

## IPC Examination of the Heysham –M6Link TR10008

Local Impacts; - Watercourses

Prepared by David and Valerie Pilkington.

Members of the Halton Residents Group Unique Ref. xxxx

I offered to comment upon the potential impact of this proposed road scheme upon local watercourses due to my special interest. The information contained herein principally relates to “our” stream but could well be relevant to many other affected streams, becks, and drainage mediums along the route of the Heysham M6 link.

The property we own has a watercourse running through the grounds, having first issued from an aquifer and flows down through fields and woodland. The stream at the south /west corner the wood, adjoining our land has a small stone built dam incorporating a sluice gate, initially constructed to control the flow of water for the house. There is a stone built well close to the house after which the stream sinks under ground and flows through a stone built culvert to an outfall into the river Lune.

The proposed scheme as presented for this area would we believe affect a number of similar watercourses some named, others not, as not all of them are identified as they appear and disappear (sink and issue) with extremities of weather i.e. flood and drought, however what they do all have in common is that it has taken thousands of years for them to evolve, and are natural and valuable tributaries to the River Lune.

We first wrote to LCC Highway Consultancy on 12 January 2006 expressing our concern regarding the affect that the proposed scheme would have on watercourses. We wrote again on the same subject To Sara Wurth. Strategic Planning and Transport, Environment Directorate on 8th April.2009. On both occasions we received only standard replies. No reference or comment was made to the subject material we raised, therefore our concerns remained.

When Lancashire County Council took their presentation for the proposed Link Road to Lancaster Chamber of Commerce on 29 June 2011, Nicholas Pilkington MRICS, partner in a local firm of Chartered Surveyors, asked a specific question regarding the watercourse through our land. He was assured that the flow of the watercourse would be preserved by way of a sump and pump system. Following the meeting he rang us with this news knowing of our concerns.

Mr Andrew Johnson an adjacent landowner, had been told that the same watercourse running through his land would be maintained retaining its original course.

Stephen Gardner – Lancaster City Council, Conservation Officer stated to me. that there are a number of historic stone built culverts in Lancaster located within the curtilage of Listed properties and therefore afforded protection such as the one on our watercourse. He advised me to contact Mark Cassidy, Planning Officer, of Lancaster

City Council, also a Consultee to Lancashire County Council for the Heysham to M6 Link. Mr Cassidy suggested I would be wise to register with the I.P.C. and forward my concerns. .

We also made contact with Mr Cliff Welsby Environment Agency, Preston. His information was that although an application had been made regarding the changes to the work on the Lune River banks, necessary for the construction of the bridge there had been no applications for alterations to the affected watercourses, which are we understand required under current guidance.

Recently Mr. Andrew Johnson has been told that his/our watercourse is to be severed, isolated from its source by Th the proposed road. He would be compensated but would prefer the stream to remain, we would lose our stream and the river it's tributary. On 24 February 2012 Mr. Johnson notified us of these changes .I rang the LCC. Heysham to M6 Project office and I was put through to Mr S McCreesh the Project Director .he stated it was not a matter that he dealt with our knew about but would ask someone who did to contact us. Subsequently Margaret Whitmore Principal Land Agent for LCC .rang to arrange a site visit as they were not aware of the stream through our land.

On 27 February 2012 I rang DERFA for advice, and by a circuitous route found myself once again talking to Mr Cliff Welsby. He again stated that no applications to date [27.02.12] had been received, although mention of a pond at Cote Farm had been made, until such applications were made and approved no changes could be made to watercourses, however from April 2012 the responsibility would transfer to local county councils from the Environment Agency for these lesser watercourses

Bearing the above in mind I would draw your attention to the None Technical Volume of ,Reference Binder X ,Section 6 ,Volume 2 Page 1.11 Paragraph,6.8 to 6.8.5 of the plans from the LCC submission .

Margaret Whitmore with a consultant land drainage expert arrived for a site visit on 29 February 2012 following which we received an E-Mail to say that they would have to do some serious brainstorming but we have heard nothing since. .They enquired whether an other Government Agencies had previously been to inspect the site We informed them such a visit had taken place some years ago by the Environment Agency

Mr M Perrin of Lansil Fishing Club stated that they would not condone any changes to watercourses; Otters favour the outlet of watercourses for Holts and as such would be protected.

John Sugden Lancaster City Engineers provided the grid references for the issues (outfalls) as indicted on the map, but stated that local farmers had differing opinions on these.

The Grid References supplied are as follows.

Long Bank Brook E349615 N463878  
Cote Beck E349406 N465285  
Cote Farm E349846 N466007  
Unnamed E348981 N464932

Slynedales E351427 N467196 Culverted to E347994 N465662

OS Map Ref. SD4864SE Land Reg. LA914222 indicates the stream crossing our property.

Our conclusions are that the scheme in its new form does not adequately safeguard a number of the watercourses, with at least one being injuriously affected, probably ceasing to flow should the proposed scheme go ahead the hydrology levels in the soil to the south side of the road would fall dramatically, with devastating effects on the ecology. From our own perspective we have an old orchard in which the R.H.S. Northern Fruit Society have taken an interest. All the trees on the property have Tree Preservation Orders on them. We have long been concerned about the irrevocable damage this scheme would cause to the area as a whole.

Should the above be indicative of the County Council's approach in general to "cost cutting" this scheme it is highly likely that the Environmental impact will be far greater than it need necessarily be should it proceed.

In addition we would like to draw the inspector's attention to the following.

The O.S. and Land Reg. numbers above refer to a Grade II listed property CarusLodge all the boundary walls, grounds and structures therein are included in the listing with one boundary abutting Halton Road for approximately 170 metres. On Halton Road there is also a narrow, hump backed Listed bridge over the Lancaster Canal Our concerns are that these structures would not withstand the increase of traffic especially H.G.V.s during the construction period and afterwards.