

[REDACTED]

From: Sue Woods <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 21 February 2025 15:42
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order

Re: Objection to Transport and Work Act Order to the Department for Transport (DfT) for a new busway to the southeast of Cambridge

I, Sue Woods, of [REDACTED], Cambridgeshire, 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. The grounds for this objection are the following:

The construction of 5 miles of new road through open countryside is unnecessary to deliver improvements in transport. Similar transport and economic benefits can be achieved by building a version of the scheme first proposed by the applicant in 2018. This would involve building sections of bus lane adjacent to the A1307 and 1 mile of new road (busway).

This alternative would avoid spoiling the beauty of the Gog Magog Hills, a defining landscape in the Cambridge area. This is one of the few areas in Cambridge with a significant hill, providing excellent views across the local countryside and providing an important habitat for flora and fauna which rely on the chalk soil of the area. As the owner of a dog, I use the pathways across this area of countryside between Sawston, Stapleford, and the Gog Magog Hills for dog walking on a daily basis. Access to this open land was one of the main reasons for choosing to settle in Sawston, when our family relocated from Sale in Cheshire in 1989. I also use the many footpaths and bridleways which cross this area when running with family, friends, and members of the local running group. The construction of 5 miles of a new road through this area, which includes the countryside park of the Gog Magog Hills, would spoil the enjoyment of so many of us using the open space for recreation.

The alternative route alongside the A1307 would avoid building two bridges over the River Granta chalk stream and putting Hobson's Conduit chalk stream into a culvert. Not only would the bridges be expensive to construct, but also damaging to the local environment, as the span of the bridges would need to be considerable in order to avoid the problems associated with the floodplain. I would refer you to the following report recently carried out on the River Granta which identifies the rarity of this habitat and its

need for protection: greater-cambridge-chalk-streams-project-report
PDF (www.cambridge.gov.uk)

Cycle routes in this area are already under construction and include the Linton Greenway which will connect Cambridge to Babraham, Granta Park and Linton; and the Sawston Greenway that will connect Cambridge to Sawston. Stapleford and Shelford are already served by the DNA cycle path. As a cyclist, I use the DNA cycle path on a regular basis to cycle from Sawston into Cambridge City Centre and to Cambridge station. This is a direct, mainly traffic free route used and enjoyed by many commuters. I can see no obvious advantage in creating yet another route into Cambridge.

I, along with friends living in Sawston with whom I have spoken, am unlikely to use the proposed 5 mile busway. Our councils say the main reason they have chosen that route is to serve the villages, but the bus stops are on the edge of the villages uphill and are of no interest to those families living in the heart of the villages along the proposed route. The extension and improvement of the existing bus route (Citi 7) to serve the newly built housing estates in Sawston would offer a faster, more economical alternative to encourage more of the local community to use the bus as their preferred means of travelling into Cambridge.

I sincerely hope that the construction of 5 miles of new road through much loved open countryside will not take place, and that the alternative route using bus lanes adjacent to the A1307 and just 1 mile of new road will be considered as a more economic and beneficial means of improving transport access to Cambridge.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Woods

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