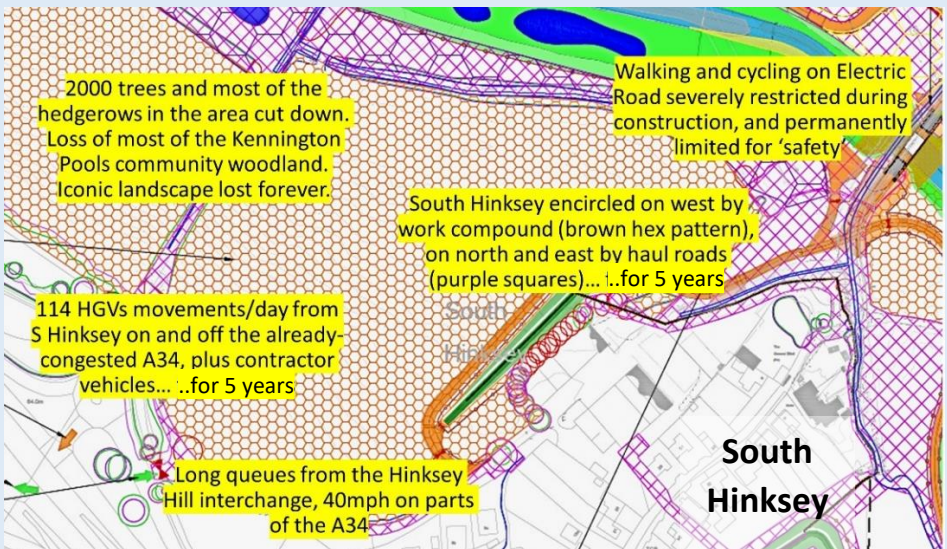


WE DIDN'T WANT THIS DAMAGE LAST YEAR – DO WE WANT IT NOW?

Oxford needs a less destructive flood scheme



The Environment Agency' £176 million Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme includes a 5km long flood channel from north of the Botley Road to north Kennington, together with flood embankments, culverts, bridge etc. Last year, local residents resoundingly said 'no' to the planning application for the scheme, because excavating the channel would

- permanently damage biodiversity, notably at Hinksey Meadow
- be poor value for money, protecting only 51 extra homes at £470,000 per home in a 1-in-50 year flood event, compared to the scheme with no channel
- reduce access to a huge area of public space, especially during the 3-5 year construction period
- need 240 HGV movements per day to remove spoil from excavating the channel, increasing congestion and requiring 40mph restrictions on the A34.

The scheme without the channel would provide significant flood protection, be cheaper, and avoid almost all this damage and disruption.

Last year, Oxfordshire County Council asked for further information about many of these points. The Environment Agency (EA) has now provided answers at <https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>, application no. MW.0027/22. The new information doesn't change the scheme's impacts: indeed, it shows that the fields proposed for excavation are more biodiverse than the EA had assumed. Moreover the scheme would increase water levels at north Kennington, threatening the railway line.

Protect Oxford from the damaging channel! Come to the **Assembly Room at Oxford Town Hall on 17 April 7pm** to hear more. Please **comment on the application by 20 April 2023** to matthew.case@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Information on how to do this is at www.hinkseyandosney.org and www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com.

