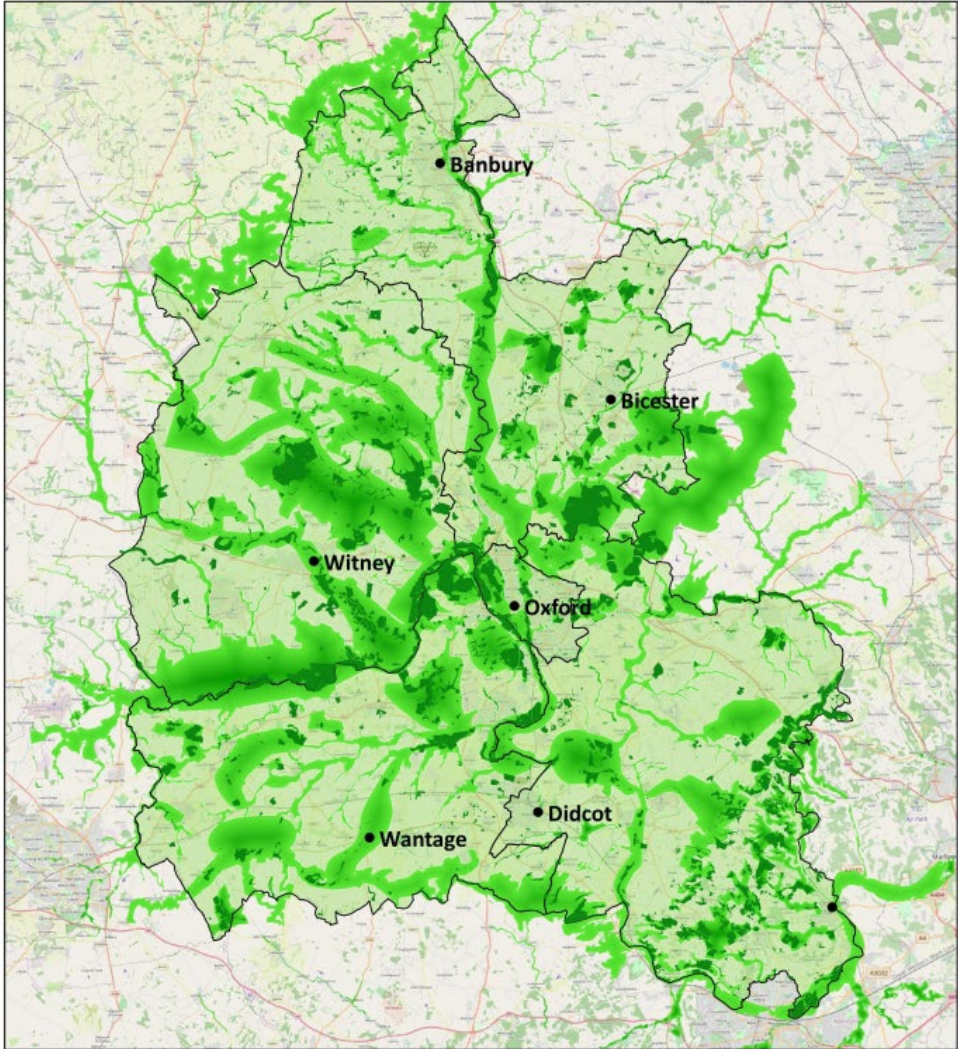


**Draft Oxfordshire  
Nature Recovery Network**



**Key**

**Nature Recovery Network**

- Core Zone
- Recovery Zone

**Boundaries**

- District Boundaries

Map produced by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre in 2020  
Contains TVERC data  
Contains OS data (c) Licence number 100023343  
Contains OpenStreetMap data

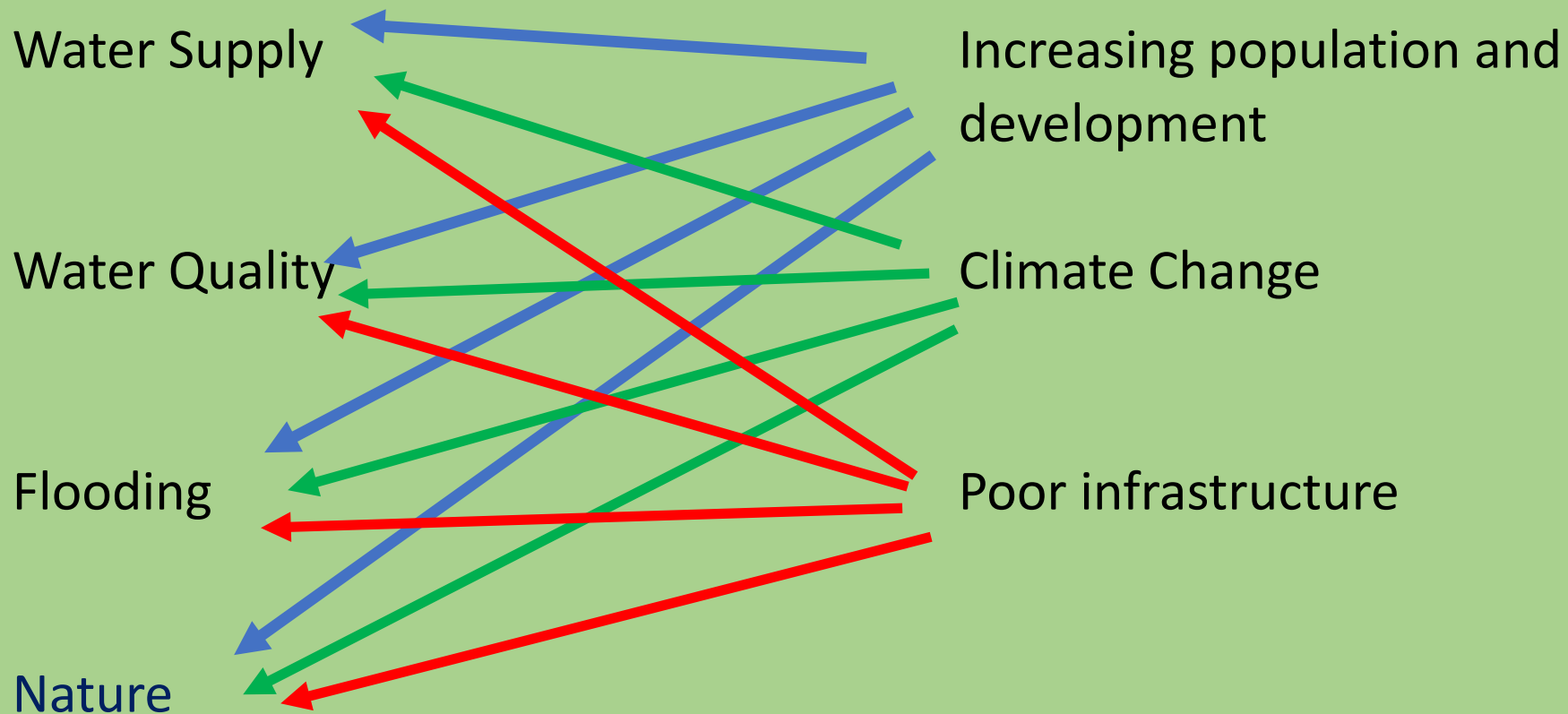
'Water in Oxfordshire: too much, too little, too dirty?'



The countryside charity  
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

# Issues and Pressures



*All the issues and pressures are inter-related*



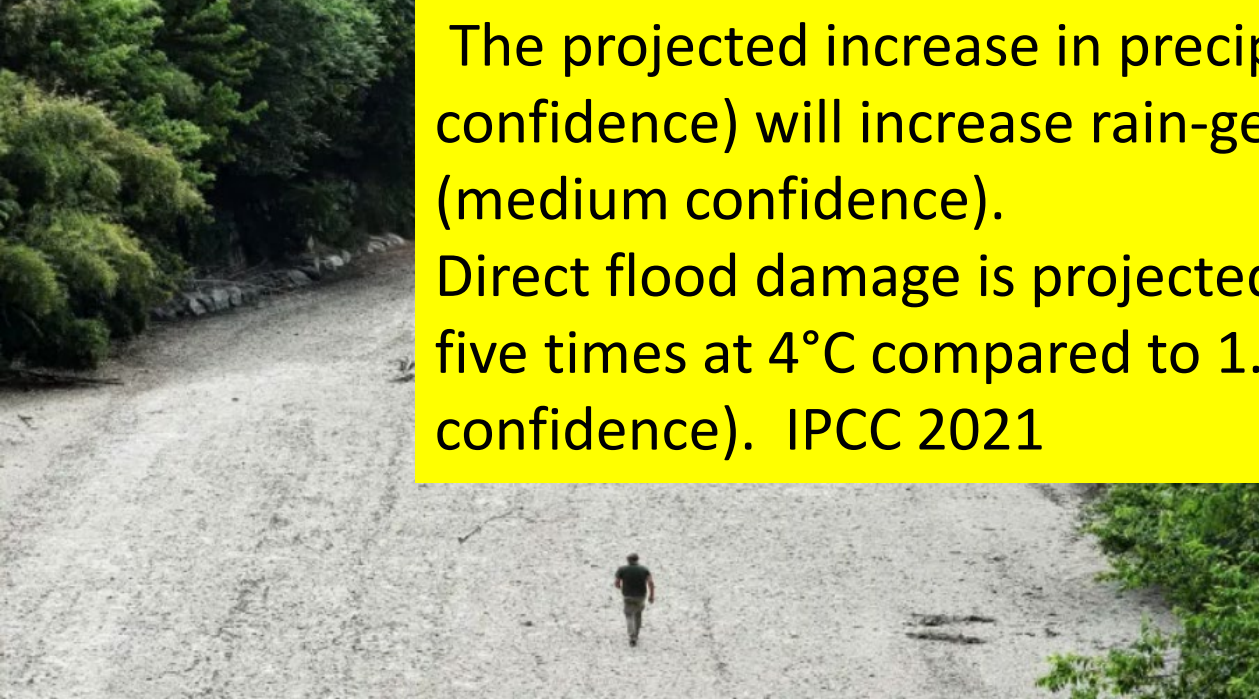
# Rhine Floods July 2021



Flood risks and societal damages are projected to increase with every increment of global warming (medium confidence).

The projected increase in precipitation intensity (high confidence) will increase rain-generated local flooding (medium confidence).

Direct flood damage is projected to increase by four to five times at 4°C compared to 1.5°C (medium confidence). IPCC 2021



# River Po 2022

## Increasing population and development pressures

- The Oxfordshire Growth Deal committed to 100,000 new dwellings between 2011 and 2030 – a 40% increase in houses (and population)
- The now defunct Oxfordshire 2050 Plan extrapolated this further proposing between 60,000 and 100,000 new houses between 2030 and 2050 - the most 'ambitious' growth scenario would double the number of houses in Oxfordshire between 2011 and 2050.
- Because Oxford City say they cannot expand most of this development would be in rural Oxfordshire

# Climate Change and Flooding

*UK Climate Change Risk Assessment on Future flood Risk (July 2020)*

**We are already seeing increased rainfall intensities and increased flooding**

- The number of people exposed to frequent flooding will rise from 1.9 million to 4.6 million by 2080
- In the absence of adaption climate change increases the annual damage for the UK by £4.2 billion for a 2°C rise and £6.9 Billion for a 4°C rise
- In the West Thames region the area of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land prone to flooding (1 in 30 year flood) more than doubles by 2080.
- The most socially vulnerable are exposed to the most flood risk.

# Climate Change and Flooding

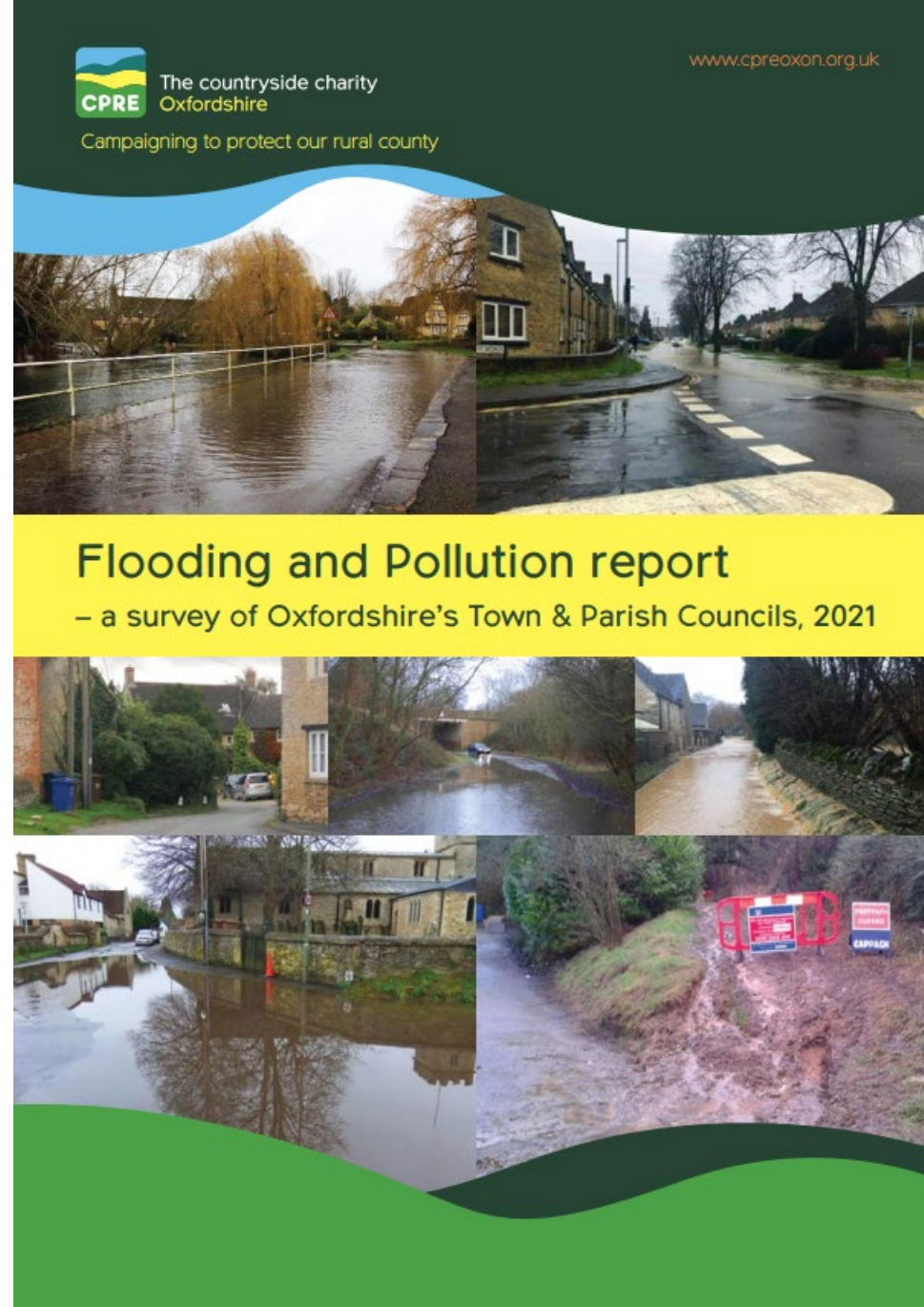
The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment on Future flood Risk (July 2020) recommends

- Land use planning
- Enhanced flood defence for vulnerable communities
- Forecasting and warning systems
- Nature based solutions, SUDS and Catchment Management
- Strengthening building regulations
- Measures could halve the flood risk and cost (from £6.9 billion to £3.1 billion)

**To avoid increasing flood risk we need to keep Global Heating to below 2°C**



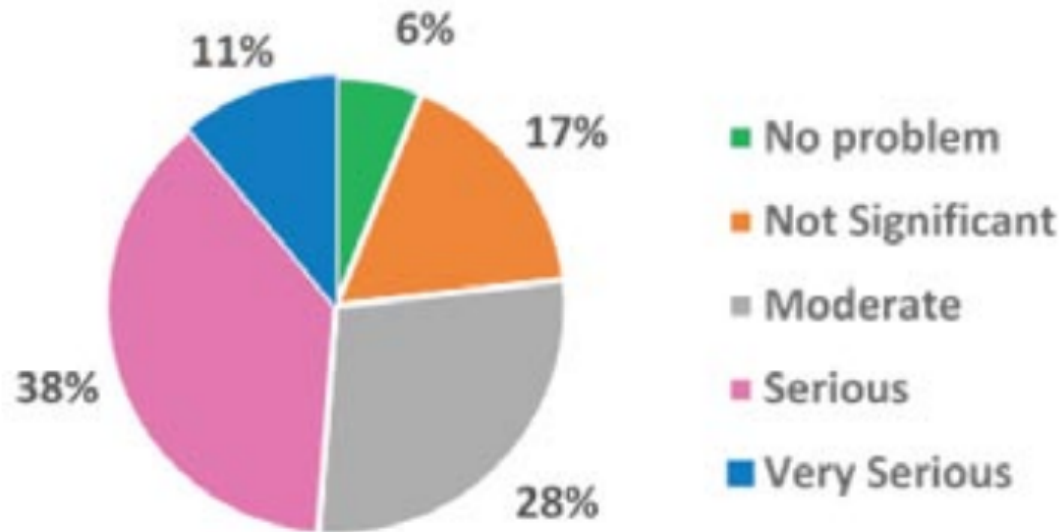
In 2021 CPRE consulted 318 Parishes and Town Councils. Of the 83 who replied the majority said they had problems with flooding or sewerage



We asked 17 questions:  
  
the full results are in  
our report on the CPRE  
Oxfordshire web site

### Question 1: How would you rate flooding as a problem in your Parish?

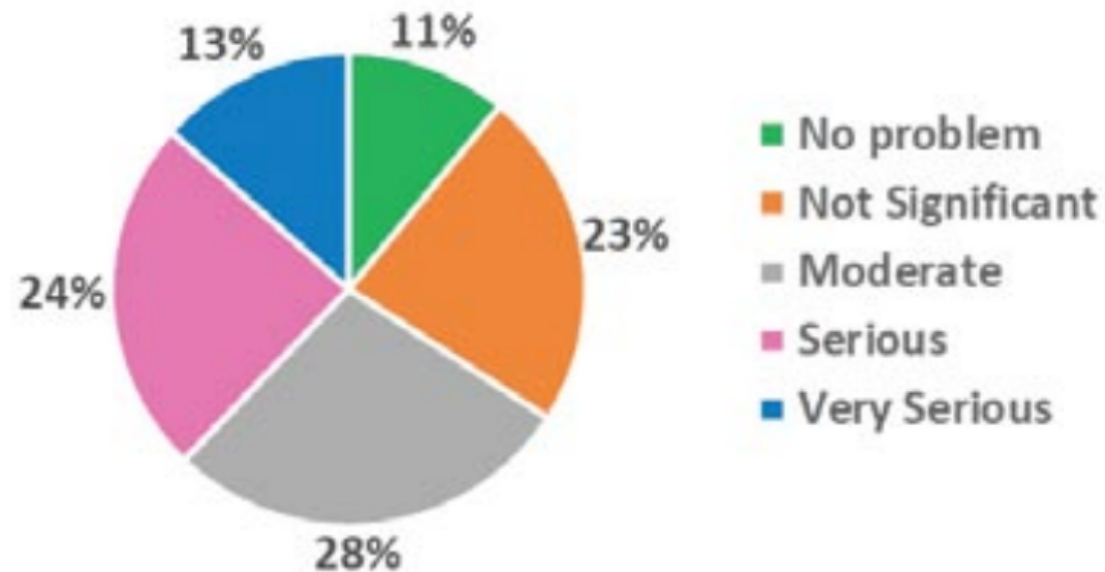
A large number of respondents (54) rated flooding as a problem in their area (Q1). Overall 11% (9 respondents) rated it as very serious issue. In terms of frequency (Q2), 24 respondents experienced flooding very frequently, and only 5% of respondents never experienced flooding.





#### Question 4: How would you rate sewage/sewerage infrastructure as a problem in your parish?

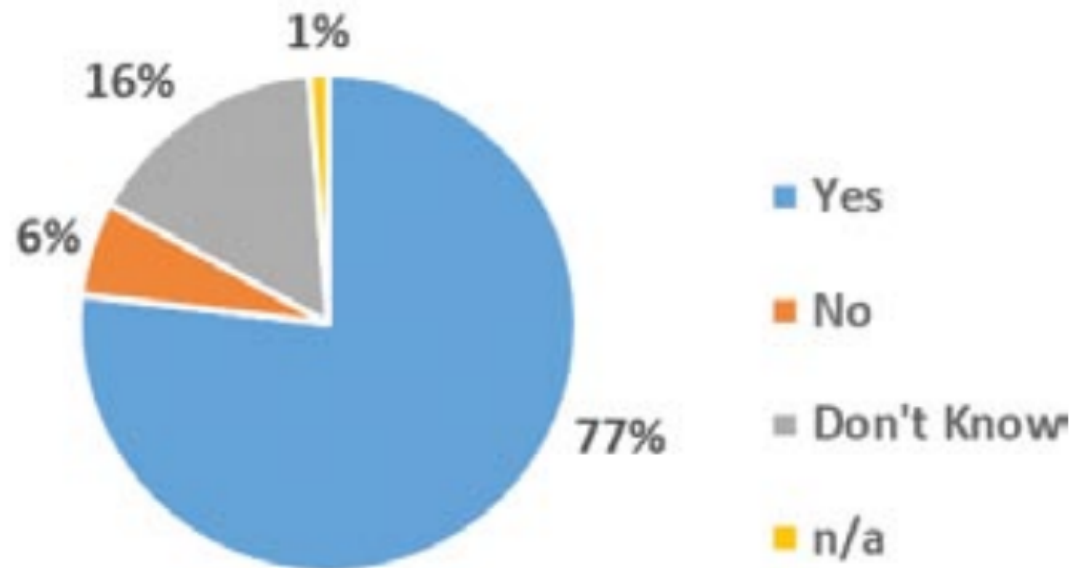
63 respondents rated sewage as an issue (Q4), with 13 having very serious problems. Typical problems were infrastructure failures and capacity issues associated with new developments.



*“The most significant risk is the flooding of the sewerage system which spills out raw sewage onto roads and into gardens when overwhelmed with flood water. Since we have no footpaths in the village, children catching school busses are forced to walk through this twice a day.”*

Question 6: Do you think sewerage facilities in your area should be improved to cope with demand from development to stop the use of storm overflow?

Most respondents were aware that Thames Water were allowed to discharge raw sewerage into rivers and the majority (77%) felt that their facilities should be improved to cope with new developments.



## Headline results from CPRE Flooding and Pollution Survey

At least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems.

At least 20% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience issues with sewage / sewerage infrastructure.

Climate change and the huge development pressures on Oxfordshire mean that flooding and sewage pollution events will only get worse unless substantial and sustained investment is made in our infrastructure. With the ever-increasing interest in the use of our waterways for nature and leisure, the protection and enhancement of our waterways must now be a high priority



# Thames Water draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) 2025 – 2050

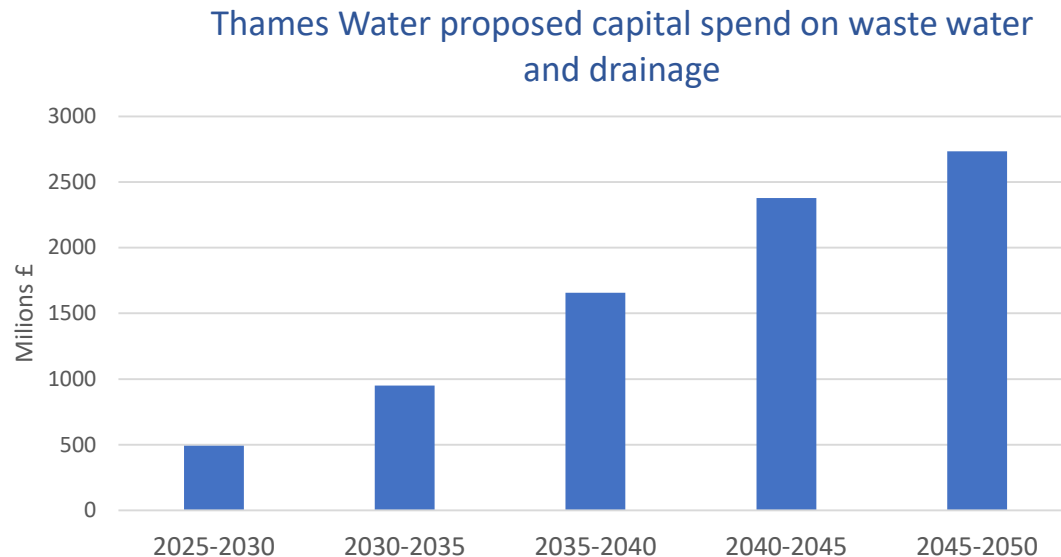
A plan target of no more than 10 storm overflows a year at overflow locations.

A long term aim remains to eliminate all discharges of untreated sewage, although, at present this cannot be accommodated within the 25 year planning horizon of the DWMP.

For property flooding a target of eradicating property sewer flooding risk in a 1 in 50 year storm return period.

Expansion of SuDS - scaling up to a total of over 7,000 hectares by 2050.

Invest £8.2 billion to ensure our drainage and wastewater treatment service in catchments in the Thames Valley is resilient to future challenges.



# Future Proofing Water Supplies - *why we need more water?*

**Changing demand** – increasing population, reducing consumption, reducing leakage

**Climate change** - dealing with future droughts

**Improving the environment** - reducing groundwater extraction

**Improving resilience** - only need drought restrictions for a 1 in 500 year drought

# Secure water supply for Oxfordshire (and the South-East)

Do we need a 6 square kilometre reservoir in the Oxfordshire?

CPRE and GARD say this is the wrong solution

- we should be looking at water transfers, desalination, water reuse and reducing water demand instead.





## CPRE call for:

Improved monitoring and enforcement of existing National policies and National targets for freshwater biodiversity and water quality

More ambitious targets for the Thames Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan

Strategic planning within Oxfordshire – with strong policies on wastewater and flooding

Independent assessment of planning applications and fully funded infrastructure provision

Specific policies in Neighbourhood plans for water and drainage

All Oxfordshire rivers should be Designated Bathing Waters

A rethink on the Abingdon Reservoir plans