

Cambourne To Cambridge – Madingley Slip Road CWS

TO	Jo Baker	FROM	Andrew Saunders
DATE	14 November 2025	CONFIDENTIALITY	Public
SUBJECT	Cambourne to Cambridge – Madingley Slip Road County Wildlife Site		

Introduction

This note has been prepared in response to a question raised by the Inspectors at the Cambourne to Cambridge public inquiry on 13th November 2025 in relation to the location and effect of the Scheme on Madingley Slip Road RSV (taken to mean Road Side Verge) County Wildlife Site (CWS). It also clarifies a point contained in Ralph Lewis’ Proof of Evidence in relation to the same site.

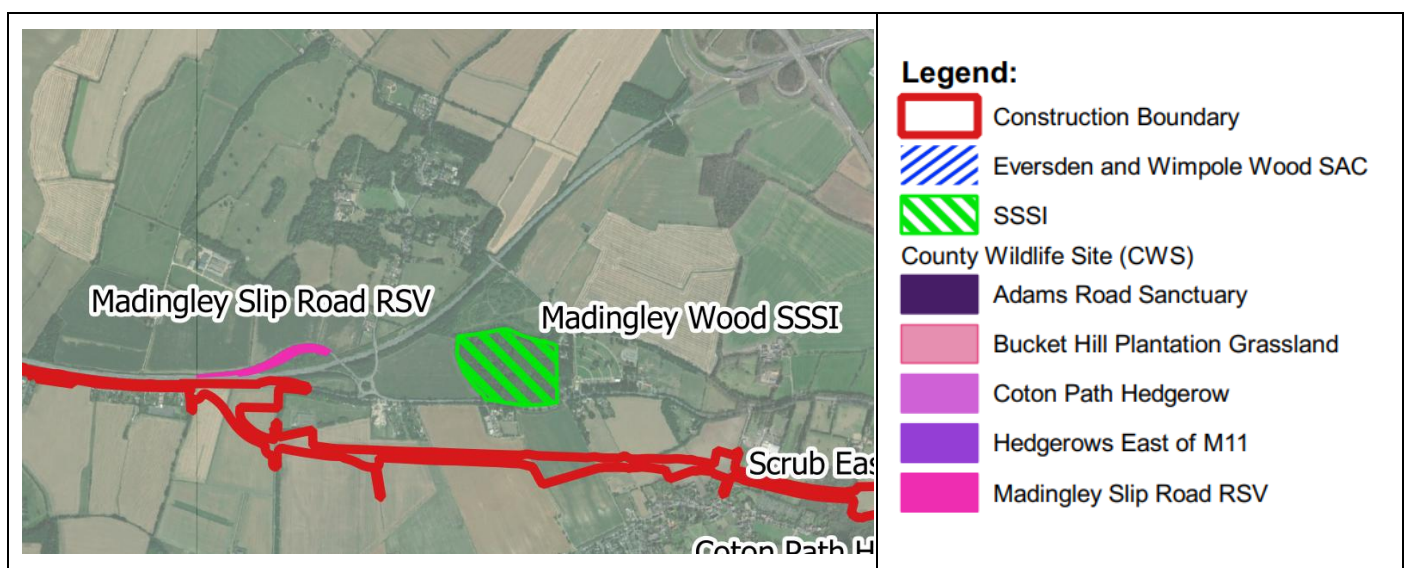
Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS

Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS is identified in Technical Report 5 – Ecology [CD1-11.05, paragraph 5.2.6, pdf pages 27 and 28] as a non-statutory designated site as follows:

“Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS to the north of the CtoC Scheme opposite the Long Road/St Neots Road junction – separated from the CtoC Scheme by the existing carriageway of A428;

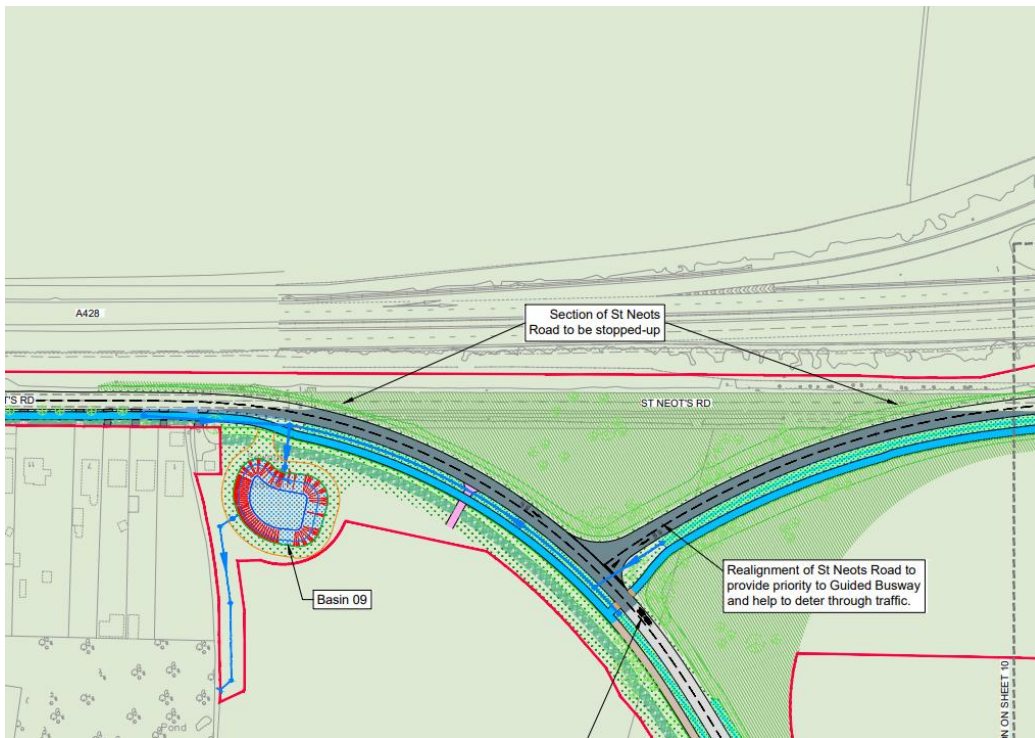
The source for the information is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre Designated Site Search Report for those sites within 2 kilometres of the Scheme boundary (i.e. the Order limits). It is provided in Appendix A of this note.

The location of the Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS in the context of the Scheme and other designated sites is provided in Ecology Chapter Technical Report 5 – Ecology [CD1-11.05, Figure 5.2 CtoC Designated Sites, pdf page 105]. An extract from Figure 5.2 and the Legend is provided below



Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS is outside of the Scheme Order limits with the CWS located at its closest point to the Scheme on the northern verge at the start of the A428 off slip road. The Scheme Order limits

are shown in more detail in relation to the A428 off slip road as a red line on the Deemed Planning Drawings Proposed Site Plans **[CD1-16.04, sheet 9 of 17, pdf page 11]**) and are south of, and on the opposite side of, the A428 off slip.



Assessment

In Section 6 of the Ecology Technical Report titled Preliminary Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects, **[CD1-11.05 Technical Report 5 -Ecology, pdf pages 54 and 55, paragraph 6.2.8]** it is stated:

Of the 12 non-statutory sites located within 1km of the Scheme, four are located within the Scheme boundary and are described below.

- Coton Orchard CWS;
- Scrubland east of the M11 CiWS;
- Coton Path Hedgerow CWS; and
- Bin Brook CiWS.

Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS is approximately 50 metres north of the St Neots Road section and is separated from the scheme by the A428. It would not be impacted by noise and vibration, or any other construction related activities.

In addition, the slip road is approximately 1.8km from the nearest point in the scheme where it could feasibly be reached by construction traffic. Therefore, it is highly unlikely to be impacted by dust (including track-out) or other forms of air pollution. This is also described in **CD1-11.02 Technical Report 2: Air Quality paragraphs 3.1.6 and 3.1.7 (pdf page 13).**

3.1.6 A construction dust risk assessment is undertaken where there are: ‘human receptors’ within 350m of the site boundary, or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500m from the site entrance(s); and/or ‘ecological receptors’ within 50m of the site boundary, or within 50m of the route(s) used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500m from the site entrance(s). It is within these distances that the impacts of dust soiling and increased particulate matter in the ambient air will have the greatest impact on local air quality at sensitive receptors. The construction dust assessment study areas are illustrated in Figure 1 in Appendix L.

3.1.7. For construction traffic emissions, consideration has been given to sensitive receptors (human and ecological) which fall within proximity (200m) of the routes most likely to be used by construction traffic.

CD1-11.02 , paragraph 5.1.14 (pdf page 25) then goes on to state:

5.1.14 There are no sensitive ecological receptors within the distances specified within the IAQM (Institute of Air Quality Management) guidance (see paragraph 3.1.6). Therefore, the potential effects of the construction phase on ecological receptors have not been considered further.

In summary, no adverse effects on Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS are predicted as a result of the construction and operation of the Scheme.

Clarification in respect of Ralph Lewis’ Proof of Evidence

Ralph Lewis’ Proof of Evidence [CD26-01-APP-W10-1, pdf page 50, paragraph 5.8.16] contained the following wording in respect of Madingley Slip Road RSV CWS.

“My assessment of the proposals is that the route alignment and environmental siting decisions reflect a conscious effort to avoid areas of high ecological sensitivity. The ES has sought to confirm that designated sites such as the Madingley Road Verges Local Wildlife Site and the adjacent SSSI have been buffered and safeguarded through corridor adjustments. Ecological networks including hedgerows, riparian corridors, and species rich grassland mosaics have been identified through detailed baseline surveys and retained where possible. Where interactions are unavoidable, the scheme pivots to robust mitigation and compensation, ensuring alignment with national expectations around harm avoidance, as per paragraph 193 of the NPPF. Paragraph 194 addresses the protection of designated habitats and international nature conservation sites. The ES confirms that the route does not intersect or adversely affect any Ramsar sites, potential Special Protection Areas, or Special Areas of Conservation.”

It is clarified that the wording could be more accurately amended to the following highlighted in bold:

*“My assessment of the proposals is that the route alignment and environmental siting decisions reflect a conscious effort to avoid areas of high ecological sensitivity. The ES has sought to confirm that designated sites such as the **Madingley Slip Road RSV County Wildlife Site and the nearby Madingley Wood SSSI** have been buffered and safeguarded through corridor adjustments. Ecological networks including hedgerows, riparian corridors, and species rich grassland mosaics have been identified through detailed baseline surveys and retained where possible. Where interactions are unavoidable, the scheme pivots to robust mitigation and compensation, ensuring alignment with national expectations around harm avoidance, as per paragraph 193 of the NPPF. Paragraph 194 addresses the protection of designated*



habitats and international nature conservation sites. The ES confirms that the route does not intersect or adversely affect any Ramsar sites, potential Special Protection Areas, or Special Areas of Conservation”.

The wording alteration makes no difference to the assessment.

APPENDIX A – CAMBRIDGE AND PETERBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS DESIGNATED SITE SEARCH

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre

Designated Sites Search Report



Designated Sites found within 2km of the Site Boundary Provided

Date: 17/03/2022, Site Reference: C2C_Site_Boundary_RD_07032022

SSSIs

Site Name	Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Reasons for designation
Caldecote Meadows	TL348577	9.33	An area of herb-rich grassland of a calcareous loam type, holding plant communities which are of nationally restricted distribution. Meadows of this type were once widespread throughout Cambridgeshire but are now scarce in the county.
Hardwick Wood	TL354576	15.47	The ancient core of the site is ash-field maple woodland containing both oxlip <i>Primula elatior</i> and primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i> , a woodland type which is nationally restricted in distribution. The ground flora contains interesting plants.
Madingley Wood	TL400596	15.23	An example of the ash-maple woodland type characteristic of the chalky boulder clay of eastern England. The western sector of the wood is of ancient origin whilst the eastern half is relatively recent, thus providing valuable opportunities for study.
Traveller's Rest Pit	TL429598	2.25	This is a 'Geological Conservation Review' site, and provides a unique exposure in fossiliferous cold stage gravels, sands and silts of a high-level terrace (Observatory Gravels) of the River Cam.

LNRs

Site Name	Grid Ref	Area (ha)
Paradise	TL446572	2.17
Sheep's Green and Coe Fen	TL448574	16.85

County Wildlife Sites

Site Name	Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Reasons for Designation
Adams Road Sanctuary	TL437587	1.6	The site qualifies because it has an invertebrate index exceeding 500 (calculated as summation of nationally rare = 100 and nationally scarce = 50).
Barton Road Pool	TL435574	1.22	Grade C site in the JNCC Invertebrate Site Register
Bucket Hill Plantation Grassland	TL345587	1.64	Supports frequent numbers of at least 3 strong neutral grassland indicator species and at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species

Cambridge Botanic Gardens	TL455571	15.87	The site is listed as a site of importance in the Bryophyte Site Register (NCC 1985) for Cambridgeshire (7b) and has an overall invertebrate index exceeding 500 (11.6a).
Coe Fen	TL449575	6.6	Supports more than 20 mature pollard willows.
Coton Path Hedgerow	TL4258	0.94	Supports populations of two Nationally Scarce vascular plant species.
Hedgerows East of M11	TL4258	2.05	Supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species and a vascular plant species which is rare in the county.
Jason Farm Grassland	TL353581	2.32	Supports at least 0.05ha of the NVC community MG5 Crested Dog's-tail - Black Knapweed grassland.
Knapwell RSV	TL3361	0.9	Supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (<i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i> and <i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>)
Knapwell Wood	TL330607	4.57	Woodland is listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of ancient woodland which retains more than 25% semi natural cover. Supports Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (<i>Primula elatior</i>), and a plant species rare in the county (<i>Quercus petraea</i>).
Madingley Slip Road RSV	TL390597	1.47	Supports frequent numbers of at least 6 strong calcareous grassland indicator species.
Paradise LNR	TL445571	2.27	Supports at least 0.5ha of NVC community W6 (Alder - Stinging Nettle woodland).
River Cam	TL45	N/A	Is a major river (together with adjacent semi-natural habitat) that has not been grossly modified by canalisation and/or poor water quality. Additionally it has areas with concentrations of mature pollard willows.
Sheep's Green	TL447576	8.72	Supports a population of a vascular plant rare in Cambridgeshire (<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>); and because it supports at least 20 mature pollard willows.
Skaters' Meadow Group	TL440569	4.56	Supports three or more strong neutral grassland indicator species in frequent numbers. Qualifies as part of the riparian habitat in the River Cam valley.

City Wildlife Sites

Site Name	Grid Ref	Area (ha)	Reasons for Designation
Ascension Parish Burial Ground	TL435597	0.81	Supports two or more strong neutral grassland indicator species in frequent numbers.
Bin Brook	TL438584	0.81	Supports breeding populations of a mammal species (water vole) protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Also qualifies for its group of at least 5 mature pollard willows in association with other semi-natural habitat.
Bird Sanctuary, Conduit Head	TL428594	0.81	Supports S6 Greater Pond Sedge swamp, S7 Lesser Pond Sedge swamp and 0.5-1ha woodland with 5 or more woodland plants and 10% or more mature woodland. Also supports great crested newts.
Drain at Garret Hostel Lane	TL444585	0.07	Unmodified drain joining River Cam. Also supports mammal species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Hobson's Conduit / Vicar's Brook	TL454562	1.52	Chalk stream together with adjacent semi-natural habitat that has not been grossly modified through canalisation and/or poor water quality. Also supports a small group of pollard willows in a semi-natural setting.
Hobson's Conduit North	TL451573	0.89	Chalk stream together with adjacent semi-natural habitat that has not been grossly modified through canalisation and/or poor water quality.
Little St Mary's Churchyard	TL448579	0.23	Supports a nationally scarce species of non-vascular plant (<i>Rhynchospora curviseta</i>).
Lower Vicar's Brook, New Bit and Coe Fen Straits	TL451571	2.5	Chalk stream with adjacent semi-natural habitat that has not been grossly modified through canalisation and/or poor water quality.
Meadow and Ditch Opposite King's College	TL444583	2.07	Area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the River Cam County Wildlife Site.
Meadows and Drains	TL440565	19.08	Area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the River Cam County Wildlife Site. Principal interest is the groups of mature and young pollard willows lining the eastern bank of the River Cam.
Midsummer Common	TL456590	13.47	Area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the River Cam County Wildlife Site.
Perse Girls' School Reedbed	TL446570	0.44	Area of undeveloped floodplain directly associated with the River Cam County Wildlife Site.
Scrub East of M11 Verge	TL421589	2.27	Scrub over 0.5ha in area with four or more woody species. Plus hedgerow more than 100m long and 2m wide at widest point with four or more woody species.
Trinity Meadow	TL442585	1.81	Supports grassland with two or more strong neutral grassland indicator species and four or more strong calcareous grassland indicator species in frequent numbers.

Protected Road Verges

PRV Code	PRV Name	Location or Road	Grid Ref	Wildlife Interest
S23	Knapwell	Unclassified road	TL334 600-332 622	Neutral/calcareous grassland, presence of a local red data book species

