From: <u>Ella Bucklow</u>

To: <u>A1 Birtley to Coal House</u>

Cc: Bryony McLennan; Antony Gormley

**Subject:** FW: A1 Birtley to Coal House Deadline 1: 4th February 2020

**Date:** 04 February 2020 16:48:03

Attachments: 200113 Antony Gormley Submission for Preliminary Planning Meeting TR010031.pdf

TR010031-000696-Composite Land and Works Plan AGS comments.pdf

200204 Footpath 41h 42a 42b annotated.pdf

04.02.2020 Antony Gormley Submission for Deadline 1 20023052-3.pdf

Dear Michele,

I hope this email finds you well.

I have attached again our written submission, on behalf of 20023052 and 20023053, relating to the Highways England A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme (TR010031).

Further to this, please find attached our submission for Deadline 1: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 accompanied by two annotated maps.

In the document titled '04.02.2020\_Antony Gormley Submission for Deadline 1\_22023052-3' I have grouped all information required to meet this deadline under the following subtitles:

- Comment on Relevant Representations
- Comment on Additional Submissions
- Comment on Hearing Action Points
- Examining Authority Written Questions
- Suggested locations for Site Inspections for consideration
- Notification of wishes

I do hope that this form is acceptable.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further at this stage.

We look forward to hearing more as the process progresses.

Many thanks,

Ella

Ella Bucklow

Personal Assistant to Tamara Doncon and Office Coordinator

**ANTONY GORMLEY STUDIO** 



# ANTONY GORMLEY STUDIO

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear David Cliff.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Planning Inspectorate for granting me status as an interested party. Secondly, I would like to express my sincerest apologies for my absence at this Preliminary Planning Meeting.

In lieu of my presence, I would be grateful if this written submission could be shared with the Planning Inspectorate for the Preliminary Planning Meeting on the 21st January.

The proposed development scheme between junctions 65 and 67 of the A1 could potentially impact my iconic work The Angel of the North.

I am of course concerned by how the proposed changes to the road and surrounding vegetation may affect the viewer or visitor's experience of The Angel of the North.

At this early stage of the planning process, and without fully developed renders or visuals, it is difficult to understand the full impact of the proposed changes.

I would therefore be grateful if I could be kept apprised as the planning process progresses. With further information, new concerns may be highlighted, whilst others are assuaged.

As part of this initial written submission, I would like to impress upon the Planning Inspectorate that it is vital that the existing access is maintained and that the site is returned to a state in which to the original views of The Angel of the North are unencumbered by vegetation.

I am particularly anxious to ensure that current views to The Angel of the North - from both the train and the road - are not impaired by the proposed changes to the road and landscaping in near proximity to site of the work. This includes the proposed rerouting of the road, widening of the road, replacement of the existing bridge, vegetation management, and the erection of gantries and display signs across the road. It is essential that any new developments do not obscure these views.

It is reassuring to know that Highways England intend to work closely with Gateshead Council to develop a coherent and effective vegetation management scheme.

Gateshead Council are aware of my views on the treatment of vegetation surrounding the Angel of the North and the mound, and I have submitted my response to the Southern Green proposal report separate to this.

Perhaps most worrying to me are the proposed gantries – some of which appear to span the width of the road.

The Angel of the North has become a landmark for the North East and welcomes travelers home. In my view it would be sad to lose sight of the Angel on the approach from the A1 – and so I am keen to ensure that the locations of the proposed gantries do not interfere with these views.

# ANTONY GORMLEY STUDIO

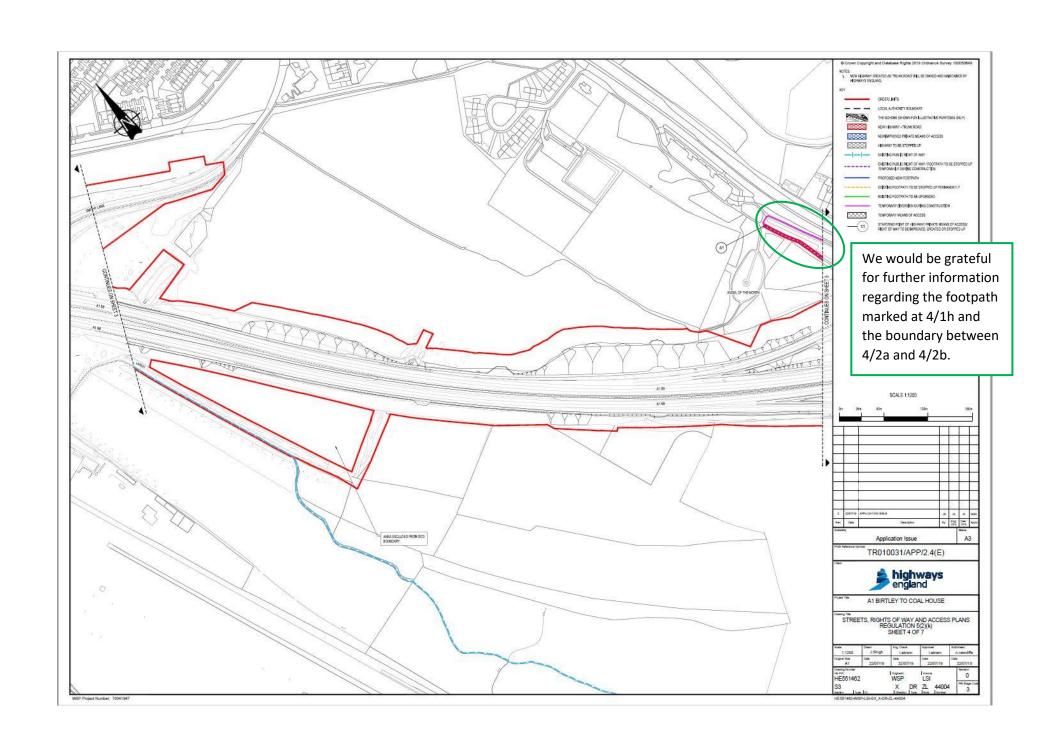
In turn, I would like to guarantee that access routes to The Angel of the North, both by foot and by car, are not adversely affected by the proposed scheme.

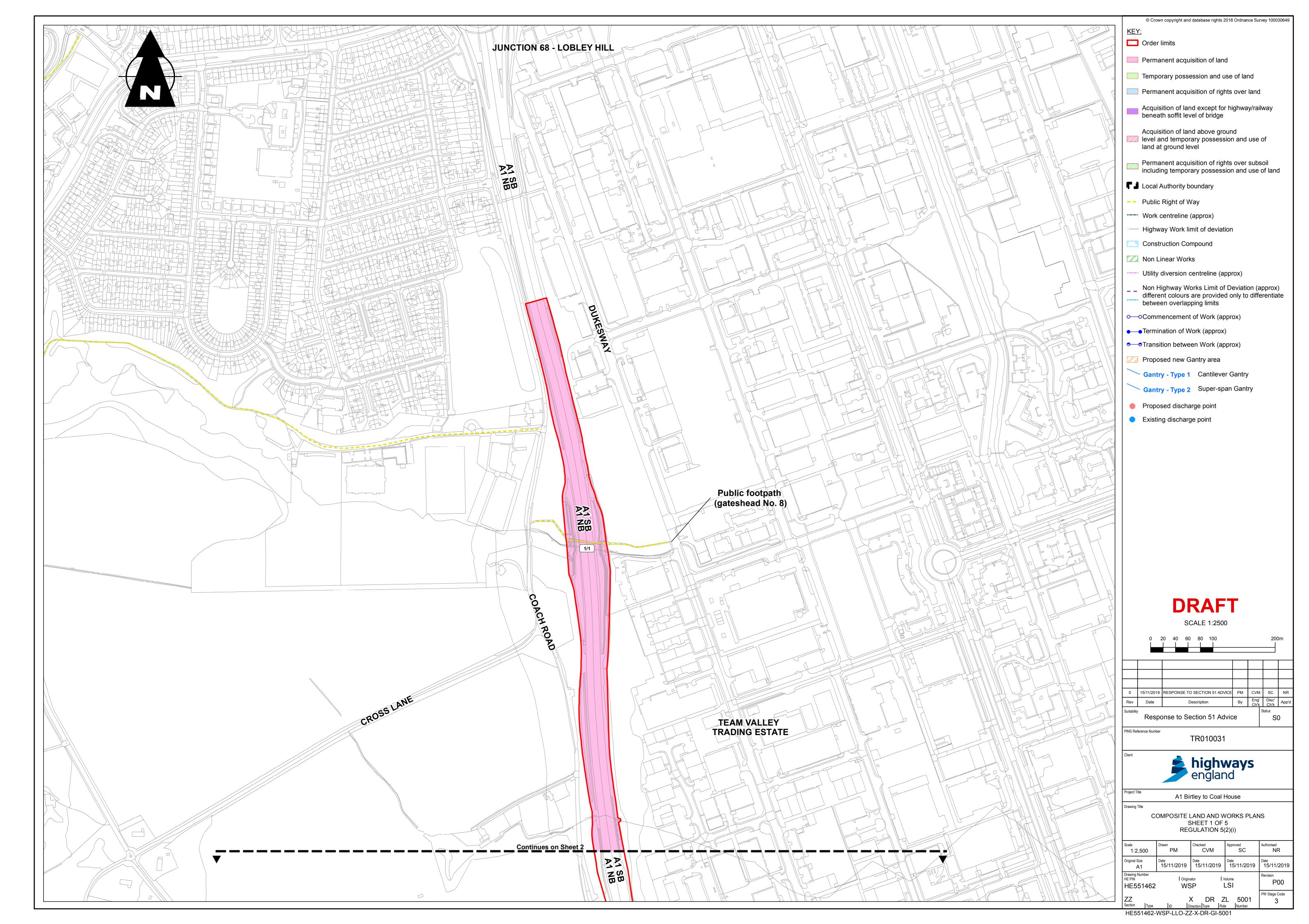
I of course support any changes that are designed to improve or safeguard views and access to The Angel of the North - and for Highways England to take a coordinated approach, involving consultation with Gateshead Council in the development of their plans.

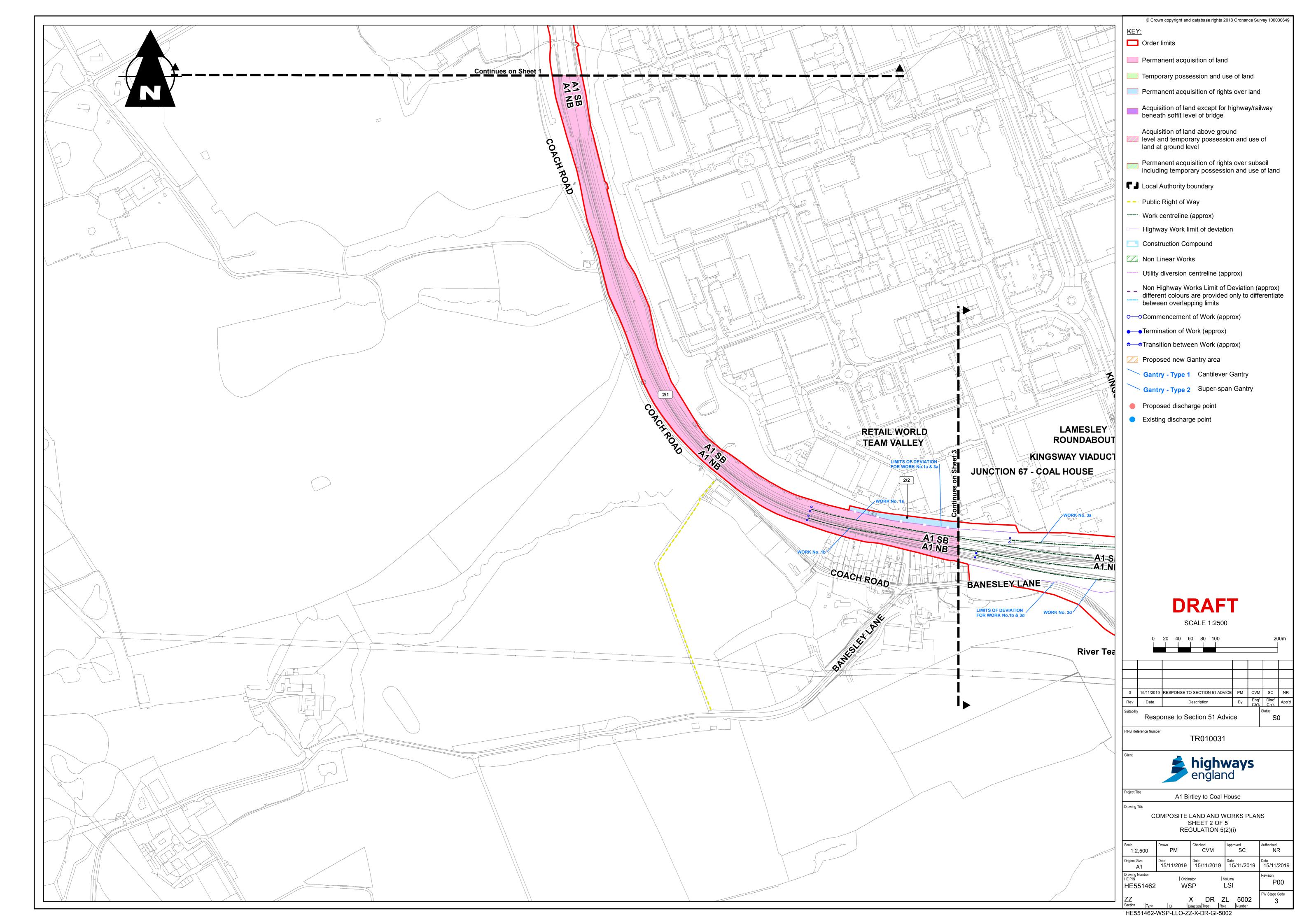
Many thanks for your time and understanding.

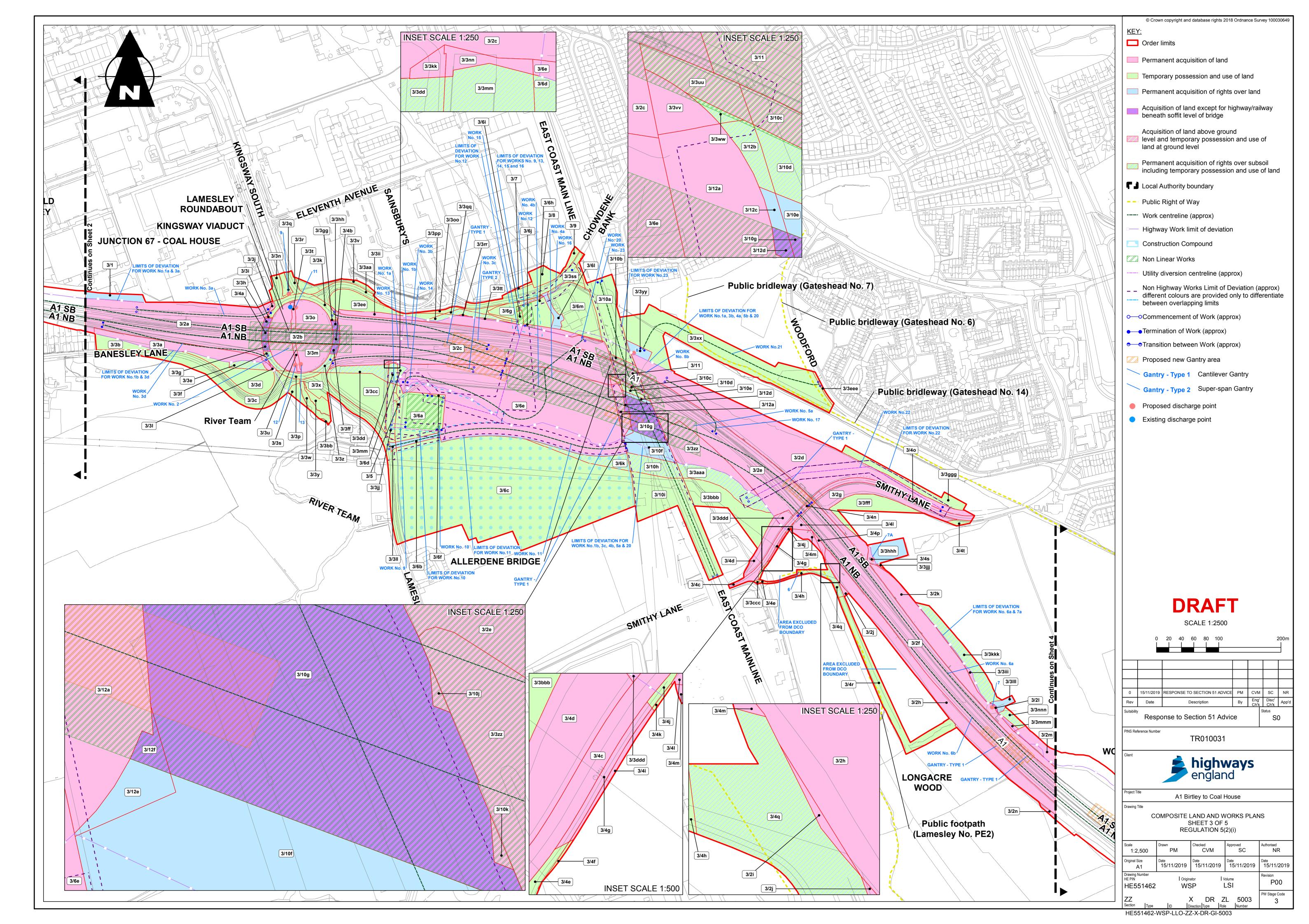
Best wishes.

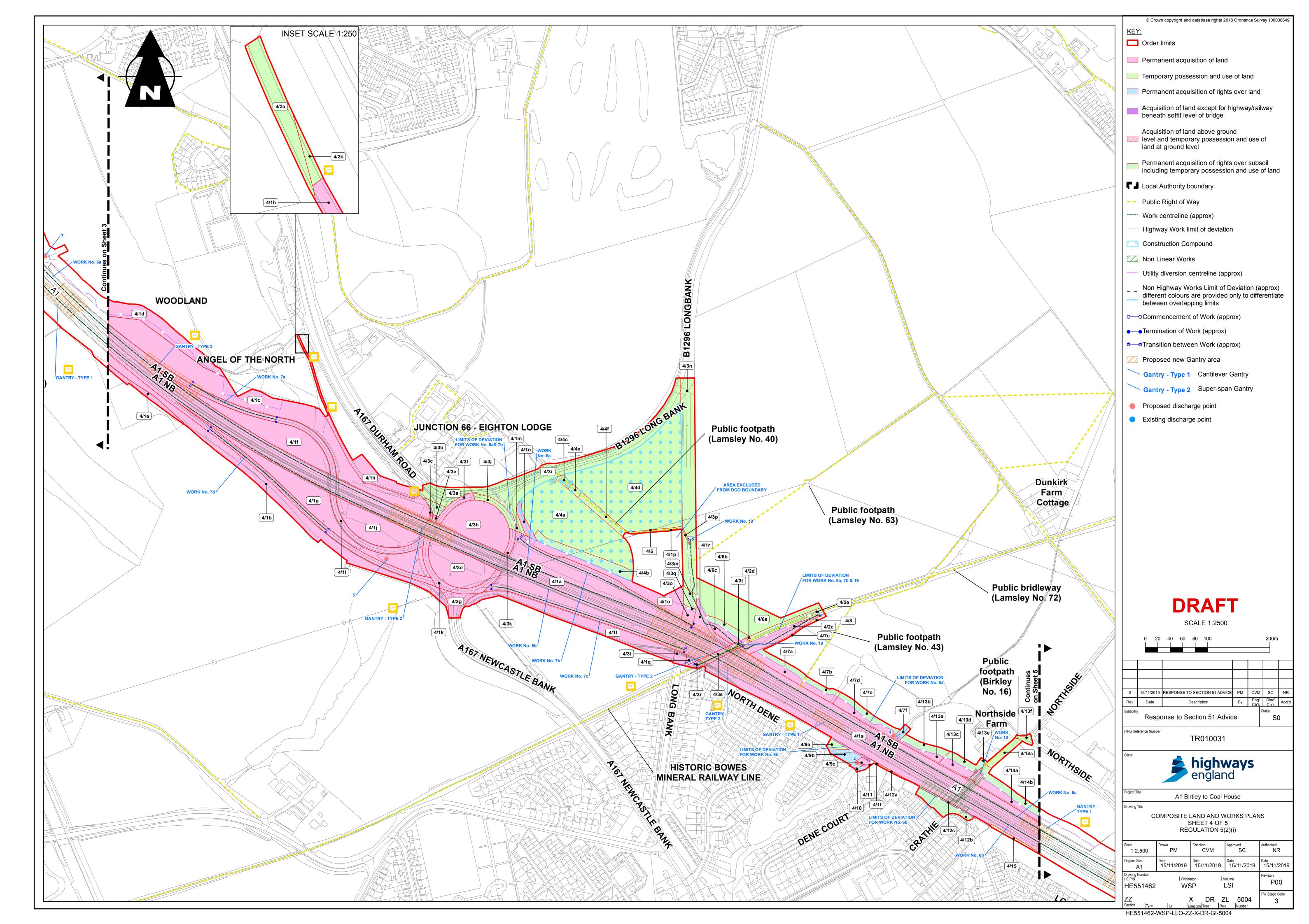
Sir Antony Gormley

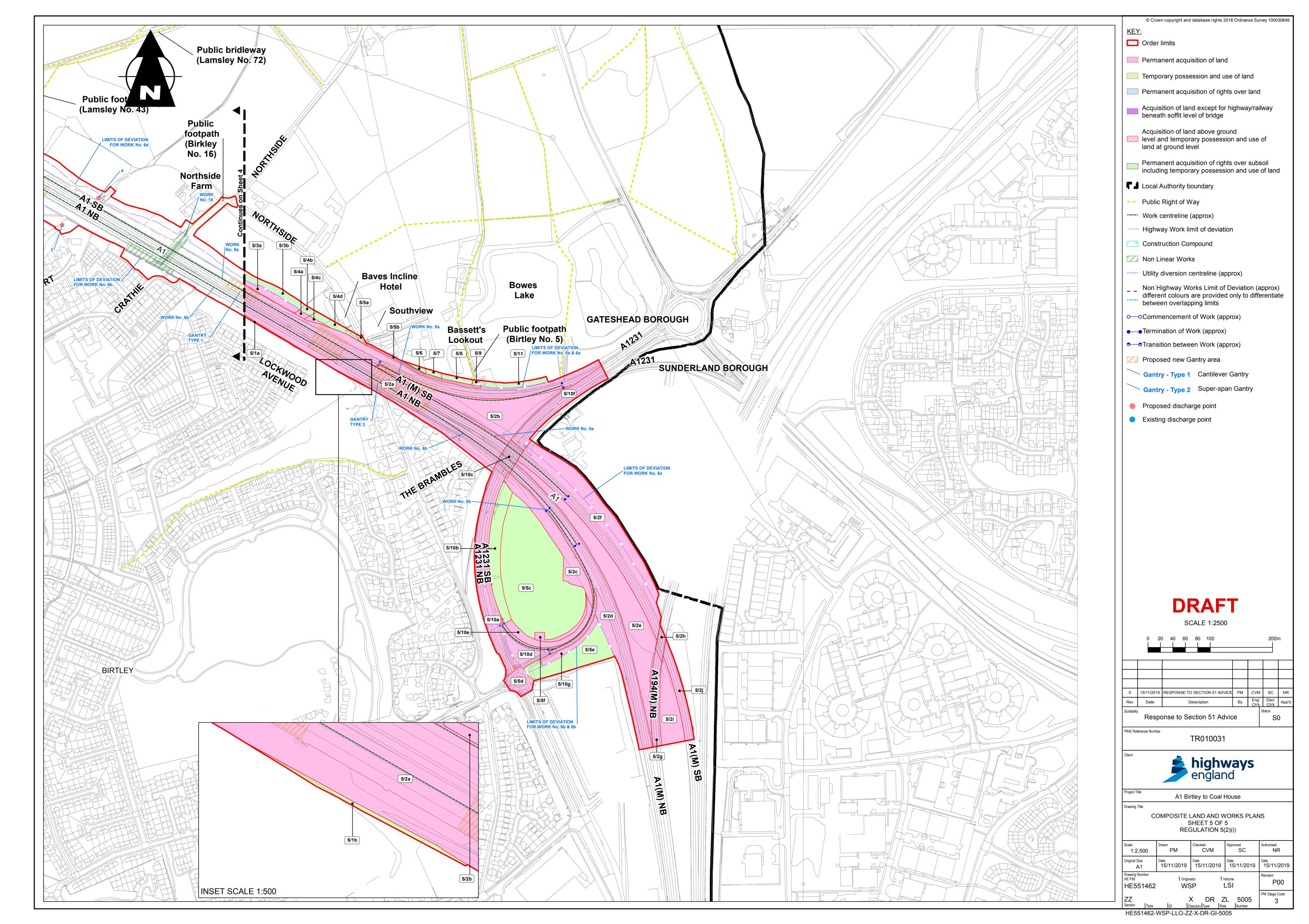












To the Examining Authority,

I hope that the form of this letter is acceptable, to address all matters necessary for the 4<sup>th</sup> February deadline.

# Comment on Relevant Representations

I would like to express my support of the Relevant Representation submitted by Gateshead Council and Historic England in relation to the preservation of access and views to The Angel of the North.

I of course support any changes that are designed to improve or safeguard views and access to The Angel of the North - and for Highways England to take a coordinated approach, involving consultation with Gateshead Council in the development of their plans.

As identified in my initial written submission, I am concerned by the potential effects of the rerouting of the road, the replacement of the bridge, the installation of gantries and additional signage, and the landscaping involved in the proposal.

These concerns relate not only to views towards The Angel of the North, but also to access by foot and road to The Angel of the North.

The Angel of the North has become a landmark for the North of England, and it is therefore vital that access and views are safeguarded.

This belief seems aligned with Historic England's Relevant Representation referencing Schedule 10: Scheduled Monuments 2) Non-designated heritage assets (para 5.125 NPSNN): The Angel of the North. I share their concerns regarding the potential impact of the vegetation plan and the proposed signage and gantries.

#### Comment on Hearing Action Points

I am reassured by the Examining Authority's request for the Applicant to address Requirement 9(1) – Update the Requirement to include Historic England as a consultation body in addition to the 'relevant planning authority'.

# **Examining Authority Written Questions**

I support the request for additional visual materials, including renders, to aid better understanding of the potential visual impacts of the scheme.

Furthermore, I second the concerns outlined in RR-006 and RR-018, and therefore welcome the Examining Authority's Written Question 1.5.11. I am keen to receive further clarification on exactly how, and to what extent, views to The Angel of the North would be restricted by gantries as stated in paragraph 6.8.24 of the ES [APP-027].

# Suggested locations for Site Inspections for consideration

In light of the proposed site inspection scheduled for the 31<sup>st</sup> March, I would implore the Examining Authority to visit the site of The Angel of the North to assess the dialogue between the work and its context, including the relationship between the work and the road.

I would be very grateful if the site inspection could involve visiting The Angel of the North by foot from the surrounding footpaths and by road. I believe that the approach towards The Angel of the

North by car, from both directions, is symbolically significant. Views of The Angel of the North from the road indicate a homecoming for many. Therefore, it would seem vital to drive towards The Angel of the North, from both directions, to assess the current lines of sight, in consideration to the proposed erection of additional signage and gantries across the road. As stated in my written representations, I am anxious that any additional structures relating to the road do not impair or detract from views of The Angel of the North.

Likewise, I would be grateful if viewpoints from the trainline towards The Angel of the North were also considered during this Site Inspection.

# Notification of wishes

I would like to confirm that we wish to continue to be considered as an Interested Party by the Examining Authority and am grateful for this acknowledgement.

I would like to express our wish to make an oral representation at the Issue Specific Hearing. On behalf of Sir Antony, I would like to politely request that the issue of The Angel of the North is considered in the Issue Specific Hearing held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April to allow me to attend the session.

I would like to confirm that I wish to have future correspondence received electronically and am grateful for all updates on the process.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Best wishes.

Sir Antony Gormley