

**The Oxfordshire County Council (A40 Access to Witney)
Compulsory Purchase Order 2023**

**The Oxfordshire County Council (Highways Infrastructure – A40
Access to Witney) Side Roads Order 2023**

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE:

DPI/U3100/23/25

**Summary Proof of evidence of
Gareth William Slocombe
(Deliverability and Funding)**

1 INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- 1.1 I am Gareth Slocombe, and I am a Senior Project Manager at Oxfordshire County Council, where I have been on secondment from AtkinsRéalis since August 2022. I hold both a BSc and MSc in Project Management, I am a Chartered Construction Manager (Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB)) and a Chartered Project Professional (Association of Project Managers (APM)).
- 1.2 I have 10 years' experience in project management of transport infrastructure delivery, where I have delivered both rail and highway infrastructure projects for Transport for London and Transport for Wales. In my role, I am responsible for the team that is delivering the A40 Access to Witney project. I am responsible for the management of two Project Managers working on the A40 Access to Witney project.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

- 1.3 This summary proof of evidence has been prepared regarding the deliverability and funding for the Scheme and the Orders. I also consider the grounds of objection raised by statutory and non-statutory objectors insofar as they relate to my area of expertise.
- 1.4 The Orders relate to the delivery of improvements to the existing junction of the A40 Principal Road, the B4022 and the C16886 South Leigh Road at its junction with the B4022, at Shores Green, Witney at the location of the junction of the A40 with the B4022. The Scheme is known as the A40 Access to Witney Scheme.
- 1.5 My summary proof of evidence should be read in conjunction with my full proof of evidence and other separate but interrelated proofs of evidence submitted on behalf of the Council: Philippe Nirmalendran; Bal Tiwana; Theo Genis; Alison Morrissy; Nicholas Blades; Jessica Bere

2 LOCATION OF THE SCHEME AND ORDER LAND

- 2.1 The Scheme is located to the South-East of Witney at the existing junction of the A40 principal road, the B4022 and the C16886 South Leigh Road at a location known as Shores Green, Witney.

3 SCHEME COSTS, PROCUREMENT AND FUNDING

SCHEME COSTS AND PROCUREMENT

- 3.1 The scheme has utilised several subject matter experts with previous experience of similar schemes to develop a robust Estimated Final Cost (EFC) of the scheme. Since its inception, the scheme EFC has increased from £13.9m to £25.025m following the onset of COVID-19, increased inflation, and other additional expenditure items.
- 3.2 The EFC has considered all of the previous and forecast costs for activities to deliver the scheme in its entirety, including such costs as land acquisition, delivery, statutory undertaker diversions, overheads and risk.

- 3.3 The actual and forecast costs are reviewed and assured through the regular reporting requirements of the Council. This process provides assurance of the schemes progress and ensures that the scheme is delivered within its financial boundaries.
- 3.4 For each key stage gate, the scheme has progressed through the Council governance process obtaining relevant approvals where required, including Cabinet or Board approvals for the Scheme business case and material change.

Funding

- 3.5 The scheme is funded by the Housing Growth Deal and contributions from land developers via Section 106 (S106) obligations.
- 3.6 The S106 funds are in the form of secured (already paid to the Council) and unsecured (currently being negotiated by the Council). Where the funds are unsecured, the Council has taken to underwriting the amount. The Council is fully committed to funding the scheme to its delivery through the Housing Growth Deal and S106 contributions.

4 DELIVERY OF THE SCHEME

- 4.1 The Scheme has carefully considered the area required to safely deliver the scheme and has identified the permanent and temporary land requirement. Consideration has been given to ensure that the land requirements are justified and are not excessive.
- 4.2 The Scheme has consulted with SME's and developed a robust and achievable programme of work to deliver the scheme. All of the necessary activities to deliver the scheme have been identified and have been captured in a plan of works. Risks have been identified and are being managed with opportunities for acceleration being reviewed for exploitation.
- 4.3 The Scheme recognises that it has several planning conditions that are required to be discharged prior commencing delivery. The scheme has a robust process in place to provide the relevant items to meet the planning conditions and these activities are captured in the programme of works.

5 STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS

- 5.1 The Scheme has identified the Statutory Undertakers that will be impacted by the scheme.
- 5.2 Where a diversion of apparatus is required, the scheme has agreed a scope with the relevant Statutory Undertaker and is proceeding with formal agreements.
- 5.3 Where a Statutory Undertaker has identified the need for their apparatus to have a protection agreement, the scheme has made the necessary provision to obtain the protection agreement.

5.4 The Scheme has also agreed a Unilateral Undertaking with South Leigh and High Cogges Parish Council to facilitate the introduction of traffic calming measures along South Leigh Rd, Chapel Rd and Station Rd.

6 OBJECTIONS TO THE ORDERS

6.1 The scheme has received an objection from Southern Gas Networks (SGN), who are a Statutory Undertaker. SGN objected to the scheme as they believed that their apparatus in the area were at risk from the scheme unless provisions were put in place to protect them. SGN requested that an Asset Protection Agreement (APA) was put in place to assure the protection of their apparatus. The terms of the APA were agreed between the Council and SGN on 15/02/2024 with SGN committing to removing their objection upon signature, which at the time of writing is being progressed.

7 STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND DECLARATION

7.1 My statement of truth is contained in full within section 6 of my proof of evidence. I can confirm that the contents of that section apply equally to my summary proof of evidence.



Gareth William Slocombe

20/02/2024