

THAMESLINK 2000 INQUIRY

Ruling on a Request to Make an Audio Recording of the Proceedings

1. At the Pre-Inquiry Meeting held on 26 April 2005, the Cathedral Area Residents' Association/Bankside Residents' Forum (CARA/BRF), Objection 589A, requested permission to make an audio recording of important evidence during the Inquiry. CARA/BRF was willing to provide transcripts for the Inspectors and to exchange transcripts with anyone else recording the proceedings. The residents' groups considered that this would be more efficient than trying to cope with memories of the evidence. The recording would only be used if there was a conflict of recollection or differing records.
2. Network Rail referred to the usual custom of everyone taking a formal note of the proceedings that could be consulted at a later time. If an objector recorded the evidence then Network Rail might also want to make a recording and the existence of a number of recordings should not fill anyone with enthusiasm. It would be better to withhold consent rather than have this problem.
3. The Inspectors will both make notes of the evidence given during the Inquiries, as most other parties do. Should there be disagreement over what has been said, the Inspectors will state what they have noted. This occurred during the original Inquiry and did not lead to inefficient use of Inquiry time.
4. If the proceedings are recorded they may be prolonged by some participants 'playing to the gallery'. Conversely some people might be deterred from participating by the knowledge that a recording was being made. For this reason the Inspector considers that the proceedings should not be recorded. Nobody would be disadvantaged by the lack of a recording and the efficiency of the proceedings would not be adversely affected.



K D Barton
Inspector