

Wheatley loses the M40 services fight

THE site for a new M40 motorway services area in Oxfordshire has been chosen.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer MP, has backed the inspector who conducted a public inquiry and chosen land round the Wheatley interchange and gipsy site.

He rejected plans for services at Tetsworth, Lewknor, Stokenchurch : or Booker.

The Forte development on land at Lower Farm, Thame Road, Waterstock, will include a service area, petrol and diesel refueling, restaurant, shops, a travelodge hotel, picnic area, toilets, parking for coaches and heavy goods vehicles and a police post.

All the planned sites would do damage to the environment, but the Wheatley site would do least, said the Environment Secretary

The news has been greeted with dismay round the site, but delight elsewhere.

Tetsworth campaign leader Michael Kemp said: "We are enormously relieved that the MSA will not be in the middle of this lovely area.

"We all stood together to try to ensure it did not fall within south Oxfordshire and we feel great sympathy for our friends at Wheatley.

"But logic says it is the least environmentally damaging because so much damage has been done there already."

THE site for a new M40 motorway services area in Oxfordshire has been chosen.

The Environment Secretary, Mr John Gummer, has backed the inspector who conducted a public inquiry and chosen land round the Wheatley interchange and gipsy site.

He rejected plans for services at Tetsworth, Lewknor, Stokenchurch or Booker.

The Forte development at Lower Farm, Thame Road, Waterstock, will include a service area, petrol and derv refueling, restaurant, shops, a travelodge hotel, picnic area, toilets, parking for coaches and heavy goods vehicles and a police post.

All the planned sites would do damage to the environment, but the Wheatley site will do

'Least environmental harm' says Minister

Wheatley loses out in M40 service station battle

least, said the Environment Secretary

The news has been greeted with dismay round the site but delight elsewhere.

Tetsworth campaign leader Michael Kemp said: "We are enormously relieved that the MSA will not be in the middle of this lovely area."

But Mrs Lesley Thomas, who represents Wheatley and surrounding parishes on the district council, said there was "widespread dismay" at the decision.

"It has come as a considerable shock," she said.

Mr Gummer said the need for a service area is great and he could not justify dismissing all the appeals.

He said Wheatley "would cause the least environmental

harm of all the competing proposals".

Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council both objected strongly to any site within the county

Major fears are that the new site will give impetus to a new road from the south coast ports over a third Thames bridge and on a motorway type road to the M40 at Wheatley which will provide a major east-west north-south crossroads.