Submission ID: 6373

Whilst my clients, Peter Watts and John Watts Baker are generally supportive of the A428 Scheme, they are concerned by the amount of their private farmland required under the early designs.

Some of this has been modified or withdrawn following our discussions and we are grateful. However, the latest proposal, as set out in the attached plans continue to include two areas for permanent acquisition which do not actually appear to be required permanently for you to deliver this NSIP scheme.

I refer to Plots 8/5 (g), 8/5 (f) and parts of Plot 9/7 (b) as marked on the attached plans (Contested Land). This land has been queried before and we were advised Highways England were trying to release these areas from permanent acquisition in the hope of aranging environmental covenants attached to the land so it could be acquired temporarily and passed back to my clients.

having taken legal advice, under the 2008 Planning Act; Section 122, the above Contested Land can only be Compulsory Purchased as part of a DCO if Highways England can prove the land is required to facilitate or is incidental to that development. In addition, Highways England need to demonstrate there is a †compelling case in the public interest for the land to be purchased compulsorily â€.

If the Contested Land is required for landscaping works, we do not believe this can be required permanently for landscaping to facilitate the A428 scheme. We are willing to accept temporarily acquision to be returned to our client and covenanted as appropriate, possibly in conjunction with environmental mitigation land from elsewhere. We pointed out that there is alternative mitigation land elsewhere and are happy to discuss that in detail.

We would like to discuss the possibility of modifing the permanent acquisition of the Contested Land to avoid an objection which might delay the DCO process.

