

Philip Shucksmith's Objections to the Proposed Alvingham Reservoir

On behalf of my brother and myself who farm as partners, I object to our land being taken for this scheme proposed by the North East Lincolnshire Water Board. We are affected at both the east and west ends of the proposed works.

I have made myself fairly conversant with the reasons put forward by the Water Board Engineer since it was first made public knowledge and I have thoroughly studied the statement explaining the reasons for the Great Eau Scheme – Phase II. I am far from being convinced of the necessity for this scheme. Firstly, I am startled at what can only be described as a deplorable lack of forward planning regarding future consumption. Secondly, I personally see the Louth Canal daily and the amount of water flowing down it at all times of the year could be used much more efficiently than it is at present without having to construct another storage reservoir. Thirdly, I am given to understand that water from the Trent Ancholme Scheme is not as preferable for industry as the Great Eau Scheme water, simply because it is cheaper in price and not because of its quality. Why should we subsidise industry at the expense of our land? Fourthly, I am also given to understand that the most efficient use of water is not made by some factories on the Humber bank and that provision has been made in them for more effective use if they are prevailed upon to do so.

I make this objection with some feeling, having lived all my life in this village which is largely unspoilt by modern development. I consider it to be a retrograde step to have this scheme inflicted upon this village in general and on farmers in particular. The statement says that water is to be stored to a depth of 50 feet in the proposed storage reservoir. I view this with some alarm as the site is in a raised elevation to a substantial number of the houses in the village and that amount of water would be uncomfortably close if an accident occurred. Moreover, I understand that the Covenham Reservoir has never been completely filled yet and I am left wondering if it is safe to fill or if it is being used as a more convincing argument for this scheme. I take a dim view of the fact that this proposed reservoir will be a place of leisure for sailing enthusiasts - the sea is quite near - or for boat racing and water skiing for the affluent few, or as a habitat for hordes of flies. If it is once made it must be there for all time, even worse than a coal mine tip and I am sure very careful thought must be given before this scheme is embarked upon to cover such a short period before a regional water policy becomes effective.

Finally, as members of the National Farmers Union, we have asked them to represent our interests in this matter.