



## **Statement of Botley and North Hinksey Parish Councils' position regarding the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS).**

BNHPC (Formerly NHPC) has engaged with this topic in several ways. We have responded to the planning application, we have responded to the Compulsory Purchase Order request, we have written to the Vale of White Horse Leader of the Council and we continue to keep it as a standing item on our Planning Committee agenda in order to keep abreast of developments and to assess necessary actions as and when they become relevant.

A summary of the actions that BNHPC has engaged with are as follows:

1. BNHPC has objected to the OFAS planning application with the following.

### **"1. SUMMARY OF RESPONSE**

*1.1. North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) OBJECTS to the current plans for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, MW.0027/22. Although NHPC recognises the need for flood alleviation measures and supports many aspects of the scheme it does not agree the excavation of a large secondary channel as detailed in the proposal is necessary or desirable.*

*1.2. NHPC hopes the scheme will be revised, eliminating the secondary channel and modifying remaining elements as necessary.*

*1.3 NHPC recognises the interconnected nature of communities and the environment and has chosen not to limit its comments to matters within North Hinksey Parish.*

*1.4 NHPC also has concerns about the independence of the planning process for this application and the economic case for the scheme. "*

2. BNHPC has responded to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for part of Seacourt Stream as follows, as agreed by the Council on [19 October 2023](#) and confirmed to the Environment Agency in email exchanges.

*"Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council continue to object to the scheme as a whole, but should the scheme be granted permission we repeat our previous offer to grant reasonable access for the duration of the works."*

3. BNHPC has written to the Vale of White Horse District Council to request that they withdraw their support for OFAS as follows, as agreed by the Council on the [16 November 2023](#).

*"Dear Councillor Bethia Thomas,  
Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council*

*I am writing to you on behalf of Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council who are formally requesting that the Vale of White Horse District Council withdraw their support for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.*

*The Council met earlier in the month to discuss the matter and noted that while they are not opposed to the scheme in principle, they are opposed to the scheme as it stands currently and that the current scheme is not well supported by the parishioners.*

*The Council would like the District to please withdraw their support until such time as the concerns of the members of the public have been adequately heard and accommodated.*

*Kind Regards*

*Emma Gordon – Clerk*

*Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council "*

4. BNHPC approved a grant of £2000 to the to The Ferry Hinksey Trust as per the following request, as agreed by the Council on the [16<sup>th</sup> November 2023](#).

We are requesting a grant from NHPC of £2000 to assist us towards these costs in defending the priceless Hinksey Meadows from the devastation of the OFAS channel which will remove 4000 trees, destroy rare MG4 grasslands and close many rights of way.

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Should you want to find out more about the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, below is a list of links that gives a wide-ranging perspective of the issue.

Oxfordshire County Council Planning.

Application [MW.0027/22](#). (B&NHPC response submitted 27 May 2022.)

Environment Agency.

[Oxford Flood Scheme](#)

[Compulsory purchase order \(CPO\)](#)

Independent Public Inquiry.

[Helen Wilson Consultancy Ltd](#)

Other.

[Vale of White Horse District Council](#)

[Oxford Flood Alliance](#)

[Oxford Flood and Environment Group](#)

[Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#)

[Oxford Preservation Trust](#)

[Oxford Flood Map](#)

[Hinksey and Osney Environment Group](#)