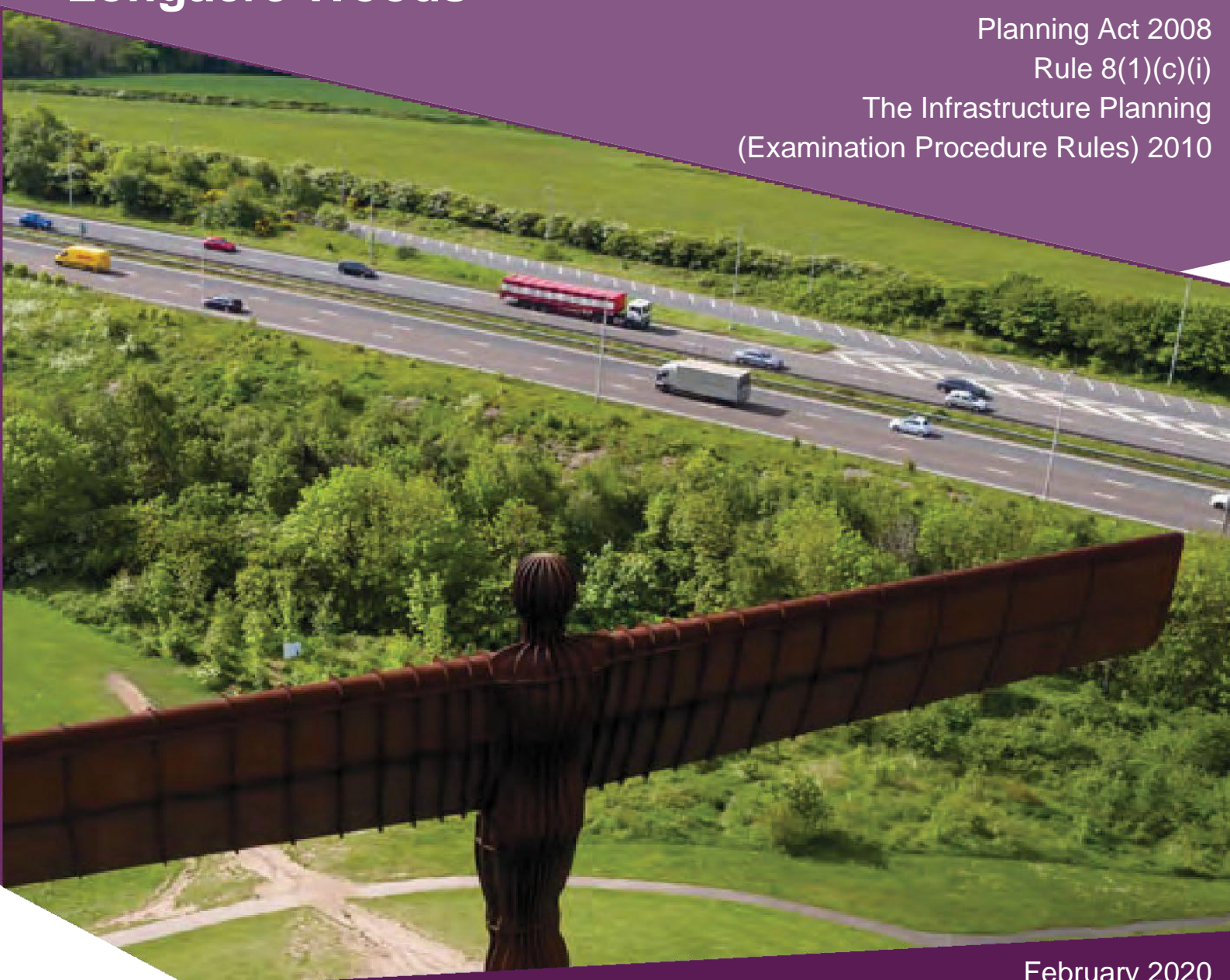


A1 Birtley to Coal House

Scheme Number: TR010031

Applicant's Responses to ExA's First Written Questions – Appendix 1.3.F - Land Take at Longacre Woods

Planning Act 2008
Rule 8(1)(c)(i)
The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure Rules) 2010



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure Rules) 2010**

**The A1 Birtley to Coal House
Development Consent Order 20[xx]**

**APPLICATION'S RESPONSES TO EXA'S FIRST
WRITTEN QUESTIONS – APPENDIX**

Rule Number:	Rule 8(1)(c)(i)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010031
Application Document Reference	n/a
Author:	A1 Birtley to Coal House Project Team, Highways England

Version	Date	Status of Version
Rev 0	25 February 2020	For Issue

Table.1.3.F - Land Take at Longacre Woods

<p>Acquisition of Plot 3/4p</p>	<p>The permanent acquisition of plot 3/4p, is required for the widening of the existing carriageway (Work 6b) as shown on the General Arrangement Plans [APP-010]. The plans show the widening of the road in the darker grey hatch and adjacent embankment encroaching into Longacre Woods.</p> <p>The widening of the road is proposed in on this side of the road due to the spans of Smithy Lane bridge; the proposal to widen on this side allows the widened carriageway to pass under Smithy Lane through the existing spans. An alternative, requiring the replacement of Smithy Lane bridge would cause significant disruption to the local road network during construction. The replacement of the Allerdene bridge also needs to be sufficiently separate from the existing structure to allow the construction of its replacement, this requires the carriageway to be pulled south in this location towards Longacre Wood. To minimise the impact that this will have on Longacre Wood, requirement 15(c) of the draft DCO [APP-013] states that 1:2 slopes should be constructed in this location to minimise land take in this area.</p> <p>The extent of the land to be compulsorily acquired referenced as Plot 3/4p is equal to the extent of highway widening, which has been developed through the design process. As explained above, and in response to consultation it is therefore justified as it is for a critical requirement for the scheme.</p>
<p>Temporary possession of Plot 3/4q and 3/4r</p>	<p>Powers over plot 3/4q and 3/4r are required to ensure that Highways England has sufficient powers, notwithstanding any existing right of access to drainage works. This is temporarily required for access to the existing drainage outfall and drainage ditch in this location. The power is required to ensure that Highways England has a means of access to these locations during the works for the purposes of maintenance. The maintenance activities will be similar to the current activities undertaken by Highways England's Maintaining Agent and are required to ensure the continued accessibility and enjoyment of the woods, which could be adversely affected if routine maintenance was not undertaken for the duration of the works.</p>
<p>Rights to subsoil in Plot 3/4q</p>	<p>With respect to the rights over subsoil in plot 3/4q, rights are required for the stabilisation of the ground underneath the widened highway to minimise the risks associated with historic coal mining in the area. The ground stabilisation work will be below the ground and will therefore not change the accessibility to or enjoyment of the woods.</p>