

From: [Richard Mawby](#)
To: [Northampton Gateway](#)
Subject: Post hearing submission OFH2: For the attention of Kate.
Date: 14 March 2019 22:38:50

Post hearing submission OFH2: please find below my submission from the hearing:

Good evening,

My name is Richard Mawby and I live near Gayton and own some nature reserve that lies beside the railway line you propose to use.

My objections steer towards an environmental nature, a human concern and the bigger picture on a cumulative impact that both northampton gateway and rail central will produce. This also takes into account perspectives and consequences that think ahead into the future and not just the immediate impact.

We look at the world through a superficial lens and whilst the proposed applications address the visual impact on the landscape, there is something much deeper to consider.

Simply transplanting a habitat is not straight forward and although visually pleasing, the moment you dig deep into the soil and start cutting down trees you are destroying decades if not centuries of developed ecosystems.

Span this across the multiple developments across the UK and the true scale of loss of habitat is substantial and alarming. A simple drive across the county, or country will reveal the reality of mass industrialisation and resulting loss of farmland and natural landscapes. There is only so much our ecosystems can handle before they encounter a catastrophic collapse, which you could argue is already happening.

Climate change is another factor to consider and if you think back only 3 years the change in seasons has been noticeable. Think back decades and a definitive pattern emerges. We have to think about the bigger perspective and the impact on future generations over short term profits and temporary solutions. Whilst one can argue climate change happens naturally, there is no doubt that mass deforestation and concreting of wild landscapes has played a defining role.

Would it not be wise to focus our endeavours on projects like incentives for farmers to adopt agroforestry? It is a system that allows the reforestation of farmland, restores wild habitat whilst allowing the land to continue to produce food for us. This would encourage the local food economy and educational opportunities.

My background includes but is not limited to wild food foraging and conservation as I own a private nature reserve beside the track that will become busier. There is research that shows industrial disruption can damage and destroy the eco system on a microscopic as well as macroscopic level. This includes microbes and bacteria and mycelium which are crucial to a healthy habitat. The increased pollution and vibrations of the railway will no doubt disturb my nature reserve and any adjacent habitat on an adverse level. Here is one example: The ideal environment for great crested newts rests in the marshland directly beside the line and the use of diesel trains would directly impact this. How can these applicants possibly mitigate or prevent the increased pollution of noise, vibration and fumes to any surrounding landscape and how can they justify the obvious severity of their impact that will damage our futures especially with the increasingly urgent topic of climate change and destruction of wild ecosystems due to our already poor choices in the previous decades.

Considering all that I have said, there is a much bigger picture to address that includes all industrial developments which will severely and negatively impact us in the years to come.

It is inevitable that the proposed developments will increase the already poor air quality. This is a violation to us as humans and research shows a decrease in health and mental clarity or cognitive intelligence as a result of increased pollutants in the air. There should be measures to reduce this, not to increase it.

Estimations and predictions also suggest that due to an increase in temperature, many areas of the world will become uninhabitable within the next century and if we do not act fast and act now to mitigate and fix the damage to our planet, we are fast tracking our way into the next mass extinction.

Another concern is the fertility of our soils. It has been estimated that we have as little as thirty years of fertility left under our current intensive farming methods. There is no doubt that building over farmland will speed up this process and as such there should be a greater motive towards local sustainable agriculture and restoration of natural habitats that include us as a keystone species. The good news is that through agroforestry they have refertilised desert in less than a decade and fully reforested such landscape in just forty years and running water naturally returned to the landscape due to the developed root systems and healthy soil.

This is what we should be focusing on and this is what should be being discussed in an urgent political agenda. Short term fixes and quick profiting is not the way forwards – and HS2 or other industrial developments are most certainly digging us deeper into an early grave.

And so I repeat, is this the future that we want to give to our future generations? – I think not.

Thank you.

Welcome to the World of Richard Mawby

www.richardmawby.com

Forage Frolics - Learn, Love, Live the wild! - Wild food foraging courses.

Northampton Water Company - Freshly filtered water on tap!

Richard Mawby: Self-published Author, Writer, Poet and Philosopher.



Virus-free. www.avast.com