

Periam, David - Oxfordshire County Council

From: Laura Warden <l.warden@oxfordpreservation.org.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2022 11:16
To: Catcheside, Emily - Oxfordshire County Council
Cc: Shona Carr
Subject: R3.0138/21 - Linear site comprising a corridor between the A34 Milton Interchange and the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden

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Dear Ms Catcheside,

I thank you for letting Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) submit comments on this application, to be considered prior to its determination. We hope that you will be able to consider these comments as part of the application process.

OPT are aware that the proposed works covered by this application are part of the wider plans for this part of the County which have been under discussion for some time. We are also aware that they were based on the assumption that the Oxford to Cambridge Arc would happen to deliver significant growth within Oxfordshire. In 2021 plans for the Arc were revised, and plans for a major new road to link the two cities dropped. This reflects the Government's commitment towards tackling climate change, and their obligation to reach net zero emissions by 2050, enshrined in law since 2019, and with the focus moving to improved public transport, and active travel options.

At a local level, the County Council published Climate Action Framework in 2020 in which they committed to a net-zero future for Oxfordshire, and with the ambitious aim of operating at net-zero carbon by 2030.

OPT are pleased to support both the Government and the Council commitment to carbon neutrality, and as part of this, to reduce car usage.

With all this in mind we question whether it is necessary to create a new road network across existing open countryside. If the ambitious targets set are to be met plans for new road and bridge building across the County should be stopped. Recent local press articles have drawn attention to, and indeed, praised the County for their commitment to reducing car use and into alternative forms of transport. We are at a loss to see how this can be claimed when this scheme remains on the table.

The extensive housebuilding programmes taking place offers many opportunities to provide green energy alternatives, to design more environmentally friendly residential areas, and to offer alternative modes of transport for residents. We urge the Council to rethink this road and bridge building programme and find a greener way.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Laura Warden

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