

Wroxton Motocross Track – 21/00517/F

The meaning of 'small'

In Mid West Planning Ltd's Design & Access Statement – submitted on behalf of the applicant – there is a flawed attempt to suggest that the earthworks and engineering at the motocross track are “small”. This word – and inference – appear in other sections of the applicant's submission documents. We are to be duped into believing this is a “small” undertaking of modest proportions.

This is what Mid West Planning say; the syntactical errors and word/punctuation omissions are theirs :

AMOUNT & SCALE

- 4.1 The motocross track extends to approximately 2.2km in length. The application area, including the access track is approximately 7.76 hectares.*
- 4.2 The consists of a sinuous bare earth course with raised grassy embankments. ...*
- 4.3 Engineering works have been undertaken to create the track create sediment traps, and to raise small embankments for safety reasons to separate sections of track and to add jumps to the course.*

There is nothing remotely “small” about anything at this massively scaled-up track. Who are they trying to kid? Least of all are there “small embankments”: they are metres high, mud edifices, towering over full-grown adults. And, let's be very clear, they are there to create thrills and spills for the paying riders, not 'for safety reasons'.

The revealing extract above and the photographs in this objection illustrate some of the LARGE engineering features illegally created in this former agricultural field in recent years. These have been evidenced in many documents submitted previously by Hornton PC and others. They include:



- vast extensions to the track length – now only 20 seconds away from being classed as an international 'Grand Prix' circuit, capable of hosting any top MX event
- the deliberate damming of the Sor Brook water course which, incidentally, is not owned by the track landowner (see pic above)
- the creation of a triple jump and other dare-devil circuit loops and undulations
- the addition of three large water lagoons to hold the abstracted water they use to spray on the track surface: 'sediment traps' is another attempt to underplay the facts
- a vast under-track drainage system
- an enormous, extended vehicle camping area which they overspill due to extra vehicles and participants (and, unbelievably, the very same area they cite as becoming a wild flower meadow to mitigate the damage they have done!).

More appropriate adjectives to apply to these engineering feats might include “massive”, “gigantic”, “extensive”, “huge”, “obscene” or, in planning terms, “very significantly intensified”. Together, they form an horrendous, sprawling blot on this beautiful rural corner of the Ironstone Downs, which Cherwell District Council has committed to protect as a matter of Local Plan policy.

And all this countryside desecration without a jot of planning permission. The following pictures say it all. This must stop now. Please refuse this application before, according to their proposal, they intend that it should be further developed.

C A Brayshay
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