



**OBJ-23-W3/3**

## **Summary of Proof of evidence relating to Biodiversity Net Gain and Breeding Farmland Birds.**

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992: APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED  
NETWORK RAIL (CAMBRIDGE SOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT) ORDER**

Planning Ref: 20/05054/CTY,  
21/02957/TWA

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behalf of Cambridge City Council (OBJ23)

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### 1.0 Summary

#### 1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 My name is Guy Belcher, I am a local authority ecologist with twenty-three years professional experience.
- 1.2 I am employed by Cambridge City Council as their Biodiversity Officer, providing ecological expertise on land management, and advising The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service on planning policy and development control.
- 1.3 I have been asked to prepare this proof of evidence by my employer, Cambridge City Council (the council) in respect of matters relating to the impact of the proposed Cambridge South Station on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and breeding farmland birds on Hobson's Park and the wider development site.
- 1.4 The councils reasons for objection on these matters are:
- The application has not provided sufficient Information to demonstrate the minimum 10% biodiversity net gain target is proportionate and achievable and can provide appropriate habitat mitigation on or near to the site, and as a result has not demonstrated compliance with Local Plan 2018 policies 67, 69 and 70, the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) paragraph 174, and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
- The application has not adequately considered the potential construction impacts on the identified County important population of Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*) and Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) populations within the development boundary, and as a result has not demonstrated compliance with Local Plan 2018 policy 70, and NPPF paragraph 180.

- 1.5 Cambridge City Council support in principle the vision and rationale for a new Cambridge South Station. The outline proposals do not however provide sufficient detail in relation to both onsite and offsite BNG for the local planning authority to be confident that BNG will be delivered in accordance with NPPF policy and industry best practice principles.
- 1.6 Cambridge City Council remain concerned that Red Listed species issues in relation to breeding corn bunting and skylark have not been sufficiently addressed prior to determination to ensure that suitable land is available to accommodate any necessary mitigation.
- 1.7 Cambridge City Council has requested that the Applicant provide further information in respect of these issues. If further information is received then the Council's objections may be resolved, depending on the adequacy of any such further information. In the absence of any further information being provided, the Council maintains its objection as set out above.