

Inspector's Advice on *Surface Access and Local Roads and Rights of Way*

Scope of *Surface Access and Local Roads and Rights of Way* and demarcation between the topics.

Surface Access

This topic is intended to cover all aspects of the surface access proposals for the airport including matters relating to modal split, traffic generation, rail access, road access and on-site provision for car parking and coaches.

It is also intended to cover effects on the wider transport network, including (but not limited to) the WAML, the M11 and the A120.

All matters directly related to the various Orders promoted by the Highways Agency, including objections to the associated Side Road Orders and CPOs, will also be considered in this topic.

Local Roads and Rights of Way

This topic is intended to cover the impacts on those local roads and other rights of way that will be closed, diverted or otherwise affected by the proposed airport expansion (excluding those affected solely by the proposed new junctions on the M11 and A120 which will be considered under *Surface Access*).

Highways Agency (HA) Witnesses (HA letter of 22 January refers)

The Inspector apologises if his remarks at the programming meeting caused the HA confusion. He appreciates that the Orders promoted by the HA are strictly distinct from the various applications submitted by BAA. The two are, however, inextricably linked and it is common ground that the various highway works which the HA are promoting will not proceed in the absence of the airport scheme. Critically, the Inspector is charged with holding concurrent inquiries into all the various applications and Orders. He is anxious to do this in a way that is understandable for the public and minimises the risk of repetition.

The scope of the *Surface Access* topic as the Inspector currently sees it is set out above. It is within the scope of this topic that he would expect the HA to call the majority of their witnesses. These will include those dealing with policy, traffic generation, and the design and construction of the new junctions (including specialist witnesses dealing with structures, drainage, earthworks, lighting and communications if necessary). He would also expect any witnesses the HA wishes to call to deal with alternatives and objections to CPOs to be called under that topic.

Other environmental considerations are intrinsically tied in to the wider impacts of the proposal, however, and the Inspector takes the view that it would not be a productive use of inquiry time for the HA to call witnesses under the *Surface Access* topic to deal specifically with the impacts of the road schemes on matters such as *Noise, Air Quality, Cultural Heritage, Ecology and Nature Conservation, Landscape and Agriculture*. In his view such matters would be more appropriately considered in the appropriate topic session where the relevant expert witnesses will each be able to address the impact of the proposal as a whole on the matter in question. Whether the HA would need to attend these sessions and/or call witnesses at them is, in his view, a matter for the Agency and BAA to jointly decide.