



Planning Inspectorate

Appeal Ref: APP/Z4718/W/25/3375000

'Residential Development (Up to 50 Dwellings) with Associated Access, Parking, Public Open Space, Landscaping and Infrastructure'

Land North East of Shepley Road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield HD4 6XW

Case Management Conference - 10.00 on Tuesday 13 January 2026

(online)

INSPECTOR'S PRE-CONFERENCE NOTE

1. The case management conference will be led by the Inquiry Inspector, Andrew Parkin, a chartered town planner.
2. There will be no discussion as part of the CMC as to the merits of your respective cases and the Inspector will not hear any evidence. Rather the purpose is to set out a clear indication as to the ongoing management of this case and the presentation of evidence, so that the forthcoming Inquiry is conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
3. The Inquiry itself is scheduled to open at 10.00 on Tuesday 24 February 2026, at a venue to be confirmed. It is currently expected to sit for no more than five days: 24 – 26 February and 3 – 4 March, with 5 March a reserve day. The timing and the duration of the Inquiry will be discussed at the CMC.

Main Issues

4. Based on the material currently before the Inspector, the main issues are likely to be the effect of the proposal on:
 - Highway function and safety; and,
 - Nearby Ancient Woodland.
5. You are requested to give consideration in advance of the CMC as to whether the identified matters encapsulate those most pertinent to the outcome of the appeal.

6. The appellant will also need to address all other matters raised by interested parties, including at appeal stage. Whether any of these matters are dealt with as main issues in the eventual Decision will depend on the evidence as it emerges in due course.

Evidence

7. The Inquiry will focus on areas where there is disagreement. It is essential that all parties work effectively with one another from here onwards to seek to narrow the issues for consideration at the Inquiry.
8. The CMC will explore how best to hear the evidence to ensure that the Inquiry is conducted as efficiently as possible. The Inspector's initial thoughts are that evidence on the identified main issues should be addressed through the formal presentation of evidence, cross-examination and re-examination.
9. Matters relating to planning policy, including safeguarded land in the development plan, housing land supply and delivery, and the overall planning balance, including any benefits of the proposal, would also be dealt with through the formal presentation of evidence by the planning witness for each of the main parties, which would also be subject to cross-examination / re-examination.
10. The Inspector would lead round table discussions on the s106 planning obligation and on the suggested conditions.
11. As per the [Procedural Guide to Planning Appeals](#), if you have used or intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create or alter any part of your documents, information, or data, you should state this when you submit the material. [See the detailed guidance for further information.](#)
12. The attached Annexe sets out the preferred format and content of proofs and other material, which should be observed.

Andrew Parkin
INSPECTOR

6 January 2026

Annexe - Content and Format of Proofs and Appendices

Content

Proofs of evidence **should**:

- focus on the main issues identified, in particular on areas of disagreement;
- be proportionate to the number and complexity of issues and matters that the witness is addressing;
- be concise, precise, relevant and contain facts and expert opinion deriving from witnesses' own professional expertise and experience, and/or local knowledge;
- be prepared with a clear structure that identifies and addresses the main issues within the witness's field of knowledge and avoids repetition;
- focus on what is really necessary to make the case and avoid including unnecessary material, or duplicating material in other documents or another witness's evidence; and,
- where data is referred to, include that data, and outline any relevant assessment methodology and the assumptions used to support the arguments (unless this material has been previously agreed and is included as part of the statement of common ground).

Proofs **should not**:

- duplicate information already included in other Inquiry material, such as site description, planning history and the relevant planning policy; and,
- recite the text of policies referred to elsewhere: the proofs need only identify the relevant policy numbers, with extracts being provided as core documents. Only policies which are needed to understand the argument being put forward and are fundamental to an appraisal of the proposals' merits need be referred to.

Format of the proofs and appendices:

- Proofs to be no longer than 3000 words if possible. Where proofs are longer than 1500 words, summaries are to be submitted.
- Front covers to proofs and appendices are to be clearly titled, with the name of the witness on the cover.
- Pages and paragraphs should be numbered.
- Paper copies are not necessary.