Submission ID: 18800

The impact on David Attwood, his farming business and his family, and the ecological impact from the proposed woodland planting, are the grounds for the objection. They may be summarised as follows:
ï‚§ Loss of 81.9 hectares of arable land puts at risk the financial viability of the farming business, additionally affecting livelihoods of the wider family employed on the farm.
ï‚§ Fixed overheads will not reduce but be spread over a smaller area, severely impacting profitability. Profitability of N&D Attwood relies on the return from the arable enterprise. Disregarding land that is rented in, it offering no long term security of tenure, the land included in the DCO application amounts to approximately 20% of the arable area farmed.
ï‚§ Approximately 72.3 hectares of the 81.9 hectares is at Harp Farm, one of two main holdings that are together ring fenced. The economic impact felt as a consequence of the loss of land at Harp Farm is exponentially worse than if the same applied to outlying farms.
ï‚§ Modern farm buildings and grain stores will be made redundant with no prospect of alternative planning uses due to their size, specialist design and location in a rural setting, and other planning policy constraints, including the AONB designation, highways constraints and the proximity to the SSSI.
ï‚§ Land acquired will be subject to anti social behaviour in the form of fly tipping and joy riding, an issue which plagues the local area. It will be difficult for National Highways to successfully manage this issue by routine security patrols given the size of the area being acquired. If part of reservoir field is included, this anti social behaviour will more easily spill over onto retained land.
ï‚§ Years of environmental stewardship of the land, creating and enhancing important habitats for some endangered species, will be destroyed by the proposed tree planting.
ï‚§ According to Defra's Biodiversity Metric 3.1, the proposed woodland planting may lead to a loss of biodiversity units due to the difficulty in creating a lowland mixed deciduous woodland on former arable land of high fertility.

David Attwood makes no further representations relating to any other part of the application.