

Appendix 8: Statements from parishioners using the route for many years

Contents:

- Introduction
- The Plan referred to in parishioners statements
- Statements by parishioners on their experience of the route over the land that is the subject of the draft Stopping Up order.

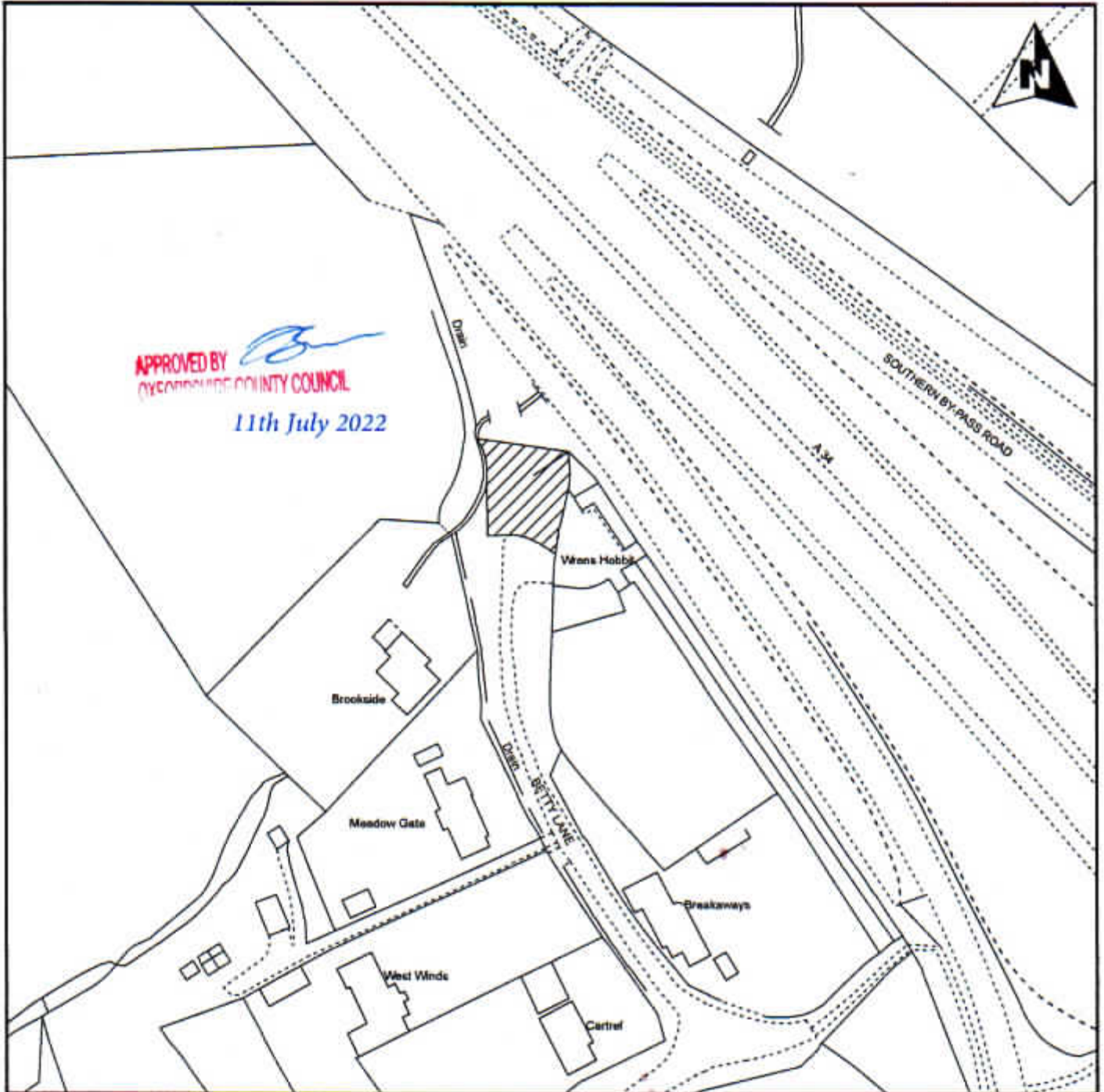
Introduction

Confidential information relating to named individuals has been redacted from these statements. Redacted information is available to the Inspector in confidence on request.

1. This extract of the highway record plan is derived from a variety of sources of differing quality/accuracy, which to a large extent is inevitable given the piecemeal development of the highway. The colouring indicates the general boundaries of the highway (not an exact line), except where there is a roadside ditch the highway boundary is usually the roadside edge of the ditch.

2. It is presented on an Ordnance Survey base and such maps are drawn by them according to their prescribed practices. They are not topographic surveys and should not be considered as such. We may also hold historic background papers and are able to provide these, there may be an additional charge for these documents.

South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit: Betty Ln - Proposed Stopping Up




1:1,250

451,092 203,623

Plot Date: 05/07/2022

Oxfordshire County Council
Highway Records

KEY
 Proposed Stopping Up V2

Declaration --- Use of Path from Betty Lane

I [REDACTED] do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1 I lived for 52 years continuously over the period from 1968 to 2020 at [REDACTED] which is in the Parish of South Hinksey.
- 2 As I have lived in Betty Lane in the Parish of South Hinksey I am very familiar with the Property which is shown crosshatched on the attached Oxfordshire County Council Plan that is titled "South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit:Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up" and dated 05/07/2022 and date-stamped 11th July 2022 (the **Plan**). I am also very familiar with other areas of land surrounding the end of Betty Lane.
- 3 I understand that the Property shown crosshatched in the Plan is currently the subject of a draft Stopping Up Order.
- 4 There is a path which leads from Betty Lane over the Property and continues on the area of land beyond to approach the verge of the A34 National Highway (the **Path**).
- 5 The Property is the end section of a publicly maintained road known as Betty Lane (**Betty Lane**).
- 6 I have in the past regularly used Betty Lane, OX1 5BW, as a public footpath to its end, including both the Property as the end-portion of OCC highway and also the area of land beyond it, which now leads to the verge of the A34 National highway. I used this path regularly in an open and non-secretive manner and never asked permission. I used it from when I became resident at [REDACTED] Until the construction of the A34 National highway in about 1970 I used the path to reach the verge of the three-lane southern bypass so as to walk across the bypass to the stile and pathway that continued on to the village of South Hinksey. Many people from Hinksey Hill and the surrounding areas frequently walked down Betty Lane past my front gate and across the Property to reach destinations beyond including South Hinksey Village and also the market gardens and other amenities in the area that is now occupied by the Oxford Garden Centre. During the time that I was resident in Betty Lane up until my departure in 2020 I regularly accessed and crossed the property to keep it tidy as highway verge adjacent to my home. During this time I also regularly crossed the property to reach the land beyond, partly so that I could keep clear the ditch and culvert that carries a stream and storm water from Brookside and from Betty Lane through a culvert to flow on under the A34 national highway.

- 7 To the best of my knowledge the Property has been open for access and used to pass and repass on foot to access with or without dogs the Path and Betty Lane at all times of the day and night .
- 8 To my knowledge, since at least 1968 and until I ceased to live in Betty Lane on [REDACTED] 2020 the Property has been used regularly and as the means of access to and from the Path from Betty Lane and to the best of my knowledge and belief openly as of right and without the consent of any person and without any interruption or payment or acknowledgment to any person.
- 9 I am able to make this declaration from my own knowledge through living in the very close vicinity of the Property as detailed above. My residential property [REDACTED] was immediately opposite the property now known as Wrens Hobbit with the Property lying in between.

DECLARED at [address]

[REDACTED]

this [date]

31 July 2023

[signature of the declarant]

[REDACTED]

Attached:

The Plan 'South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit: Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up'

Declaration --- Use of Path from Betty Lane

I [REDACTED] do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1 I have for the last 21 years lived in the Parish of South Hinksey, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- 2 As I have lived in the South Hinksey area I am very familiar with the Property which is shown crosshatched on the Oxfordshire County Council Plan titled "South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit:Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up" dated 05/07/2022 and date-stamped 11th July 2022 (the Plan). I am also very familiar with the surrounding areas of land.
- 3 I understand that the Property shown crosshatched in the Plan is currently the subject of a draft Stopping Up Order.
- 4 There is a path which leads from Betty Lane over the Property and continues on the area of land beyond to approach the verge of the A34 National Highway (the Path).
- 5 The Property is the end section of a publicly maintained road known as Betty Lane (Betty Lane).
- 6 I declare that as active residents of South Hinksey my husband and I regularly walked across the Property to reach locations in the two wards of the Parish. During the time that we lived in Spring Copse from April 2002 to October 2014 we crossed the Property as the main route for us to walk between our home, the Parish Woodland and South Hinksey village. We used this path regularly in an open and non-secretive manner and never asked permission. My husband was Chair of the Friends of South Hinksey and as such took on personal responsibility for management of the Parish Woodland located slightly to the north-west of the Garden Centre. On this account he and we very frequently walked from our home to Betty Lane and across the Property to reach the lane in front of the Garden Centre. After his death I moved to live [REDACTED] and I have not thereafter used the path through Betty Lane.
- 7 To the best of my knowledge the Property has been open for access and used to pass and repass on foot to access with or without dogs the Path and Betty Lane at all times of the day and night .
- 8 To my knowledge, since at least 2002 the Property has been used regularly and as the means of access to and from the Path from Betty Lane and to the best of my knowledge and belief openly as of right and without the consent of

any person and without any interruption or payment or acknowledgment to any person until the past year or two. I have heard recently that obstructions have been put in place but I have no personal knowledge of this since I have not tried to walk that way since 2014.

- 9 I am able to make this declaration from my own knowledge through living in the vicinity of the Property as detailed above and through my own use of the Path across the Property.

DECLARED at

this 27th day of July 2023

Attached:

The Plan 'South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit: Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up'

Declaration --- Use of Path from Betty Lane

I [REDACTED] do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1 I have for the last 27 years lived at [REDACTED] which is in the Parish of South Hinksey.
- 2 As I have lived in the South Hinksey area I am very familiar with the Property which is shown crosshatched on the Oxfordshire County Council Plan titled "South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit:Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up" dated 25/07/2022 and date-stamped 11th July 2022 (the **Plan**). I am also very familiar with the surrounding areas of land.
- 3 I understand that the Property shown crosshatched in the Plan is currently the subject of a draft Stopping Up Order.
- 4 There is a path which leads from Betty Lane over the Property and continues on the area of land beyond to approach the verge of the A34 National Highway (the **Path**).
- 5 The Property is the end section of a publicly maintained road known as Betty Lane (**Betty Lane**).
- 6 I declare that during the years that I have been resident in South Hinksey I have intermittently and well spread over the years walked across the Property to continue from Betty Lane on the footpath to what is now the Oxford Garden Centre or simply to access the natural green space of the land immediately beyond the Property. In addition for more than ten years until late 2019 I regularly parked my car for a few hours a week partly on the Property as the highway verge while I played tennis at the adjacent Brookside residence. On some of these occasions I would also walk across the Property onto the green space beyond. Since July 2022 I have encountered unauthorized obstructions on the highway impeding access to the Property and the Path.
- 7 To the best of my knowledge the Property has been open for access and used to pass and repass on foot to access with or without dogs the Path and Betty Lane at all times of the day and night until the past few years.
- 8 To my knowledge, since at least 1996 the Property has been used regularly and as the sole means of access to and from the Path from Betty Lane and to the best of my knowledge and belief openly as of right and without the consent of any person and without any interruption or payment or acknowledgment to any person until the past few years. Since at least July 2022 there have been physical obstacles at both ends of the Property

impeding use of the Path by obstructing access onto the Property and exit from it.

- 9 I am able to make this declaration from my own knowledge through living in the vicinity of the Property as detailed above and through my own use of the Property.

DECLARED at [REDACTED]

this [date] [REDACTED]

[signature of the declarant] [REDACTED]

Attached:
The Plan 'South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit: Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up'

Declaration --- Use of Path from Betty Lane

I [REDACTED]
solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1 I have for the last 27 years lived at [REDACTED] which is in the Parish of South Hinksey.
- 2 As I have lived in the South Hinksey area I am very familiar with the Property which is shown crosshatched on the Oxfordshire County Council Plan titled "South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit:Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up" dated 25/07/2022 and date-stamped 11th July 2022 (the **Plan**). I am also very familiar with the surrounding areas of land.
- 3 I understand that the Property shown crosshatched in the Plan is currently the subject of a draft Stopping Up Order.
- 4 There is a path which leads from Betty Lane over the Property and continues on the area of land beyond to approach the verge of the A34 National Highway (the **Path**).
- 5 The Property is the end section of a publicly maintained road known as Betty Lane (**Betty Lane**).
- 6 I declare that during the 27 years that I have been resident in South Hinksey I have intermittently walked across the Property to continue from Betty Lane on the footpath to what is now the Oxford Garden Centre or simply to access the natural green space of the land immediately beyond the Property. Since July 2022 I have encountered unauthorized physical obstacles impeding access onto and off the Property.
- 7 To the best of my knowledge the Property has been open for access and used to pass and repass on foot to access with or without dogs the Path and Betty Lane at all times of the day and night until the past few years.
- 8 To my knowledge, since at least 1996 the Property has been used regularly and as the sole means of access to and from the Path from Betty Lane and to the best of my knowledge and belief openly as of right and without the consent of any person and without any interruption or payment or acknowledgment to any person until the past few years. Since at least July 2022 there have been physical obstacles at both ends of the Property impeding use of the Path by obstructing access onto the Property and exit from it.

9 I am able to make this declaration from my own knowledge through living in the vicinity of the Property as detailed above and through my own use of the Property.

DECLARED at [REDACTED]

this [date] [REDACTED]

[signature of the declarant]
[REDACTED]

Attached:
The Plan 'South Hinksey: Wrens Hobbit:Betty Lane – Proposed Stopping Up'

I [REDACTED] declare that I was told by the residents of Wren's Hobbit Betty Lane that there was a walking route running from the end of Betty Lane which would enable us to walk to the Garden Centre. At that time, we were simply exploring Betty Lane as we were in lock down and didn't take the opportunity to take the route. [REDACTED] offered to show us the route in the future.

The route indicated by [REDACTED] ran from the tarmacked road to the side of the A34 in front of Wren's Hobbit

I haven't considered using the route yet – but as I have a fear of large dogs since my mother was badly attacked by an Alsatian when I was young I am quite nervous of going down Betty Lane as when we walked down there were 2 large Alsatians which were free running over the area. They were controlled by [REDACTED] and the other resident.

10th August 2023

[REDACTED]

I [REDACTED] declare that I was told by the residents of Wren's Hobbit Betty Lane that there was a walking route running from the end of Betty Lane which would enable us to walk to the Garden Centre. At that time, we were simply exploring Betty Lane as we were in lock down and didn't take the opportunity to take the route. [REDACTED] offered to show us the route in the future.

The route indicated by [REDACTED] ran from the tarmacked road to the side of the A34 in front of Wren's Hobbit. We haven't used this route as yet.

10th August 2023

