

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

James Driver

BEng (Hons)

On behalf of

Borough Council of Calderdale

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF CALDERDALE (ELLAND STATION AND WEST VALE
ACCESS PACKAGE)

(WEST YORKSHIRE PLUS TRANSPORT FUND, TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2022

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF CALDERDALE (ELLAND STATION AND WEST VALE
ACCESS PACKAGE)

(WEST YORKSHIRE PLUS TRANSPORT FUND, TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND)
(SIDE ROADS)

ORDER 2022

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF CALDERDALE (ELLAND STATION AND WEST VALE
ACCESS PACKAGE)

(WEST YORKSHIRE PLUS TRANSPORT FUND, TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND)
(CALDER AND

HEBBLE NAVIGATION BRIDGE) SCHEME 2022

3 June 2025

Department for Transport Ref: NATTRAN/Y&H/HAO/267

PINS Ref: DPI/A4710/25/3



1. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

1.1. Qualifications, experience and role

My name is James Driver. A summary of my experience, qualifications and role on the Elland Access Package (EAP) scheme is contained in my full Statement of Evidence.

1.2. The Orders

On 9 November 2020 the Council resolved to make the various orders:

(i) *Borough Council of Calderdale (Elland Station and West Vale Access Package) (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, Transforming Cities Fund) (Side Roads) Order 2022 ("the SRO").and*

(ii) *Borough Council of Calderdale (Elland Station and West Vale Access Package) (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, Transforming Cities Fund) Compulsory Purchase Order 2022 ("the CPO").and*

(iii)
Borough Council of Calderdale (Elland Station And West Vale Access Package) (West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund, Transforming Cities Fund) (Calder And Hebble Navigation Bridge) Scheme 2022 ("the Bridge Making Order")

to facilitate the construction of EAP scheme).

The SRO, CPO, and Bridge Making Orders (referred to as "the Orders") were made to secure the land and new rights required by the Council to facilitate construction of the EAP scheme and the future maintenance, safety and efficient operation of the local highway network.

The EAP scheme is classified as a core project by West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA).

1.3. Compliance with the Human Rights Act

There is a compelling case in the public interest for the scheme to proceed and the interference with all landowners' rights is proportionate being the minimum necessary to deliver the scheme. All affected landowners will be entitled to compensation where appropriate as a result of compulsory acquisition.

1.4. Scheme Summary

The EAP scheme is being developed in tandem with the proposed new Elland Railway Station; a scheme being progressed in co-operation with and managed by WYCA. The EAP scheme aims to improve access to the proposed new Elland Railway Station for both pedestrians and cyclists, through improving existing routes and providing additional enhancements for active travel. The EAP scheme will connect the proposed new Elland Railway Station to the surrounding business park, the town centre, and surrounding residential areas, including the village of West Vale, via two new pedestrian and cycle bridges.

The EAP scheme is split into two areas, West Vale and Elland which alongside the bridge creations and existing route improvements, include a canal tow path widening and landscape and public realms improvements.

The scope of the EAP scheme alongside the Elland Railway Station is intended to help address:

- Poor pedestrian and cycling infrastructure across Elland and West Vale;
- Low car ownership and poor public transport connectivity hindering access to employment;
- Educational opportunities, constraining growth;
- Poor railway station connectivity and accessibility issues;
- Significant congestion on the strategic network;
- Poor local air quality

1.5. Objectives

The following table highlights five key Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) objectives for the scheme, as assigned by WYCA:

Objective 1	Improved journey times and reliability for strategic journeys to/from Elland, contributing to reduced congestion on A629
Objective 2	Provide high quality infrastructure to increase the number of walking and cycling trips
Objective 3	Boost rail mode share by increasing rail use for journeys to/from Elland, West Vale and surrounding areas
Objective 4	Improve accessibility to rail services for residents within Elland, West Vale and surrounding areas
Objective 5	Support employment growth by improving access to a wider labour market for existing and prospective businesses

1.6. Scheme Development

The EAP has developed its proposals through both public and planning consultations and discussions with relevant landowners, alongside the usual design development and business case assurance processes. The consultations have provided generally positive feedback to the EAP scheme, evidenced through responses to the consultations and conditional acceptance of the planning application.

1.7. Planning and Policy

Full conditional planning approval of the scheme was achieved on the 7th of November 2024 (reference 23/00670/FUL). The planning approval evidenced the planning policies that the EAP scheme aligns with, with further relevant policies identified in my full statement of evidence under Section 4.2. The planning permission conditions are all anticipated to be able to be met. As such there are no planning constraints to the delivery of the scheme.

1.8. Impacts and Benefits

Within my full statement of evidence, it is demonstrated under Section 5.1 how impacts have been assessed, mitigated or are intended to be mitigated across a variety of headings including; planning, equality, business case assurance, safety, social impacts and active mode appraisal.

The scheme objectives in Section 1.4 above have been used to develop the schemes outcomes and outputs:

- Reduced congestion enabling more sustainable economic growth.
- Improved accessibility to employment, education, leisure, social and health facilities enabling social mobility.
- Reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with motorised vehicles helping reduce global heating.
- Increase in business growth and employment opportunities.
- Increased Gross Value Added (GVA) and productivity.
- Increased use of sustainable transport to reduce harmful emissions from transport helping improve public health.
- Enabling housing and employment growth.

1.9. Project Delivery

Funding

Sufficient funding has been secured through the WYCA Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) and the West Yorkshire + Transport Fund (WY+TF) to take the EAP scheme through to commencement of construction, at which point subject to a joint Final Business Case with the proposed Elland Railway Station and Approval to Proceed, the Council expects that the current anticipated funding of £13,377,038 will be provided to enable delivery.

Further confidence and information on the lack of any funding impediments has been set out within Section 6.1 of my full statement of evidence

Land Requirements

The Orders only includes such land and new rights as is required to facilitate construction and maintenance of the EAP scheme.

The land requirements for the EAP scheme included within the CPO are based upon the areas required both for the permanent works and the essential construction activities associated with them.

Where land is only required temporarily such land has been included in the compulsory acquisition as a precaution pending agreement with landowners for temporary use of their land.

Side Roads Order

The evidence set out within Section 6.3 of my full statement of evidence describes how the removal of a private means of access at North Dean Garage can be mitigated through the granting of rights and proposed mitigation works, providing a reasonably convenient access, enabling continued use of the property.

Bridge Making Order

Section 6.4 of my full statement of evidence sets out how the EAP scheme Bridge Making Order can be approved without any detrimental impact on navigation on the waters within the Calder and Hebble Navigation canal, and furthermore that the Navigation Authority – the Canal & River Trust (CRT) have provided its agreement on the designed height of the bridge through the EAP schemes planning approval and the removal of CRTs objection to the Order.

A modification to the Bridge Making Order is sought.

Use of Compulsory Acquisition Powers

The Council is of the view that there is a compelling case in the public interest for the CPO to be made and that there are no financial or legal impediments to the Scheme progressing. The CPO is required to ensure that the Council is able to acquire the necessary title to the land needed for the Scheme.

1.10. Objections

A summary of all objections received, and current status is set out in my full statement of evidence.

The Council still hopes the remaining objections can be resolved by negotiation prior to the Inquiry, however due to the timescales for delivery and the lengthy negotiations to date, the CPO is required so that the land and new rights required can be acquired .

1.11. Conclusion

- a. The evidence presented demonstrates that the scheme has been carefully prepared, takes account of the needs of the area, will be an asset to the area and that there are no impediments to its delivery subject to the evidence set out.
- b. The EAP scheme is an essential part of the combined proposed new Elland Rail Station scheme and is needed development for the sustainable regeneration of Elland, aligning with both Central Elland's Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and the wider Local Plan and other policy aspirations.
- c. In my opinion there is a compelling case for confirmation of the CPO and the Orders are demonstrably in the public interest and should be confirmed. None of the objections made amount to a good reason not to confirm the Orders.

1.12. Declaration

- a. My Statement of Evidence includes all facts which I regard as being relevant to the opinions which I have expressed and the Inquiry's attention has been drawn to any matter which would affect the validity of that opinion.
- b. I believe the facts I have stated in this Proof of Evidence are true and that the opinions expressed are correct.
- c. I understand my duty to the Inquiry to assist it with matters within my expertise and I believe that I have complied with that duty.

Signed: JWDriver

James Driver

Dated: 03/06/2025