

Tim Hancock
Tim Hancock Associates
Bishop's Hall Farm
Great Leighs
Chelmsford
Essex
CM13 1PP

Lincolnshire County Council
Lincolnshire Highways
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 782070
Email: cschighways@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Date: Thursday 16th January 2025
Ref: JH/NHRR/JC

Dear Tim,

**The Lincolnshire County Council (A1461 North Hykeham Relief Road)
Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 ("CPO")**

**The Lincolnshire County Council (A1461 North Hykeham Relief Road)
(Classified Road) (Side Roads) Order 2024 ("SRO")**

**These are referred to either separately as the CPO and the SRO or collectively
as the Orders**

Your client: Wolfson Trago Limited

I write to thank you for your written comments dated 21 November 2024, which have been forwarded to me, as the Promotor's representative, by the Department for Transport following your objection to the above CPO. Following the closure of the Objection period into the Scheme proposals, the Council has considered with care the various objections and representations made including those made by yourselves. The Council has decided, however, that the basis for proceeding with the Scheme is sound, especially given the advantages that flow from it, and will therefore be progressing the Scheme including the pursuit of any public inquiry into the proposals should that be necessary.

In respect of the comments you have submitted, I have identified two matters of concern in respect of Lincolnshire County Council's ("LCC" or "the Council") proposal to bring forward the North Hykeham Relief Road ("NHRR" or "the Scheme").

In looking at your concerns it is important to recall the purposes underlying the promotion of the Scheme itself. The NHRR is intended to assist the sustainable economic growth of Lincoln and Lincolnshire and reduce congestion in and around North Hykeham and the surrounding villages. The scheme will improve journey time reliability by providing additional network capacity and route choice, in particular for east-west movements, as well as journey time savings on longer trips around or bypassing the Lincoln urban area. The NHRR is a vital part of Lincolnshire's plans to support the growth of its priority economic sectors and unlocks the South West Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension. This development, which is dependent on the delivery of the NHRR, is an essential part of the housing supply within Central Lincolnshire, providing approximately 2,000 dwellings and up to 5ha of additional general employment land, along with retail and community uses including a new primary school, open space and formal sports pitches.

I wish to take this opportunity to address the two matters of concern which you have raised in your letter to help you to understand the Council's position in respect of them. We would hope that you would then be able to reconsider the matters you have raised to see if you would wish to present them as objections to any public inquiry which may be necessary.

1. Your first concern is that the Scheme has the potential to adversely affect the access arrangements and consequently the trading performance of your client's roadside restaurant.
 - 1.1. During construction of the works, the Council will ensure that access is maintained to the Service Area, including your client's restaurant. Disruption will be reduced by careful planning of the works and the use of traffic management in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice and guidance documents. The details of the proposed phasing are still under development, and will be subject to approvals, but the Council remains committed to the principle of continued public access to the service station throughout the construction phase.
 - 1.2. There are currently two junctions which serve your client's property. The western junction provides access into and egress from the site, whilst the eastern junction provides access only into the site.
 - 1.3. Western Junction
 - 1.3.1. The Scheme provides for improvements to the western junction which will create a larger junction to improve its operation and provide for safe pedestrian facilities.
 - 1.3.2. The existing junction will be maintained and enlarged as shown on the Side Roads Order Plan 1 at N1.
 - 1.3.3. By maintaining and improving this access, the Scheme ensures that access continues to your client's retained land directly from the public highway and further your client will benefit from the improvements to the junction.
 - 1.4. Eastern Junction
 - 1.4.1. It is necessary to amend the eastern junction in order to bring forward the Scheme in a form which complies with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges ("DMRB") and which National Highways, who are the responsible authority for the A46 Hykeham Roundabout, would accept. This is essential given the proximity of the junction to the roundabout.
 - 1.4.2. Part of the existing access point nearest the A46 Hykeham Roundabout will be stopped up, as shown on the Side Roads Order Plan 1 at X1a.

- 1.4.3. A new, reasonably convenient, means of access to the site is provided off Middle Lane immediately adjacent, and to the west of, the existing access. This is shown on the Side Roads Order Plan 1 at 1i.
 - 1.4.4. By providing this replacement access, the Scheme ensures that access continues to your client's restaurant directly from the public highway on a like-for-like basis.
- 1.5. A meeting has taken place in which the matters have been discussed and there is ongoing dialogue between the Council's representatives and Tim Hancock Associates.
2. Your second concern is that you client needs assurance in relation to the provision of advanced warning signs to alert motorists to the facilities.
 - 2.1. There is currently directional signage to the services on the A46 both on the northbound and southbound approach to the A46 Hykeham Roundabout as well as on the roundabout itself at its junction with Middle Lane.
 - 2.2. It is necessary to bring forward the Scheme in a form which complies with the DMRB and which National Highways, who are the responsible authority for the A46 Trunk Road, including the A46 Hykeham Roundabout, would accept.
 - 2.3. The Circular 01/22 published by the Department for Transport explains how National Highways will engage with the planning system and fulfil its remit to be a delivery partner for sustainable economic growth whilst maintaining, managing and operating a safe and efficient strategic road network. Specifically, it addresses the requirement for roadside facilities. At paragraph 73, it states that, "the operation of all signed roadside facilities will be the subject of a legal agreement between the company [National Highways] and the operator of these facilities."
 - 2.4. The Council has enquired with National Highways about the signage to the services. National Highways have confirmed that there are no policy compliant Trunk Road Service Areas on the A46 and further that there are no Traffic Signs agreements in place.
 - 2.5. Consequently, existing signage which will be replaced by the Scheme will have directional signage for 'Services' removed. This is to comply with National Highways' requirements.
 - 2.6. The Council has no objection in principle to the continued signage of the Service Station but must comply with National Highways standards and policies in relation to work on the Trunk Road Network.
 - 2.7. Should your client be able to secure the necessary agreements with National Highways, the Council will provide that signage which is approved. In so far as it is able to, the Council can facilitate discussions with the relevant contacts at National Highways for the purpose of securing the necessary agreements.
 - 2.8. Furthermore, the Council has asked National Highways to review their position on the matter and discussions with National Highways are ongoing.

I would hope that this letter addresses the concerns that you have raised and provides you with the information necessary to enable you to formally withdraw your objection. If you would wish to do so, please write to the Department for Transport at the following address:

Secretary of State for Transport
National Transport Casework Team
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road

Newcastle Business Park

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE4 7AR

Alternatively you could send an email to them at nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk and I would ask you to copy Adam Lakin in at adam.lakin@bentleyprojectmanagement.co.uk

In the meantime, if you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the project team who are managing this element of the Scheme on behalf of the Council.

- Adam Lakin, Project Manager for NHRR
adam.lakin@bentleyprojectmanagement.co.uk
- Tom Aylmer, Land Agent for NHRR
tom.aylmer@darleyassociates.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sam Edwards', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Edwards

Head of Highway Infrastructure

sam.edwards@lincolnshire.gov.uk