

Our clients, Gary and Victoria Woods, have been registered as an Interested Party in this DCO application. Further to the initial representations submitted on their behalf when registering them as an Interested Party (Interested Party reference number is: 20033062), our clients own titles [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]. Plans submitted by National Highways as part of their DCO application propose to acquire part of both titles permanently. Furthermore, following discussions with Ardent and the VOA, both instructed on behalf of National Highways, we understand that plans are for existing overhead electricity lines to be undergrounded through our clients retained land and that there is the potential for a medium pressure cadent gas pipeline diversion to also be run through this retained land. As outlined above there are development hopes for this land and these plans have the potential to sterilise this opportunity. Therefore, our clients object to the undergrounding of utilities, particularly any gas infrastructure, through their retained land.

In discussions with Ardent and the VOA we have secured a replacement access to the clients retained land, which is shown in the plans submitted as part of the DCO application. Furthermore, Nick Dexter of Ardent has confirmed/provided a commitment via email that the ownership of this access would be transferred to our clients once the works have been completed. Whilst this confirmation is welcomed and appreciated we have asked for an assurance/statement of common ground to be provided outlining this commitment, which we have not yet received. We request that this is provided to our clients to alleviate their concerns on this matter.

Our clients are willing to consider acquisition of land required for the scheme by agreement and through ourselves have made efforts to advance these discussions with the VOA, instructed to act on the matter on behalf of National Highways, however lack of timely responses from the VOA have slowed negotiations considerably. We request that the VOA make a concerted effort to improve their efforts in responding to us in this regard.

Oliver Lukies & Michael Anderson of Strutt & Parker
For and on behalf of Gary and Victoria Woods