



**DPI/U3100/23/25**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGHWAYS  
INFRASTRUCTURE - A40 ACCESS TO WITNEY) COMPULSORY  
PURCHASE ORDER 2023**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGHWAYS  
INFRASTRUCTURE - A40 ACCESS TO WITNEY) (SIDE ROADS)  
ORDER 2023**

**Note of Inquiry Case Management Conference (CMC) (Amended 15.2.24)**

1. The CMC was held on 6 February 2024 at 10:00 hours on Teams and was led by the Inquiry Inspector Mrs Sarah Housden BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI. The Inspector introduced herself and explained that the purpose of the CMC was to deal with procedural and administrative matters relating to the running of the Inquiry.
2. The CMC was attended by Mr Alexander Booth KC representing the Acquiring Authority (AA), Mr Paul Curtis of Browne & Co representing the Morrish, Walker and Kearns statutory objectors (SO) and Mr Craig Whelton of Burges Salmon representing the Mawle and Northfield Life Interest Settlement SO.
3. There were no other statutory or non-statutory objectors or supporters at the CMC. At the start of the Inquiry, the Inspector will ask again if there is anyone else who wishes to make representations.

**Inquiry Dates and Venue**

4. The Inquiry will open on **12 March 2024** at 10:00 hours and will continue on **13, 14 and 15 March**. The venue is the Leonardo Royal Hotel, Godstow Road, Oxford OX2 8AL.
5. The Inspector confirmed that she would like to view the venue on 11 March 2024 to review the following points:
  - PA/microphones & hearing loop
  - Wi Fi
  - Photocopying/printing arrangements if needed
  - Parking
  - Retiring rooms for the Inspector, the AA and SO.
  - Refreshments
  - Additional monitor for the Inspector
6. The AA will review the above points and make the necessary arrangements for the Inspector's visit to the venue on 11 March. Could

the AA please also organise for a representative to be available when the Inquiry opens to act as a point of contact to deal with any queries or administrative matters during the Inquiry proceedings.

7. The AA will organise for a paper copy of the case library and Core Documents to be available at the venue for viewing during the Inquiry and will also arrange for the Order plans to be displayed at the Inquiry venue.

### **Inquiry procedure and appearances**

8. At this stage, the AA intends to call witnesses on the following matters:
  - Strategic case and need for the scheme
  - Traffic modelling
  - Highway technical evidence
  - Funding and delivery of the scheme
  - Planning matters
  - Environmental matters
  - Engagement and negotiation
9. The above evidence will be presented formally by evidence in chief/cross examination/re-examination. Mr Booth confirmed that some of these matters will be dealt with concisely.
10. Mr Curtis confirmed that negotiations with the AA were still ongoing, if it is necessary to attend and give evidence at the Inquiry he would be appearing accompanied by one of the SO.
11. Mr Whelton also confirmed that negotiations with the AA were still ongoing, if it is necessary to attend and give evidence at the Inquiry he would be appearing accompanied by one of the SO and a planning witness.
12. In response to Mr Whelton's query about the scope for presenting their evidence in a 'roundtable' format, the Inspector will review this again in conjunction with all parties after the statements have been submitted on **23 February 2024**.
13. A list of those intending to give evidence at the Inquiry with names, preferred pronouns and qualifications should be submitted by all parties by **1 March 2024**.

### **Submission of further documents**

14. Statements from all witnesses, and appendices should be submitted by **23 February 2024**. A summary should be provided for any statement over 1500 words. Rebuttal statements are not being sought but if any are to be made, they should be submitted by **5 March 2024**.
15. If any non-statutory objectors wish to speak at the Inquiry they should come with a prepared statement to read. It will help the smooth running

of events and make it easier for them to ensure they cover all the points they wish to raise. It would be very helpful if statements to be read at the event are provided in a typed word format. It would help the Inspector if two copies of statements could be provided for the main parties to share.

16. All statements should be submitted to [nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk](mailto:nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk)

### **Process for decision making of the SRO and CPO**

17. The SRO and CPO Inquiries are being held jointly and there will be a report to the Secretary of State for Transport on both Orders.

### **Inquiry programme and running order**

18. The following draft running order was discussed, but will be finalised in conjunction with arranging the draft programme to be prepared by the AA after the submission of statements:
  1. AA – Convening Notice and Protected Assets Certificate
  2. Legal Submissions relating to procedure and process
  3. Modifications (if any)
  4. Case for the AA, based around the following matters:
    - Policy context/overview
    - Strategic case and need for the scheme
    - Planning permission and s73 application
    - Alternative options assessed
    - Technical and environmental matters
    - Consultation and engagement
    - Need for the SRO and CPO
    - Deliverability and funding
    - Human Rights matters
  5. Supporters of the AA
  6. Statutory objectors
  7. Other objectors
  8. The AA will be able to respond to concerns raised by the SOs or other objectors.
  9. Closings
19. Time estimates for the presentation of evidence by parties other than the AA should be submitted by **28 February 2024**.

### **Core Documents list**

20. The list of Core Documents is being assembled by the AA. Paper copies will be available at the venue. The Inspector requires just the list with a web link to each document.
21. Any documents submitted at the Inquiry will be listed as Inquiry Documents and two paper copies should be provided in addition to an electronic version.

### **Modifications to the Order**

22. There are no modifications to the SRO and CPO to date.

### **Site visits**

23. The Inspector will be making an informal site visit prior to the Inquiry opening and will include Witney town centre and Bridge St as part of that. The Inquiry programme should build in sufficient time for a formal site visit. The AA is asked to draw up the necessary arrangements and liaise with SOs in relation to access, including a route to make efficient use of Inquiry time and any necessary health and safety measures.

### **Summary of Key Dates and Deadlines**

23 February 2024	Submission of statements
28 February 2024	Submission of time estimates for appearances and presentation of evidence by parties other than the AA
1 March 2024	List of Inquiry appearances with names and qualifications etc Draft Inquiry timetable to be submitted by the AA
5 March 2024	Rebuttal statements (if required)
12 March 2024	Inquiry opens at 10:00

The CMC closed at 11:00

*Sarah Housden*

INSPECTOR