

**IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY TO DETERMINE AN APPLICATION UNDER
SECTION 6 OF THE TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992**

MADE BY NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LTD

**THE NETWORK RAIL (CAMBRIDGE SOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE
ENHANCEMENTS) ORDER**

**OPENING NOTE ON BEHALF OF CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL (OBJ-23) AND
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (OBJ-24)**

1. This Opening Note is drafted on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (hereinafter referred to jointly as “the Councils”).
2. The Councils are both supportive of the principle of the proposed scheme but have throughout the consultation and application process objected by reference to issues of biodiversity net gain, ecology, open space (including whether there is justification for the extent and timing of the loss of open space, the adequacy of the exchange land and the timing of its delivery, access and accessibility and contributions towards ongoing maintenance), trees and electric vehicle charging points.
3. As set out in the Councils’ letter to the Inspector of 28 January 2022, since the pre-inquiry meeting and particularly on receipt of the Applicant’s rebuttal evidence, officers for the Councils have made progress with the Applicant towards resolving the Councils’ objections. The Applicant has produced further evidence by way of its rebuttal proofs of evidence in response to various of the Councils’ requests for information. Further information has also been received by the Councils on Friday 28 January 2022 (which the Councils have not yet had the opportunity to review).
4. As a result, the majority, if not all, of the Councils’ objections are likely to be overcome to the Councils’ satisfaction either because the Council has now received the information it has been requesting from the Applicant to justify its

position, because the Councils are satisfied that, in light of the information submitted, the Councils' objections can be overcome by way of a condition or because the Applicant has agreed to make the provision requested by the Councils (for example in respect of electric vehicle charging points).

5. In terms of the presentation of evidence, as matters stand and subject to the work that is ongoing, the views of the Inspector and those of the Applicant, the Councils consider that one or at most two witnesses would present evidence which would take half a day to a day at most.
6. To facilitate the smooth running of the inquiry, the Councils propose to provide a detailed position statement to the Inspector at the end of the week preceding its evidence which sets out the Councils' up to date position in respect of each of its objections.
7. The Councils would respectfully request that they be timetabled to present their evidence towards the end of the week commencing 15 February 2021 on either Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th or Friday 18th of that week. The Councils would envisage presenting oral evidence in respect of any remaining objections and answering questions in respect of those matters as well as answering any questions the Inspector may have in respect of those objections which have been overcome. It may also be the case that certain of the issues raised by the Councils' are best dealt with in the Conditions session.

1 February 2022

Jack Parker

Cornerstone Barristers