Question 1: Cambridge Approaches Ltd

This proposed "Green to the Core" local plan is not legally compliant. It needs to demonstrate that East West Rail does not have in combination effects on the protection of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation for barbastelle bats. You may think this is an unreasonable or burdensome requirement. However, it is precisely what the Habitats Regulations require of you. Proper analysis of the Sizewell C case shows that it was not analogous to the situation you face. If you sign off this plan with EWR dependent housing north of Cambourne now, rather than phasing it once the position is clear, you are running a risk that the planning inspectors will throw it out. If you sign off this plan you are delegating your legal responsibility to protect South Cambs' only Special Area of Conservation to EWRCo.'s future document. EWR cuts off breeding barbastelle females from a large part of their foraging area. The proposed mitigations, green bridges, have been shown not to work in Charlotte Packman's six year empirical study in the Wensum Valley. Barbastelles there were found to positively avoid them. We are advised by ecologists that if EWR goes ahead on this route, these rare and highly protected bats will starve. Are you comfortable, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that signing off this plan with EWR dependent housing now will not adversely affect our SAC? If you are not, then these EWR dependent houses should be delayed until the evidence is clear.

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