**Your address**

**Your postcode**

Re: Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Dear Councillor,

As the planning authority responsible for assessing the application, I wish to express my concerns about the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme and request that you raise the issue within the Council both with your colleagues and officers, other members of the consortium, and the Environment Agency.

While a flood alleviation scheme is desirable and necessary, there are serious concerns that the current Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme is fundamentally flawed on hydrological, environmental, and economic grounds. (see [www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com](http://www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com)).

As the lead agency, the EA needs to demonstrate that they are protecting Oxford and Oxfordshire with a scheme that is fit for purpose. I urge you to raise the matter and to also make direct representations to the appropriate authorities, on the following grounds.

* Is the scheme future proof as we face dramatically increased risks of flooding due to climate change? The controversial channel that could trigger local biodiversity collapse only carries 15% of flood-flow.
* At a cost of £150 million, does the scheme represent value for money, given that it is calculated many of the projected benefits would come from continuing the current flood alleviation measures and there has been no assessment of amenity, environmental services or carbon cost?
* The 5k controversial channel requires the removal of 700,000 tonnes of soil and gravel, threatens the rare plant community of MG4a grasses of Hinksey Meadow, and requires the removal of thousands of trees and acres of hedgerow, yet only delivers 5% of the value. Can the EA consider removing this component while retaining the more beneficial and less controversial elements of the scheme?
* What is the full carbon cost and effects on pollution of digging out 700,000 tonnes of alluvial soil and gravel and uprooting thousands of trees and acres of hedgerow?
* What effect will the increased pollution caused by 30-40,000 lorry journeys have on local residents, given that air pollution is a bigger killer than covid and flu combined?
* Could the council encourage the EA to expedite a whole catchment solution to the River Thames catchment area, in line with government commitments to halting biodiversity collapse and supporting Environmental Land Management under the new Environment Act?

By addressing these issues in advance of a planning application, the EA could avoid a costly public enquiry that could be triggered by landowners and residents’ statutory rights to objection. I would appreciate your interest in the challenge of balancing flood protection and the environment. But also, in promoting more holistic and more natural flood management solutions, which includes promoting regenerative, whole crop cover farming, across the whole catchment. Please keep me informed of any progress in this matter.

Best wishes,

**NAME**