

**Lancashire County Council Planning
Application Reference: 11/05/1584
Completion of the Heysham to M6 Link**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:
APP/Q2371/V/07/1200928 &
APP/Q2371/V/07/1200929**

**Written statement:
Conditions**

**Submitted by:
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Evidence prepared for:

**The Environmental and Sustainable Transport
Alliance (ESTA)**

Consisting of:

**The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Lancashire Branch and NW Regional Group
Friends of the Earth (FOE) North West
North West Transport Activists Roundtable (NW TAR)
Sustrans
Transport 2000**

4th June 2007

1. Introduction

- 1.1. My name is Andy Yuille. I am the North West Regional Policy Officer for the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). Although I am not a professional planner, CPRE have a long history of close engagement with the planning system and I am able to draw on their 80 years of experience and expertise.
- 1.2. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We promote positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside to ensure that change values the natural and built environment. We have 59,000 supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 local groups and a national office in central London. Our interest in this Inquiry is part of our wider aim to promote a sustainable future for the countryside.
- 1.3. I have the confidence of the leading environmental non-governmental organisations in the North West to speak on planning matters: I represent North West Environment Link on the North West Regional Planning Group and the North West Regional Transport Group (both advisory groups to the Regional Assembly Executive Board), as well as on the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA) itself.
- 1.4. I was a key participant in the Examination in Public (EiP) into the draft North West Regional Spatial Strategy, submitting evidence on every 'Matter' and participating in over 90% of the sessions. I have analysed the emerging draft Lancaster Local Development Framework Core Strategy on behalf of the Lancaster District Sustainability Partnership, one of the 'Building Blocks' of the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 1.5. For the purpose of the public inquiry into the completion of the Heysham to M6 Link Road I am representing an alliance of national, regional and sub-regional environmental organisations which have come together and called themselves the Environmental and Sustainable Transport Alliance (ESTA).

2. Conditions

- 2.1. LCC have provided a long list of conditions that they believe should be met, should approval for the scheme be given. However, we believe that the issues dealt with in those conditions should be determined by the end of the public inquiry, and not left as the subject of post hoc conditions.
- 2.2. Leaving all these matters to be resolved after the event – particularly in light of the fact that it will, in effect, be LCC that is responsible for giving itself permission to comply with or alter those conditions – leaves open

the possibility that what would be built would be a scheme that is in fact very different to the one that has been tested at this Inquiry, and one that has not been the subject of an EIA. We believe that for this reason, this list of conditions is, in principle, unacceptable.

- 2.3. Without prejudice to our case that this scheme is not an appropriate solution, if it were to be given approval, we are not convinced that the scheme design as it stands represents the least environmentally damaging option.