From: [redacted]
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Opposition to the Transport and Work Act Order for the Cambourne to Cambridge busway
Date: 24 November 2024 13:16:38

Dear Secretary of State for Transport,

I am writing to oppose the Transport and Work Act Order for the Cambourne to Cambridge busway in its current form.

As stated on page 21 of the Environmental Statement (document reference CtoC-9-00):
"The area of greatest ecological value is Coton Orchard, a recently designated county wildlife site... The Scheme will require the removal of around 500 trees, affecting about a fifth (1.5 hectares) of the remaining orchard... The orchard supports a notable range of insects, including some nationally rare species... the effect on the non-statutory designated site will be significant. The loss of a little under half a hectare of traditional orchard habitat is predicted to be a likely significant effect, as is the loss at various locations across the Scheme of hedgerows (around 1.3km)." I also note the Coton path hedgerow crossed by the proposed busway is also a designated county wildlife site (page 15).

My main concern is that although plans for mitigation have been discussed, they have not been agreed. As stated on page 21: "Proposals for [mitigation] have not, at the time of writing, been confirmed and will require some close working and agreement with landowners." And: "The significant effects on traditional orchard and hedgerows could be compensated through habitat creation offsite, although the location for this is yet to be agreed." On page 25: "It will also be necessary to secure offsite habitat creation, including new mixed deciduous woodland, traditional orchard and hedgerows... This will be the subject of ongoing discussion with local landowners to find the best solution."

I therefore believe that the current application is premature, and should not be allowed to proceed until specific, adequate, guaranteed and enforceable mitigations have been identified and agreed. This is important to avoid the loss of these historic, cherished, and environmentally valuable habitats.

Yours faithfully,
Daniel Mitchell
[redacted]

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