

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2025 16:55
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the DfT for a new busway southeast of Cambridge

Dear Sirs

I write on behalf of The Association for Cultural Exchange, a registered charity founded in 1958 to inspire lifelong cultural curiosity through the medium of the arts, culture and education. We own and operate an arts centre, Stapleford Granary, based in an award-winning renovated complex of 19th century farm buildings. Our site borders (and is part of) the fragile River Granta chalk stream eco-system

We wish formally to object to the Application for a Transport and Work Act Order to the DfT for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge, as submitted by the GCP on 9 January 2025. The grounds for this objection are as follows:

- 1 We deplore the suggestion that it is appropriate to construct a new road through open countryside/prime agricultural land. This is not necessary to deliver improvements in public transport when similar transport and economic benefits can be achieved by building a version of the scheme, which we understand was first proposed by the applicant in 2018. This would involve building sections of bus lane adjacent to existing roadways on the A1307, plus a short stretch of new busway.
- 2 The above alternative would avoid the necessity of building bridges across the River Granta chalk stream (recognised by other government departments as one of the most vulnerable chalk streams in the UK and a priority for protection), and also avoid putting Hobson's Conduit chalk stream (a historic feature) into a culvert. There appears to be an extraordinary lack of joined-up thinking between government departments in this respect.
- 3 The alternative would also avoid indescribable damage to the Gog Magog Hills landscape, which is one of the most important landscapes in the Cambridge area - and one which is designated for further enhancement/protection.
- 4 We understand that proposals in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for the villages of Stapleford and the Shelfords include the creation of a countryside park. The anticipated amenity benefit of such a park would be seriously undermined if it were to be traversed by a new road as sought in the GCP's application.
- 5 The alternative would much better serve the planned expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and serve more of the Campus.

It should be noted, too, that cycle routes in the area, to create enhanced access, are already under construction. In contrast, accessibility to the proposed new busway appears to be extremely limited as the villages it will serve are not directly on the proposed bus route as described in the GCP's application.

One only has to look at the visualisation of design for the proposed River Granta bridge near Stapleford to realise the extent of the damage that would be caused by this construction to our valuable chalk stream habitat.

We urge the DfT to reject this application and refer the GCP back to its own earlier version for the busway.

Yours faithfully
CHRISTINE BERRY

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