Ms Shenaz Choudhary
Department for Transport
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Great Minster House 33 Horseferry Road
London
City of Westminster
SW1P 4DR

Our ref: AC/2025/132557/02-L01
Your ref: TWA/25/APP/01

Date: 15 January 2026

Dear Ms Choudhary

PROPOSED TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT ORDER FOR CAMBRIDGE SOUTH EAST TRANSPORT

We are writing to remove our objection on flood risk grounds as set out below. Our comments regarding protective provisions, groundwater, biodiversity, fisheries and water resources in our letter dated 7 March 2025 remain pertinent.

Flood Risk

We have reviewed the submitted flood model and consider that the model is fit for purpose.

We have reviewed the revised Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), ref. CSET-10-23, dated December 2025, and are satisfied that the issues raised in our letter of objection have now been addressed. We are therefore able to **withdraw our objection** to this application.

The revised FRA demonstrates that it will be possible to provide level-for-level and volume-for volume compensation for the loss of floodplain storage at the Stapleford and Babraham crossings of the River Granta. However, as a detailed design for the proposed floodplain compensation has not been provided in the FRA, we consider that planning permission should only be granted if the following condition is included:

Condition:

The development hereby permitted must not be commenced until such time as a detailed floodplain compensation scheme has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority.

The scheme must provide suitable flood storage for any flood waters that would be displaced by the authorised development in the 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) event, including a 19% allowance for climate change. The floodplain compensation areas must be within the red line boundary of the site, in proximity to the Stapleford and Babraham viaducts, as shown on Figure A8.1.13 of the approved Flood Risk Assessment, ref. CSET-10-23, dated December 2025.

The scheme shall be fully implemented and subsequently maintained, in accordance with the scheme's timing/phasing arrangements, or within any other period as may

subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the local planning authority.

Reason:
To ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere due to a loss of floodplain storage in accordance with NPPF paragraph 181.

Additional Comments
Temporary Works
Paragraph 8.1.79 of the FRA states '*The management of surface water and fluvial flood risk during the construction phase has been incorporated into the CEMP to ensure there is no increase in flood risk'*. However, the draft Construction Environment Management Plan (ref. CSET-10-08) does not include a section relating to managing fluvial flood risk. The Environmental Statement (ref. CSET-10-02) indicates in section 8.6.3 that 'no storage or works compounds will be located in Flood Zones 2 or 3' and that 'no materials will be stored or stockpiled within Flood Zones 2 or 3'. In addition, paragraph 8.6.15 states that the CEMP will be developed further at the detailed design stage and will identify the areas of the site that are at risk of flooding and ensure that works compounds and materials storage areas are located outside these areas.

We would like to be consulted on the CEMP at the detailed design stage (condition 4) to ensure that any works compounds and materials storage areas are located outside of flood risk areas and there will be no increase in flood risk elsewhere.

We hope this information is of assistance. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Ms Alison Craggs
Sustainable Places Planning Specialist

Direct dial 020 847 45242
Direct e-mail planning.EastAnglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

End