



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

South Oxfordshire District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

Our Ref: FV00017

30 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Thames Farm development (Planning Applications P24/S2642/FUL, P24/S2652/S73 and P24/S2651/DIS)

I am writing to express my continued concern, and to reinforce concerns raised by a significant number of my constituents, regarding the above planning applications currently under consideration by South Oxfordshire District Council.

My primary concern centres on the impact these proposed developments may have on the local water supply. My constituents have raised with me the explicit risk of damage, diversion or contamination of the regions sole supply of drinking water, which serves approximately 50,000 local residents. Residents are concerned that the proposed works include unique and untested solutions, with some expressing their fears that this is essentially an ‘experiment which may or may not go wrong’.

Should these risks to the water supply be realised there could be very serious consequences for all residents, including those with additional vulnerabilities such as young families and elderly residents in care homes. The supply to my own family home may also be affected and there appears to be no clear contingency plan should the water become undrinkable or otherwise disrupted.

Additionally, I am concerned by the apparent absence of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment across these applications. As you are aware, I have previously written to Secretary of State Angela Rayner on this matter. It was determined by her department in October 2024 that a full Environmental Statement, as per the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, would be required before these developments could proceed. It is essential that a full assessment be conducted to ensure that both short- and long-term environmental impacts are properly understood and mitigated.

My constituents have also raised a number of other concerns in their responses to these applications.

I urge the Council to:

- Seek robust assurances from developers regarding water supply protection and contingency planning;
- Review the environmental information submitted with the applications to ensure that all relevant risks have been fully assessed, in compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
- Ensure that the concerns of local residents are given due weight in the planning process.

I ask that this letter be placed on the public record for the referenced planning applications. I would also welcome updates from the Council as matters progress.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freddie van Mierlo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Freddie van Mierlo MP

Member of Parliament for Henley and Thame