

Villagers are objecting to reservoir on edge of city

By Andrew Ffrench

VILLAGERS in Wheatley fear a new reservoir to serve people in East Oxford will mean hundreds of lorries passing their homes every week.

Thames Water has submitted the application to build the reservoir, measuring 40m wide and 40m long, next to the existing Horspath Reservoir.

The additional facility is designed to improve the water supply in the East Oxford area over the next 25 years.

According to the planning application submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council, the new concrete reservoir will be on land owned by the Oxford City Council, which is designated under South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan as Green Belt.

Janet Carr, chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council, who is a district councillor for Wheatley, said: "This is a massive issue for the village because the latest reports we are getting suggest that there could be 85 vehicle movements a day during the construction.

"Wheatley is the village in the area that will be most affected by this."

If the application is approved, work could start in August and last for 10 to 14 months.

Wheatley Parish Council has objected to the plan.

Thames Water spokesman Craig Rance said: "On two occasions there would be increased vehicle movements of up to 65 lorries but these will be exceptional cases when the concrete structure is being poured."