

[REDACTED]

From: Lawrence Grasty <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 16 February 2025 13:58
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Cc: pippa.heydings.mp@parliament.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge Cambridge

I - Lawrence Grasty of [REDACTED] - am writing to make a formal objection to the "Application for a Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge", as submitted by the Cambridge Greater Partnership on 9 January 2025. My grounds for this objection are as follows:

- The busway has a very similar environmental impact to a new road. The proposed construction is unacceptably close, and indeed adjacent to, Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve and Local Geological Site, a critical site for both wildlife and the source of a key watercourse into Cambridge, Hobson's Brook.
- The same transport benefits could be much more sensibly achieved by routing 5 miles of new road/busway adjacent to the A1307 and adding only 1 mile of new road/busway. Indeed this alternative would be very similar to the scheme as first proposed by the applicant in 2018 - effectively widening an existing road, rather than damaging untouched land.

To expand on the above, I regularly run in and around Nine Wells - and can testify to the bird and plantlife living there - not least buzzards, barn owls, little egrets, herons, kestrels. These will be driven away by having a new road/busway passing right by the site, to say nothing of the impact of construction with a compound being built along the long side of the reserve (please see <https://www.cambsgeology.org/local-sites/ninewells> for more information). In addition, Nine Wells is a very rare chalk spring habitat.

The growth in Cambridge brings many economic benefits - but the environmental downsides cannot be overlooked. The destruction of a large area of green land to construct the new Cambridge South railway station, and also the new housing developments on both sides of Wort's Causeway are both within a kilometre of Nine Wells LNR/LGS. The cumulative effect of these two developments on the nature resident at Nine Wells will already be significant and is not yet fully realised (both sites are still under construction).

I would note that some attributes of the alternative (A1307 based) scheme are:

- This alternative would avoid building two bridges over the River Granta chalk stream and putting Hobson's Conduit chalk stream into a culvert.

- This alternative would avoid creating a scar in the Gog Magog Hills landscape, one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area.
- This alternative would avoid building a new road through a countryside park, to the detriment of its future users and nature.
- This alternative would avoid severing fields close to villages making them vulnerable to future development and further harm to the countryside.
- This alternative would better serve the planned expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and serve more of the Campus.

Nine Wells was an SSSI until drought occurred... clearly it is under stress, and I would ask that the DfT make every effort to defend it against this unnecessary proposal, for which an alternative of similar cost and far less environmental impact already exists.

Thank you for your attention - your questions and feedback are very welcome.

[Daniel & Pippa - I hope you can note and strongly support this also, please.]

Best regards

Lawrence

Dr Lawrence Grasty

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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