporation tax. The value of our homes will be affected.

“The reservoir is an ecological and healthy idea”. **NO!** there’s risk to health from 10 years of noise, vibration, dust. Massive carbon cost of digging, moving, concreting, operating means that Oxfordshire’s net zero carbon plans are wrecked, along with the area’s biodiversity.

“The reservoir is the only way to deal with the water crisis”. **NO!** There are other plans that are better and cheaper.