

SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY M.40  
WATERSTOCK TO WENBLEBURY SECTION

My name is Michael Farthing. I am the Incumbent of the parishes of Wheatley, Forest Hill (including Shotover and Sandhills) and Stanton St. John and I live at The Vicarage, 18 London Road, Wheatley.

I have discussed this matter with parishioners and church officers. We recognise the need for a Motorway but agree that the department of Transport published route would be greatly superior to the alternatives proposed for the following reasons:-

First. The published route avoids such highly populated areas as Wheatley, Sandhills, Risinghurst and Headington.

Second Each of the alternative routes which would use the existing A 40 between Wheatley and Thornhill, i.e. C3, C4 and all the D routes would greatly increase the necessary travelling for me and my assistants.

Third D1, D2, D3 and D6 would cut off Sandhills from the rest of Forest Hill parish. C3 and C4 would actually divide the village of Stanton St. John.

Fourth C3 and C4 would pass very close to the ancient church of Stanton St. John, causing noise which could disturb worship and fumes which could damage the fabric.

Fifth The D routes threaten the other ancient church of Forest Hill in the same way. In addition these routes pass through or very near the old Vicarage at Forest Hill, now known as Southend. This property belongs to the Diocese of Oxford and is used to house diocesan officers. All the B routes pass near enough to destroy all amenities for anyone living there.

Sixth The Oxford Crematorium lies in the parish of Stanton St. John. Both routes D3 and D4 would very seriously interfere with the peaceful ambience which is so greatly valued by people from a very wide area. Any disturbance of this dedicated ground would be quite unacceptable. Traffic problems would be greatly increased for funeral parties and for officiating ministers who often come from considerable distances. Thousands of the bereaved would suffer if it were no longer possible to hold the annual open-air service.

In general any of the D or C routes would gravely reduce the quality of life of my parishioners; many of them have lived all their lives in these rural villages, while others have chosen to make their homes there in the hope of a peaceful environment.

Whatever route is chosen, I must emphasise the importance of opening this section of the motorway at the same time as that from Warwick to Wendlebury. The B 4027, a narrow and winding road., is already unsuitable for the traffic it carries. If a greatly increased volume of traffic were forced onto it, it would become a death-trap for the elderly and children as well as for motorists. I am chairman of trustees of the Dame Holford Trust who manage the Holford Centre (Stanton St. John old school) which is used not only by local people but for such purposes as meetings of the Bishop's Council. People using the Centre already find the traffic on the B 4027 very dangerous.

In conclusion: for the reasons stated I support the published route and I agree with the objections made by Wheatley and Stanton St. John Parish Councils to the proposed alternatives.