

[REDACTED]

From: Raphaella Hull <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 07 March 2025 16:00
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge Cambridge

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Dr Raphaella Hull of [REDACTED], am writing to formally object to the "Application for a Transport and Works Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge," as submitted by the Greater Cambridge Partnership on 9 January 2025.

My objection is based on the following grounds:

I am an educator at Cambridge University Botanic Garden (please note: I am writing this email in a personal capacity, not as a representative for the Garden), where I am involved in developing the Garden's strategy for biodiversity. A key element of this strategy is the Botanic Garden's role as a vital connector and wildlife corridor between Coe Fen to the northwest and the Gog Magog chalk downland to the south. The proposed busway directly cuts through this essential green corridor, disrupting the open countryside.

Furthermore, the proposed site compound sits adjacent to Nine Wells, a nature reserve and former Site of Special Scientific Interest. This site holds both historical and ecological significance, with the chalk springs feeding Hobson's Conduit, the water that flows from Nine Wells into the Botanic Garden and towards Coe Fen. There is a considerable risk of contamination to this water from the construction site, posing a threat to biodiversity both locally and in the wider area, including the Botanic Garden.

Additionally, the proposed route cuts through a cherished piece of countryside that serves as a peaceful refuge for many. There are few remaining places around Cambridge where one can escape the sound of traffic, and this area is one of those rare, tranquil spaces. The construction of a road through the lower slopes of the Gog Magog will have a significant negative impact on both the natural environment and the people who value this landscape.

There is a viable alternative that would mitigate these issues. A version of the scheme first proposed by the applicant in 2018 would achieve similar transport and economic benefits by constructing bus lanes adjacent to the A1307 and approximately one mile of busway.

This alternative would:

- Avoid the need for two bridges over the River Granta chalk stream.
- Prevent the culverting of Hobson's Conduit.
- Preserve the integrity of the Gog Magog Hills, one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area.
- Avoid building a new road through a countryside park, ensuring its future as a natural space for public use.
- Prevent the severing of fields near villages, which could increase vulnerability to future development.
- Better serve the planned expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, with more direct connections.

Additionally, cycling infrastructure in the area is already being developed, with the Linton Greenway connecting Cambridge to Babraham, Granta Park, and Linton, and the Sawston Greenway linking Cambridge to Sawston. The DNA cycle path already serves Stapleford and Shelford, which I use daily.

In the midst of the climate crisis, we must protect the unique and threatened landscapes that, in my capacity at the Botanic Garden, I regularly highlight to visitors. This proposal risks fragmenting and erasing these invaluable environments rather than preserving them for future generations.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Sincerely,

Dr Raphaella Hull

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