

Notes of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting (PIM) held at 10.00am on Monday 16 June 2025, via Microsoft Teams in relation to:

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

and

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

Introductions

1. The Inspector, Jason Whitfield BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI, introduced himself and explained that he had been appointed to hold concurrent Inquiries (herein referred to as the Inquiry) in relation to the above Orders. He will hear the case for the Council (Lincolnshire County Council – ‘the Council’), any supporters, objectors and any other representations.

Purpose of Conference

2. The main purposes of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting were to discuss the procedural and administrative aspects of the Inquiry, and the issues that will need to be addressed in evidence. This is to ensure the forthcoming event can be conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
3. The Inspector explained that he would prepare general notes of the meeting which would include all relevant information given during the meeting and any necessary directions. The notes would be circulated by the Programme Officer, to those who attended the meeting and any others who responded to the publication of the Orders but were not present at the PIM. A copy of this note will also be placed in the inquiry library: [North Hykeham Relief Road – Public inquiry: Library - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Purpose and Scope of Inquiry

4. The Inspector set out that Inquiry is necessary because objections to the Orders have been received and not been withdrawn. The Inquiry will enable the Inspector to gather evidence before making his report to the Secretary of State. The report will set out the gist of the evidence and submissions heard at the Inquiry and the written representations received, along with his conclusions and recommendations as to whether the Orders should be confirmed, should be modified and confirmed, or should not be confirmed. The Secretary of State will make the decision on the Orders.

Attendance at the CMC

5. The CMC was attended by:
 - Jason Whitfield (Inspector)
 - Simon Randle (Counsel from 4-5 Gray’s Inn Square for Lincolnshire County Council)

- Kim Robertson (Lincolnshire County Council)
- Sam Edwards (Lincolnshire County Council)
- Adam Lakin (Bentleys for Lincolnshire County Council)
- Alistair Brown (Bentleys for Lincolnshire County Council)
- Ian Grimshaw (Bentleys for Lincolnshire County Council)
- Miles Burney (Bentleys for Lincolnshire County Council)
- Gareth Dickinson (Balfour Beatty for Lincolnshire County Council)
- Andrew Prowse (Carter Jonas for Quay Bronze, TL Propco, O'Boyle, Travelodge Hotels and James)
- Henry Church (CBRE for Rontec)
- Geoffrey Bishop (Escritt Barrell Golding for Lilly and Bishop and Burgess) (Part)
- Carole Crookes (Programme Officer)

Appearances at the Inquiry

6. The Council will be represented by Simon Randle. The Council intends to call nine witnesses (with some supporting witnesses) to cover the following topics:
 - Scheme Delivery
 - Scheme Design (including Junction Modelling)
 - Traffic Modelling
 - Planning (including Air Quality and Archaeology)
 - Landscape
 - Ecology
 - Hydrology and Flooding
 - Climate Change
7. Objectors:
 - Henry Church (CBRE for Rontec).
 - Andrew Prowse (Carter Jonas for Quay Bronze, TL Propco, O'Boyle, Travelodge Hotels and James).
 - Geoffrey Bishop (Escritt Barrell Golding for Lilly and Bishop and Burgess).
 - Network Rail Infrastructure Limited c/o Addleshaw Goddard LLP did not appear at the PIM.
 - Wolfson Trago Limited C/o Tim Hancock Associates did not appear at the PIM.

Inquiry Procedure and Programme

8. The Inspector set out that Inquiry would proceed in accordance with the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1994 and the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007. The Inquiry programme was outlined as:
 - Opening statement by Inspector.
 - Opening statement by Council.
 - Evidence in Chief of each of the Council witnesses with questions of clarification.
 - Objectors' chance to cross examine each witness.
 - Evidence in Chief of objectors.
 - Closing statements by objectors.

- Discussion of proposed modifications to the Order.
 - Closing statement on behalf of the Council.
 - Inspector closes the inquiry.
9. The Inspector set out that the programme may be revised during the course of the Inquiry if circumstances so dictate.
 10. The Inquiry will sit from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 17.00 Tuesday to Thursday, with short breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions. On Fridays, the Inquiry will commence at 09.30 and finish no later than 15.00
 11. The Inquiry timetable will be published on the Inquiry website and kept up-to-date throughout. It will be subject to change dependent on Inquiry progress. It is the responsibility of all parties to keep in contact with the Programme Officer regarding the programme.
 12. The Inspector requested that, since the Inquiry will be conducted on the basis of openness, fairness and impartiality, no person should attempt to speak to the Inspector outside of the Inquiry. Anything that needs to be said can be said in the Inquiry.
 13. The Inspector noted that once the Inquiry is closed, he is not able to hear or accept any further submissions or evidence, either oral or written. Anyone who does wish to make further representations should do so in writing to the SoS for Transport.

Presentation of the Evidence

14. Where evidence is to be given at the Inquiry by reading from a Proof of Evidence, only summaries of proofs should be read, albeit it will be the full proofs that are taken into account as evidence and upon which a person may be cross-examined.
15. Opening, closing and any legal submissions considered necessary must be provided in writing to the Programme Officer before they are read out at the Inquiry, in a format appropriate for incorporation into the Inspector's report.

Programme Officer

16. The Programme Officer is Carole Crookes, Independent Programme Officer Solutions, (lincoln@iposolutions.online). She acts as a neutral party and is independent of the inquiry. She is responsible for, amongst other things, the inquiry website, programming appearances and ensuring the timely submission of documents.
17. The Programme Officer will have no part in the report to the Secretary of State beyond assisting with the collation of appearance and document lists to be appended to it.

Documents

18. Proofs of evidence and supporting documents from the Council have now been submitted and are available to view on the Inquiry website.
19. The Inspector reminded attendees that it is the responsibility of everybody to ensure the deadlines have been met for the submission of evidence to allow the efficient and effective proceeding of the Inquiry.
20. Late evidence therefore will not automatically be accepted. The Inspector will consider any late evidence on a case-by-case basis having regard to fairness and parties should bear in mind the potential consequences of adjourning the Inquiry as a result of late evidence.
21. It was agreed at the PIM that any additional written evidence from objectors upon which they intend to rely upon at the Inquiry must be submitted to the Programme Officer by 1 July 2025.

Changes to Positions

22. The Inspector set out that starting point for the Inquiry is the Orders as originally published and that any proposed changes to the orders should be clearly documented and justified in written form, submitted to the Programme Officer, ahead of the Inquiry session on Modifications.
23. LCC confirmed modifications would be proposed and agreed to adhere to the Inspectors requirements.
24. The Inspector stated that if there were any changes to positions, such as the withdrawal of objections, then the Programme Officer must notified as soon as possible.

Inquiry Venue and Facilities

25. The public inquiry will begin at 10.00am on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Lincoln, Brayford Wharf, Lincoln, LN1 1YW.
26. The Inspector stated that the layout and facilities for the hearing room, particularly, the layout must be agreed by him by Friday 20th June 2025.

Site Visit Arrangements

27. The Inspector indicated that he intends to carry out an unaccompanied site visit before the start of the public inquiry. This will involve land which can be accessed publicly.
28. The Inspector requested that a schedule be prepared for site visits on private land and to include the relevant objector.
29. It was agreed that the accompanied site visits would take place on Friday 4th July 2025.

Any Other Procedural Matters

30. No further matters raised so the Inspector closed the meeting.