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The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
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29 August 2024

Dear Secretary of State

Norwich Western Link Road, Norfolk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has written to the Department's Casework Planning Unit (CPU) to formally request that you exercise your power of call-in in accordance with section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in relation to Norfolk County Council's application for planning permission for the development of a Norwich Western Link connecting land between the A1270 Broadland Northway near Ringland and the A47 near Honingham, Ref: FUL/2024/0022. That letter explains the reasons for this request in detail, but in short this is a proposal to build a 6km dual carriageway across one of the finest landscapes in Norfolk, the Wensum Valley, which will have disastrous impacts on Norfolk's wildlife and, in our professional opinion, it is the most ecologically damaging planning application we have seen in Norfolk in decades. It will have impacts of national significance which have the potential to directly conflict with national policy. There is a clear need for the Application to be properly scrutinised at a national inquiry and for the Application to be taken out of the applicant local planning authority's hands.

We appreciate that there may be good reasons to provide solutions to congestion and other issues relating to transport in this part of Norfolk. We have no objection to sustainable development where wildlife is not adversely affected. However, the current proposal is objectively extremely damaging to wildlife, as explained in our letter of objection to the planning application [Our response to the Norwich Western Link road public consultation | Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#). The proposal is also very costly and we think that funding should be redirected towards more sustainable solutions to transport infrastructure which do not cause such significant environmental destruction.

The Trust feels so strongly about this proposal that we have also raised our concerns with the Secretary of State for Transport as her department approved the outline business case to provide £213m of funding in October 2023, and with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs because of the damage to protected species and habitats which this proposal would cause. We note that Clive Lewis, MP for Norwich South, raised the issue in parliament and will be



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Founded in 1926 as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust, the first Wildlife Trust

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meeting Louise Haigh shortly to discuss this case in the light of the review of the DfT capital funding portfolio which she has commissioned.

I should be very grateful if you would accept our formal application to the CPU for call-in of this application. The Trust would be happy to facilitate a site visit, participate in any further discussion and provide further information if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliot Lyne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eliot Lyne
Chief Executive, Norfolk Wildlife Trust