

A different kind of GARD UPDATE We are still awaiting the decision of the Secretary of State on the Thames Water and Affinity plans. We know that the regulators (Ofwat and the Environment Agency) are not convinced of their proposals. We hear that a strategic study will be made on water supply for the whole of the South East (including a possible reservoir, but also other schemes advocated by GARD), with completion for decision in 2022. Watch this space

What's different about this update? We want to raise awareness about how lucky we are to have this countryside around us. As well as being good farmland, it has a varied wildlife and flora, and a rich history, all of which will be lost if the reservoir goes ahead. The area is home to a number of **Red Listed** farmland birds, including Lapwing (see below), Curlew, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Yellow Wagtail. It is the one area of true 'dark night' in the Vale, needed by Owls and the insects on which Bats feed. Ten years of arc-lit 24/7 construction site will destroy all that. The reservoir water will be too deep for most wildfowl, and the future site contains no shallow area for wading birds. Alfred the Great is said to have marched his troops on the Great Army Way from Wantage to Abingdon. Field markings indicate Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains as yet unexcavated - the Vale of the White Horse, of which this is a part, has a history of occupation back to Neolithic times. Digging out to a depth of 20 feet will remove every trace of historical remains

WORDSEARCH

R T L S W E P H I R C C S V L
 Z E R I A I I S I W U A L U J
 L L S G N Q Y O H A R O K Q C
 D A L I Q N V J A Y L P K X D
 S A N W L R E E N V E Q R G N
 E H W A E I G T N Z W T G E K
 M H L S C N E J E Q F D D Z G
 A I E N E K O N Y Q B O T N M
 H R G X G T C T C P Q J I I T
 T V C H T Q O R Y E P W B K K
 P A R T R I D G E A P Z C I H
 A U L Q B N A B R A R O I S N
 Q M H A Y P B L L M N D Z E E
 B C I G E T A R T S Q K D N S
 D E U R E T J M M T A Z T V G

In the WORDSEARCH, find these words:

ALGAE	HANNEY	PARTRIDGE
CANAL	LAPWING	RESERVOIR
CURLEW	LINNET	RESILIENCE
DRAYTON	OCK	STRATEGIC

ONE MORE **mystery word** – can you find it? Email your answer to gard.secretary@gmail.com

The back-cover picture is an accurate aerial representation of the reservoir plan. The **80-foot-high banks look tiny as the reservoir is so vast** – it dwarfs Steventon, Hanney and Drayton. Can you find your house on the view?

FLOODING 1/3 of the reservoir area, and much of the land to the North, is **ZONE 3 flood plain**, which planning guidance says should never be developed. Sealing this over means floodwater will not be able to spread as it currently does. Overleaf you can see the **deep channel** near Hanney planned to 'replace' flood capacity; but half of this channel is already part of Zone 3 and Thames Water have stated that they cannot be sure that they have enough room for flood compensation for their proposal. The reservoir's effect on the **flood risk** for surrounding villages is unknown, and it hems in the proposed Abingdon flood relief scheme - already struggling for lack of space.

FACT FILE: THE LAPWING In a 2017 bio-survey of the old Berks & Wilts Canal, there were many lapwings in the area.



Numbers in the UK are declining, and it is now on the RSPB **Red List**. It is also known as a **PEEWIT** in imitation of its display calls, but the name **LAPWING** describes its wavering flight. Its black and white appearance, round-winged shape in flight and splendid crest make it distinctive.



West Hendred

East Hanwell

Steventon

Drayton

Hatched area = Flood Zone 3
and continues up to the North

Help save our countryside - **JOIN GARD**
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