

North Witney Action Group (NWAG) Comments

Proposed Scheme

4.21 The statement “**the construction being completed over 10 years**” is totally unacceptable to the local community in terms of uncertainty, the environment, noise, disruption, traffic, and the quality of life. It would blight a large part of north Witney, including the value of homes. We believe this statement has been made because of the fundamental underlying doubt of the SDA as a viable site and this statement of work for a decade reflects the uncertainty on the balance sheet of the financial viability of the overall project.

Traffic and Access

7.14 The actions proposed introduces a completely new scenario, requiring new data and a disregard for the Planning Inspector’s explicit requests in the 2031 Local Plan. This states that you cannot build the North Witney SDA without the West End Link (WEL). Why is WEL2 excluded in this statement? What are the consequences of the exclusion on the EIA? Why is it outside the process?

Water Environment, Technical Baseline

11.24 Stage 2 claims the development (Proposed Scheme) “**is unlikely to affect the implementation or effectiveness**” of the local River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). We completely disagree with this unquantified statement. This disregard for empirical evidence is reinforced in the statements of dismissal in **11.25**.

OCC & Thames Water Submissions

We reinforce the submissions made by the two statutory bodies on **Traffic, Flooding, and Infrastructure**. To the Thames Water statement on infrastructure, we would add the need to rebuild the sewage infrastructure across the town from north Witney to the sewage treatment plant in south Witney. No development should take place until all infrastructure is in place.

Previous Consultations and Submissions

Nothing in the May 2023 ‘Scoping’ EIA removes or satisfies any of the factual evidence submitted by NWAG over six consultation submissions. For reference these were submitted in:

For WODC 2031 Local Plan - June 2016, December 2016, June 2017, December 2017, May 2019.

For WODC 2041 Local Plan - September 2022.