



APPEAL APP/W0530/W/23/3315611

LAND TO THE NORTH OF CAMBRIDGE NORTH STATION, CAMBRIDGE

NOTE TO NATURAL ENGLAND

I have considered your letters dated 28 October 2023 and 24 November 2023. I also note that you do not propose to submit a statement in relation to this appeal.

Your letters identify 3 areas of concern: water resources; the provision of green infrastructure, in particular the need to avoid harm to the existing ecological network, including statutorily designated sites and locally important sites such as Milton Country Park and Bramblefields Local Nature Reserve; and the potential air quality impacts on ecological receptors during operation. Your letters stated that further information was necessary, but there do not appear to be any further comments following the amended proposals submitted in November 2023.

The parties have submitted additional information in relation to the appeal and I would be grateful if you could update me as to Natural England's current position with regard to the matters raised in your letters. The inquiry website is at [Land North of Cambridge North Station Public Inquiry - South Cambs District Council \(scams.gov.uk\)](https://scams.gov.uk).

In terms of water resources, a Statement of Common Ground has been agreed between the Environment Agency and the appellant, and both parties have submitted additional information. You will note from the Executive Summary of the *Water Resources and Ecological Evidence Summary* (Appendix 1 to the Environment Agency's comments) that there are three water bodies where abstraction is currently a contributing factor to ecological pressure, and seven where abstraction at the licensed rate where it is predicted to cause an ecological impact and risk of deterioration under the Water Framework Directive. Could you please advise the Inquiry as to the ecological implications of existing abstraction rates, including any impacts on habitats and/or species (including any Natura 2000 sites) and the implications of increased abstraction on these interests.

It would also be helpful to have your view as to whether any potential harm could be mitigated and the appropriate mechanism(s) for mitigation.

Do the current proposals satisfy your previous concerns regarding the provision of green infrastructure, and the potential harm to existing ecological networks? If so, do you consider there to be a need for any specific planning conditions in relation to these measures? If your concerns remain, could you please explain the nature of any potential harm to the ecological networks, in particular any designated sites, and identify any measures that you consider to be necessary to address this harm.

With reference to the potential for air quality impacts on ecological receptors during the operational phase could you please identify the receptors concerned.

I would be grateful for your response in relation to these matters at your earliest convenience.

Lesley Coffey

Planning Inspector

01.06.2023



SoCG - Water
Resources EA and App



Final EA Statement
23052023.pdf



Appendix 1 - Baseline
data of risk of deterior



Appendix 2 - GCP
Draft Briefing Note.pd



Appendix 3 - EA
representation CWC c



Appendix 4 -
Cambridge Water WR



Appendix 5 - Email to
GCP 6 Jan 2023.pdf