

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Team
Highways Agency
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Manton Industrial Estate
Bedford
MK41 7LW

Our ref:

Your ref:

04 January 2010

Dear Sirs

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton - Draft Orders Public Consultation

CPRE Cambridgeshire wish to make the following comments with regards to the consultation for the Draft Orders for the above scheme.

Summary

(1) We note the impact of the routes on the landscape will be considerable.

(2) We call for full biodiversity and landscape mitigation measures, including wider funding of projects, and a re-examination of the proposed road layout within Huntingdon, and a reduction in the proposed lighting, to ensure light pollution is minimised throughout the proposed scheme.

(3) We also call for full open and public ongoing post-completion road evaluations to be completed – these should measure the effect on the landscape, biodiversity and residents beyond the road's immediate vicinity, study the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions, and analyse traffic growth to determine whether the new road is itself generating new traffic.

Detailed Comments

1. In terms of the Draft Orders we are concerned as to the impact on the landscape, the environment - including the impact on ecology, and issues such as noise, light and air pollution.

1.2 Some key issues include the impact of the proposed route on: the landscape and visual amenity in general, on Brampton Wood (17.2.1), Portholme Meadow (17.2.12, 17.5.3, 17.5.4, 17.5.5, 17.5.6) Views and Mill Commons in Huntingdon (18.5.36, 18.5.41, 18.6.35, 18.6.44) and the impact of the viaduct crossing the River Great Ouse (15.3.46), as well as the impact on other sites of wildlife value.

1.3 The impact of a major road cannot be underestimated – threats from noise, exhaust pollution, light pollution and the effect on climate change. CPRE Cambridgeshire call for the latest technological improvements in road surfacing to be used to reduce noise pollution, and for the road to be unlit. We also feel it is important that there should be a NMU crossing linking Brampton village with Brampton Wood.

1.4 Regarding the River Great Ouse viaduct crossing. We call for the best in quality of design, and with least visual impact, whilst being of character-value.

There should be no lighting associated with the viaduct. There will be a need for considerable biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures, including funding for projects within the Ouse Valley.

1.5 In terms of landscape we would expect full landscape impact mitigation measures to be implemented. We are also worried at the impact of the crossing of the A1198 and other local roads. This would have a wide visual impact on the local landscape and we feel all options should be considered to ensure the minimal impact takes place. As this area is currently tranquil countryside we would again call for noise reducing surfacing to be used and for the road to be unlit. We are therefore opposed to the Environment Statement Chapter 3 3.7 Lighting Design Table 3.5 fig.3.1.7, which proposes lighting the two roundabouts and approaches to the A1198 Ermine Street junction.

1.6 In Huntingdon we are particularly concerned at the impact of the proposed changes to the route layout of the existing A14 and the proposed construction of new lengths of carriageway on Mill Common and Views Common, all of which are important spaces in the Huntingdon Conservation Area. The Cultural Heritage study of the Environmental Statement November 2009 confirms the proposals would have a negative impact on the character and form of the conservation area. This is exacerbated by what can be described as an over-engineered approach to the proposed junctions. Large roundabouts would take up significant areas of greenspace within the two surviving areas of grazing lands, which the report recognises as being, ‘... *important historic landscape assets.*’ (18.5.36) We call for the design of these junctions and the proposed link roads to be re-examined to ensure they are of minimal impact, and the possibility of replacing the proposed roundabouts with traffic signals. We are also extremely concerned at the excessive lighting proposed. This will see new lighting added to the existing A14 with an adverse impact upon the SAC Portholme Meadow causing a huge impact on the tranquillity and character of the meadow (We therefore disagree with 17.5.6 which states there will be no adverse effects upon Portholme SAC.) Lighting will also impact on the wider Ouse Valley and dramatically alter the character of the Commons and Conservation Area within Huntingdon. We oppose the lighting proposed in the Environment Statement Chapter 3 3.7.2 and 3.7.4.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Ridewood
CPRE Cambridgeshire