



Response to:

**Norwich Western Link
Planning Application:
FUL/2024/0022**

Introduction

Transport Action Network (TAN) is a national network for those campaigning for sustainable transport. We OBJECT to the planning application for the Norwich Western Link (NWL).

Outdated project

The application is for an outdated project which runs counter to modern transport, climate and environmental policy. This road scheme is a twentieth century proposal, reflecting outdated 'predict and provide' theories.

Increasing traffic growth

The NWL would increase traffic growth, creating new trips and inducing additional traffic. The project would not halt or reduce traffic growth, but would create higher car dependency. It would divert limited resources away from sustainable alternatives to the car.

Increasing carbon emissions

The project would increase carbon emissions at a time when we should be doing all we can to rapidly reduce emissions. Every infrastructure scheme in the UK plays a role in helping the UK to reach its legally binding national and international climate targets. This scheme takes us backwards on reaching these targets.

Ancient woodland

The NWL would destroy ancient woodland, counter to national planning policy. The "*wholly exceptional reasons*" test in paragraph 186 c) of the NPPF has not been met with this proposal, and should be refused on this basis. The threat to ancient woodland has also not been adequately assessed with North Wood missed out of the planning application.

Barbastelle bats

The project threatens the largest breeding population of the barbastelle bat, which is one of the UK's rarest bat species. Natural England have indicated they are unlikely to grant the licences to interfere with the breeding sites. The application should be refused on this basis.

River Wensum Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The NWL would cause irreversible damage to the internationally important chalk stream habitats of the River Wensum SSSI. The 700m long concrete viaduct across the valley would be an environmental travesty, especially with the toxic runoff from the vehicles crossing this delicate and sensitive habitat. The application should be refused permission on this basis.

19 August 2024



Transport Action Network

Transport Action Network provides free support to people and groups pressing for more sustainable transport in their area and opposing cuts to bus and rail services, damaging road schemes and large unsustainable developments

254 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6BF

Not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales: 12100114