

Briefing Note for Witney Town Council – Footpath/Cycle Connections affecting WTC land – East Witney Development

WODC is seeking ‘in-principle’ support from Witney Town Council to assist with discussions with the developer of the East Witney Strategic Development Area in connection with the provision of footpaths and cycle ways from the development to the town centre.

Further information is available in the OCC document ‘**Identification of Selected Cycling Infrastructure Enhancements in East Witney FINAL REPORT June 2020**’ at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/area-strategies>.

The attached plan shows four areas of land, owned by the Town Council, that are affected.

1. Eton Close Play Area

In order to improve connectivity from the southern part of the allocated site towards the town centre we would like to propose a new route through the Eton Close Play Area. This could connect to existing foot/cycle provision at Eton Close to Stanton Harcourt Road, and ultimately on to Farm Mill/Witan Way.

2. Manor Rd/Cogges Hill Rd

The developer is proposing a new route from Cogges Hill Rd, along a linear route between housing at Manor Rd and Cogges Hill Rd. This would cross the meadow and a new bridge, landing close to the entrance of the Country Park. It is possible that WTC land may be affected in this area. The location of a bridge or the alignment of a route across the valley from Stanton Harcourt Rd has not yet been agreed.

3. Country Park

There are other opportunities at the Country Park but at this time look more unlikely. A more southerly route for the path could land in the Country Park and involve upgrading a section of the existing riverside path. There are alternatives around Farm Mill that could cross publicly owned land but at more expense. Much depends on how a new safe crossing point along Witan Way could be provided.

4. Wadards Meadow/Oxlease Open Space

Proposals have been put forward by the developer and OCC to upgrade routes from the entrance to the development on Cogges Hill Road towards Cogges Manor Farm and the town centre. There doesn’t seem to be agreement at this stage on the best approach but all the proposals would affect WTC land.

It would be helpful if the Town Council could confirm that it would be supportive of further discussions about these aspects of the East Witney development that affect WTC land and equally to let us know if there are any specific aspects that would not be supported.

Nick Dalby
WODC
15/01/2021