

[REDACTED]

From: Karen Roem <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 March 2025 11:42
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Formal Objection to the Application for a Transport and Work Act Order – Cambridge Southeast Busway

Dear sir/madam, I, Karen Roem of [REDACTED], formally object to the "Application for a Transport and Works Act Order" submitted by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) on 9 January 2025 for the construction of a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge.

Key Concerns with the Proposed Busway:

- **Environmental Damage:** The proposal would require two new bridges over the River Granta chalk stream and the culverting of Hobson's Conduit chalk stream, causing irreversible ecological harm.
- **Landscape Impact:** The Gog Magog Hills, one of Cambridge's most significant landscapes, would be scarred by unnecessary infrastructure.
- **Loss of Green Space:** Running a new road through a countryside park would diminish its value for both nature and future users.
- **Threat to Rural Areas:** Severing fields near villages could make them more vulnerable to future development, further eroding our precious countryside.
- **Reduced Accessibility:** The argument that this busway better serves local villages is flawed—the proposed bus stops are in inconvenient locations. For example, the stop planned for Hinton Way is too far from the village to be practical. With only a few drop-off spaces available, passengers needing a car to access it would be far better off driving another half mile to the Babraham Road Park and Ride, where parking is easy and accessible.

A More Sensible Alternative:

A bus lane adjacent to the A1307 is a far superior solution:

- **Lower Cost:** This alternative would be significantly more cost-effective than constructing a busway across open countryside.
- **Faster Implementation:** It could be built much more quickly, delivering transport benefits sooner.
- **Better Connectivity:** It would better serve the planned expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and provide improved access to more parts of the site.
- **Preserving Green Space:** With Cambridge increasingly dominated by concrete development, we must protect what remains of our natural landscape.

Additionally, cycle routes in the area are already under construction. The Linton Greenway will connect Cambridge to Babraham, Granta Park, and Linton, while the Sawston Greenway will link Cambridge to Sawston. Stapleford and Shelford already benefit from the DNA path. This further reduces the need for an intrusive busway through open countryside.

Conclusion:

I strongly urge the Department for Transport to reject the current proposal and instead support a bus lane alongside the A1307. This approach would save taxpayers a significant amount of money while preserving Cambridge's rapidly diminishing countryside.

Sincerely,

Karen Roem



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