

From: [Muller, Antony](#)
To: [H2Teesside](#)
Cc: [Swaile, Ginny](#); [Courage, Cara](#); [Forecast, Lauren](#)
Subject: H2T Deadline 5 - Update re Natural Environment reps and Issue Specific Hearing on 14.1.25
Date: 18 December 2024 17:29:55

Dear H2 Team

For the attention of the Examining Authority (ExA)

Issue Specific Hearings (ISH)

With regards to the hearing on 14th January 2025, we will not be attending but would be pleased to respond to any questions from the ExA that arise from the hearing at a subsequent deadline.

We are unable to attend as we await further information on a number of issues from the Applicant that may impact our oral advice to the ExA. These issues include SPA birds (noise and visual disturbance, impacts on functionally linked land and in combination assessment), air quality impacts/ mitigation with regards to Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SSSI/ SPA and details of the closed loop system with regards to amines (air and water quality).

We have been engaging regularly with the Applicant on these issues and have made progress in relation to the bird impacts assessment methodology. However, we are yet to receive the final assessment. The Applicant did state (during meeting between NE and AECOM on 11/12/24) that they will send this and a technical note on bird disturbance to us to review but we have not received this so far. This information is required in order for us to give further advice to the ExA.

With regards to air quality mitigation, we provided an email update to the Applicant on 11/12/24 where we outlined our preferred approach for air quality mitigation and further requested details of the closed loop system. We are yet to receive an update on how this advice has been taken forward.

Until we have this further information, we are unable to advise on whether the further work being undertaken by the Applicant meets our concerns raised in our Relevant and Written Representations on these matters. Should the ExA wish to hear from Natural England in person we would be willing to attend a further hearing once we have the outstanding information.

To provide assistance to you for the Environment Item Specific Hearing on 14/01/25 we will send you an update on the issues you wish to discuss specific to Natural England's remit and representations. We will send you this by 08/01/25.

We would like to highlight that where Natural England does not attend hearings, this should not be construed as a lack of concern on outstanding issues. We remain concerned in particular at the potential impacts arising from noise/ visual disturbance and loss of functionally linked land on SPA birds, both alone and in-combination with other projects, disturbance impacts on seals and air quality impacts on Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SSSI/ SPA and look forward to further information from the applicant to address this.

Please note that Natural England's offices will be closed from 24.12.24 until 2.1.25. If you need to contact us between now and the New Year please ensure you 'reply all' to

this email so that my colleagues are able to view your response.

Kind regards,

Antony Muller (he/him)

Senior Officer

Northumbria Area Team – Strategic Plans for Places

Mobile – [REDACTED]

Working pattern – Monday-Wednesday each week

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>



We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Customer Service Excellence Standard

This message has been sent using TLS 1.2

This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within the Natural England systems, we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Natural England systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.