


From: 
To: [Rachael Beard](#)
Subject: Re: Cambridge Section 19 application - your letter of objection
Date: 20 November 2021 10:47:25
Attachments: [Letter from John Meed.pdf](#)
[South_Cambridge_station\(John_Meed\).pdf](#)

Dear Rachel

Thankyou for the email. Excuse the delay in replying - I was away last week. I attach the documents I had sent you as requested.

Just to underline - I'm not objecting to the South Cambridge station project itself, just drawing attention to the impact on biodiversity of an aspect of site compounds storage in the plans. I am sure another solution could be found for this and would be happy to discuss this with Network Rail.

Regards

John

On 17 Nov 2021, at 14:44, Rachael Beard
<Rachael.Beard@communities.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Meed

Thank you for your letter of objection to the section 19 application. Would it be possible to send me your letter electronically?

Regards Rachael

Rachael Beard
Senior Planning Manager

Planning Casework Unit
Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities
23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham
B2 4BH

John Meed

E-mail: [REDACTED]
Tel.: [REDACTED]

The Planning Casework Unit
23 Stephenson Street,
Birmingham,
B2 4BH

5/11/2021

Dear Planning Casework Unit

Reference: PCU/S19/E0535/3282002

I am writing in connection with a detailed aspect of the Cambridge South Station proposals, namely the use of land south of Addenbrooke's Road as the 'Main Eastern Compound' for storing site compounds. The photo below shows the area, complete with the PCU notice.

I am concerned about the impact that this will have on biodiversity and attach a short paper explaining my concerns.

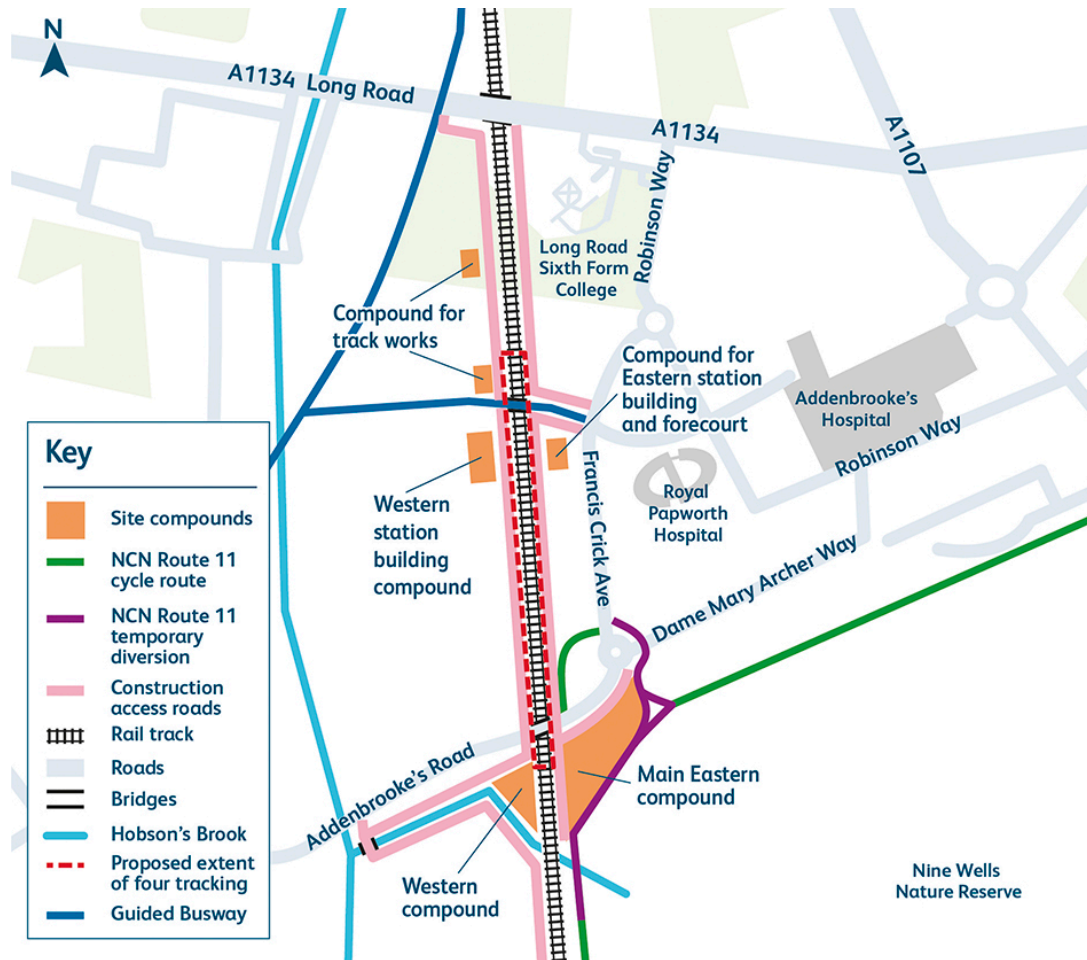
Yours sincerely

John Meed
Ecological surveyor (BTO/RSPB/UKBMS)



South Cambridge station – environmental impact of main eastern compound for site compounds storage

I have been carrying out ecological surveys in the area immediately south of the Biomedical Campus over the last ten years, and have become aware that the southern slope of the bridge which takes Addenbrooke's Road across the railway line is an important breeding site for a number of invertebrate species. The current plans propose designating this area as the 'Main Eastern Compound' for storing site compounds in the following map:



In ecological terms, the southern slope of the road bridge provides a small patch of south-facing rough grassland and scrub. A range of flowering plants and grasses flourish there, including chicory, docks, bird's foot trefoil, clover, ragwort, marjoram and yarrow, and a host of invertebrates have become well established, including many species of butterflies, ants, beetles, bees, wasps and flies.

In particular, the area hosts colonies of several butterfly species:

- Small copper (below left) – this 'gem' of the butterfly world needs warm dry conditions where it feeds on clover, ragwort and yarrow and lays its eggs on sorrel or dock.
- Brown argus (below right) – which feeds on birds-foot trefoil, ragwort, wild marjoram and wild thyme, and whose caterpillars enjoy cranesbills, the wild geraniums).

- Common blue (below centre) – which feeds on the same plants as the brown argus, and whose caterpillars prefer bird's foot trefoil
- Small heath – which is now a priority species because of the decline in its population. Its caterpillars prefer fine grasses such as meadow grasses.



In addition, in August 2021 I recorded a clouded yellow on several occasions. This butterfly does not have a permanently resident population this far north, so individuals are either migrants or their immediate offspring. The area has a good amount of clover, their favourite egg-laying plant, so it is probable that this was a male patrolling a good breeding spot and aiming to attract passing females. He was particularly fond of the nectar of birds-foot trefoil.

Several species of ground-nesting bees and wasps also breed on the slope.

This patch of grassland also has the densest population of grasshoppers and crickets in the immediate area. Grasshoppers and crickets are the favourite food of labyrinth spiders who spin their funnel webs (right) among the grass stalks. Deep in the labyrinth their eggs can develop in relative safety. This is yet another species that thrives on south-facing grassland.



If site compounds are stored too close to this patch of grassland, this would wipe out these invertebrate colonies, with an impact on the wider ecosystem. The plants and invertebrates in turn provide food for other creatures. The nationally threatened corn bunting and grey partridge breed nearby and visit the area to find invertebrate food for their chicks, while linnets visit to feed on the seeds. Water voles (which breed in Hobson's Brook) make use of the nearby seasonal ditch.

I am certain that alternative ways can be found to store the site compounds without damaging biodiversity or impairing the construction work, and am available to provide further guidance or to visit the site at an appropriate point.

John Meed,