

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Examination

Thursday 3rd September 2015, Third Compulsory Acquisition Hearing.

Re: Mr Christopher Behagg.

Preliminary Statement

by

M. P. Alexander FRICS FAAV,

Brown & Co Alexanders, Chartered Surveyors.

1. On behalf of Mr C Behagg Representations were made in advance of the March and June deadlines and the Highways England Response is at para 12 of HE/A14/EX/53.
2. There has been no attempt to agree SOCG re my client's interest.
3. Whilst my client's representations still stand my purpose today is to focus on that aspect of his Deadline 2 representations which relate to the licensing of farm traffic travelling through Huntingdon following the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct.
4. The HE response 12.4.1 doc 53 clearly refers to non trunk roads. The current A14 is a trunk road and passes through Huntingdon and affords my client read access between his home farm at Fenstanton and further farmland in his ownership at Sawtry north of Huntingdon.
5. Our client is not alone in using the existing A14 to move between various blocks of farmland, in my own case a similar situation arises for my client Mr Kevin Roe and there are a number of other farmers who will also be affected.
6. The licensing system does not currently impact on our client.
7. The suggestion is that following de-trunking of the existing A14 the road will revert to County Council control and hence the reference to weight limits under what Schedule 3 describes as "the County of Cambridgeshire (Godmanchester and Huntingdon Zone) (Prohibition of Heavy Commercial Vehicles) Order 1988.
8. Currently there is a weight restriction in Huntingdon designed to protect the medieval bridge over the River Great Ouse, however the access which Mr Behagg will use will be the de-trunked A14 over the A14 river bridge to Brampton Road and then via the Views Common Link on the de-trunked A14 northwards. My client has no need to use the weight restricted bridge and indeed has no reason to do so.
9. In their response HE suggest at 12.4.4 that my client in fact travels southwards to utilise the new A14 which is impractical and in the event of an upgrade to motorway in the future would be of no benefit.
10. Our client continues to question why licensing is required in order for his farm vehicles to use existing un-restricted roads in Huntingdon.