



ORCHARD NETWORK

people's
trust for
endangered
species

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To whom it may concern,

I have reviewed the brochures for Greater Cambridge Partnership's Cambridge to Cambourne bus-route plan and am horrified by the proposal to destroy the ancient orchard at Coton. It is hard to exaggerate the importance of this traditional orchard habitat. It is the largest example of the habitat in Cambridgeshire and around the eighth largest in the entire United Kingdom, making it the most important traditional orchard parcel in the county, and of national significance in terms of biodiversity, cultural heritage, and its value to the wider landscape. Also, critically, it is in the ownership of someone who actually cares about such things. Never has driving a coach and horses through anything been more of an appropriate expression than when assessing the immeasurable impact that Greater Cambridge Partnership's C2C bus-route plan would have on this invaluable cultural and natural resource.

The CGP brochure lists the proposals as aiming to deliver 20% Biodiversity Net Gain, but the destruction of such a valuable Habitat of Principal Importance cannot be compensated. There has been an orchard on this site for around 100 years, so to compensate for its loss would mean that you have to plant and manage a traditional orchard on an alternative site for at least 50 years before removing the old one, which is of course not a viable option. One of the brochures marks an area around the proposed route for "...enhanced orchard planting" as if you can somehow improve what a habitat already in excellent condition after destroying half of it and fragmenting what remains with wide a road!

This utterly destructive proposal can never achieve biodiversity net gain due to the vast amounts of damage that it will do to an ancient orchard full of veteran trees, and the enormous impact of a road going through so much previously undamaged and unfragmented countryside.

As per the NPPF, veteran trees can not be removed unless there is no alternative and only in exceptional circumstances. This is not HS2, it is a bus route that would shave 10 to 20 minutes off the journey at best. Destruction on this scale for such thin rewards is unforgivable.

Yours sincerely

Steve Oram

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