

# A1 Birtley to Coal House

## Scheme Number: TR010031

### Applicant's Responses to ExA's Second Written Questions - Appendix 2.10D - Meeting Minutes with Environment Agency and WSP

Planning Act 2008

Rule 8(1)(b)

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure Rules) 2010



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

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

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Questions - Appendix 2.10D - Meeting Minutes  
with Environment Agency and WSP**

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<b>Rule number:</b>	Rule 8(1)(b)
<b>Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference</b>	TR010031
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<b>Author:</b>	A1 Birtley to Coal House Project Team, Highways England

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Rev 0	20 April 2020	Application Issue





	<p>█ discussed that they were sent via usb stick to the offices but may not have made it to the relevant people due to lock</p> <p>█: WSP has assessed the worst-case scenario which has been submitted as part of the Allerdene Three Span Viaduct addendum.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to send a link to the Addendums to the EA █.</p>	█	Complete
2	<p><b>Flood risk (model and FRA approval)</b></p> <p>█ and █ outlined that they have approved the flood model, however, they require additional clarification on the operation of the flood plain compensation.</p> <p><b>Compensation areas</b></p> <p>█ asked if the local authority (Gateshead Council) has agreed the location of the attenuation crates within the Coal House roundabout.</p> <p>█ discussed that with regard to flood compensation on the opposite bank to the attenuation crates as shown in ES Figure 13.7: Flood Plain Compensation Area, the EA are concerned that in their interpretation of the written representations flood plain compensation is only provided for the climate change scenarios.</p> <p>█ stated that modelling shows that for the non climate change scenarios the flows are within the banks – impacting 12m<sup>2</sup> of the area, only additional piers (max 2 piers in future that will require the provision of flood compensation for the climate change scenarios in the roundabout area).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to confirm that the location of these attenuation crates is confirmed within the SoCG with Gateshead Council.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to include technical note in the SoCG of how flood compensation will work.</p>	█	
3	<p><b>Gauging Station</b></p> <p>█ discussed that the EA are currently waiting for comments and information on access issues to gauging station from their Lawyers.</p> <p>█ discussed that the gauging station is the only one that EA has within this location. It gives river levels and rainfall levels, therefore gives good flood warnings for the area. After studies, this was the only position that the gauging station could be located so that flood warnings can be issued.</p> <p>Access to the Gauging station must remain accessible 24 hours a day, every day. There will be monthly checks undertaken at the gauging station. The other concern is the temporary works downstream of the gauging station and the receptors (i.e. the urban area) of possible floods therefore the EA needs to understand the impacts associated with the temporary works and any changes this may have on the rating curve.</p> <p>█ discussed that he could discuss with contractor and provide more detail. For example visits could be pre-arranged with the contractor to solve access</p>	█	

	<p>and Health and Safety issues, including possibly a 24-hour notice excluding emergency scenarios. A telephone number could be provided to notify each affected party.</p> <p>█ discussed that the Roundabout will be maintained for traffic and so access will be operational throughout the project. The work at this location will only be for a period of the 2.5-year long Scheme.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to investigate if 24-hour access will be possible and investigate concerns of impacts downstream works during construction, and to discuss the above processes and how they can be secured.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to investigate how long the works will be at this location.</p> <p>█: Will this area be fenced?</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to discuss with contractor to try to give more explanation on fencing. If there is limited access, WSP will put in provisions to get access.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to put method statement in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) outlining how access will be arranged for the parcel of land. A statement that covers fences, introduction to site, parking location, notification, identification of British Telecommunications (BT) lines so this is not damaged accidentally during construction. Confirmation of this will then be sent to EA.</p> <p>█: Could we locate a second gauging station or temporarily move it downstream?</p> <p><b>Action:</b> EA to get guidance from hydrologist team if there is anything EA could do. Based on funding on temporary gauging station, one needs to be removed so that a new one can be installed. Budget and timescales are dependent on Highways England and so an understanding is required from them.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> █ to gather information on temporary works. There will be no effects to the river in any scenario. To have discussion about working around the gauging station.</p>		
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Temporary Works – Hydraulic Modelling</b></p> <p>█ highlighted that temporary works can alter flood risk – for example culverting short lengths can increase flood risk temporarily during construction, and asked when the EA would be able to see modelling information?</p> <p>█ stated that no modelling of temporary works has currently not been completed.</p> <p>█: WSP have assessed the worst-case scenario as submitted in the Allerdene three span viaduct addendum.</p>	<p>█</p>	

## MEETING NOTES

	<p><b>Action:</b> EA to provide information how temporary works will affect forecasts and if validity of the gauging station will be removed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> ■■■ to undertake hydraulic modelling of the temporary works culvert and provide a Technical Note outlining the impacts on the gauging station in the SoCG.</p>		
5	<p><b>WFDa (if Environment Agency wish to discuss)</b></p> <p>■■■ stated that the EA approve the WFDa.</p>		
6	<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p>■■■■■■■■■■ not present. All ecology issues will be picked up in the upcoming meeting on 6 April 2020.</p>		
7	<p><b>Statement of Common Ground</b></p> <p>■■■ discussed that once all actions points in this meeting are addressed, the EA will be in a position where the SoCG can be formalised and agreed.</p> <p>■■■ stated that the draft SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 4 (20<sup>th</sup> April), comments on SoCG at Deadline 5 (1<sup>st</sup> May) and a final version to be completed by Deadline 8 (7<sup>th</sup> July).</p>		
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>■■■ discussed that the consultation period for the ES Addendums finished on 14 April and that they would be submitted to the ExA on 20 April 2020.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> ■■■ to send over a summary paragraph detailing Allerdene three span option to assist the EA in their understanding.</p>	■■■	

## NEXT MEETING

An invitation will be issued if an additional meeting is required.





<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p>Environment Agency (EA) point of discussion from their email dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020:</p> <p>“Clarification is needed to determine whether the unassessed parts of the watercourses have been assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, how were these assessed?</li> <li>• How was a judgement made to determine low risk?</li> <li>• Why were certain areas not surveyed?</li> <li>• What proportion of the watercourses are not surveyed?</li> <li>• Are the un-surveyed areas considered good or poor habitat for water vole?”</li> </ul> <p>█ discussed that a Phase 1 Habitat Survey was carried out in 2016 and updated in 2018 – this included an assessment of whether the habitat were suitable for Water Vole. SP discussed that the Phase 1 Habitat Survey had not been done in the central location at Coal House roundabout. However, this stretch of the River Team is partly culverted (so unsuitable), but that there are some natural sections which would be considered suitable but not optimal. No targeted water vole surveys have been carried out.</p> <p>█ stated that water vole surveys would be done pre-construction and that this is included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) at [REP2-050 and 051] (Revision 2).</p> <p>█ stated that he was content with this assessment.</p> <p><b>Action: WSP to share updated oCEMP with the Environment Agency.</b></p>	<p>█</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>oCEMP Reference [B11]</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p>█ discussed that the ecological brief should be expanded beyond in channel works and should include works within 5 metres of the bank in order to accommodate risks to riparian mammals such as water voles.</p> <p><b>Action: WSP update oCEMP to add in distance from the banks. “within the channel and within 5 metres of the bank”.</b></p>	<p>█</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>oCEMP Reference [B24]</b></p>		
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p>The content of the oCEMP reference [B24] was discussed and █ confirmed that he was content with the wording, and in particular reference to water vole.</p> <p>█ discussed that the same comment as that made on [B11] applies here with regards to adding the distance from the banks where pre-construction checks will be made.</p> <p><b>Action: WSP update oCEMP to add in distance from the banks. “within the channel and within 5 metres of the bank”.</b></p>	<p>█</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>oCEMP Reference [W10]</b></p>		

MEETING NOTES

<p>5.1</p>	<p>█ discussed that they would welcome further consultation on the specific design regarding the enhancements to river morphology, natural design features, bed cover and levels etc.</p> <p>█ confirmed that consultation with the EA on these aspects could be added to [W10].</p> <p><b>Action: WSP to add the requirement to consult with the EA into [W10].</b></p>	<p>█</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>oCEMP Reference [B3]</b></p>		
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Text from the oCEMP:</p> <p>[B3] <i>“Culverts will be designed, where possible, to include natural beds (between 100mm and 250mm) to maintain and assist fish passage. To mitigate for potential downstream impacts and maintain passage along watercourses, baffles or similar structures will be installed within existing culverts”.</i></p> <p>█ discussed that the oCEMP still needs to be updated to address this following our comments previously. The statement on fish passage in culverts should be clarified in order to ensure fish passage is maintained at all times, use of the term ‘where possible’ could imply that fish passage is beneficial but not mandatory. Fish passage needs to be in place at all times. The statement could be reworded as follows: “Culverts will be designed taking into account fish migratory requirements to ensure that they do not present an obstruction to fish migration.”</p> <p>█ discussed that the text relating to fish passage is specifically in relation to the River Team. Culvert design is in relation to Allerdene culvert / Allerdene burn.</p> <p>█ discussed that it would be useful to clarify each of the points of natural beds and fish passage separately instead of in a combined sentence. The use of ‘where possible’ relating specifically to fish passage is not acceptable.</p> <p><b>Action: WSP to review oCEMP and update as appropriate. Separate bed material and fish pass into separate points.</b></p> <p><u>Post meeting note:</u></p> <p>[B3] has been updated as follows - Culverts will be designed, where possible, to include natural beds (between 100mm and 250mm)</p> <p>A new measure [B26] has been included as follows: Culverts will be designed taking into account fish migratory requirements to ensure that they do not present an obstruction to fish migration.</p> <p>To mitigate for potential downstream impacts and maintain passage along watercourses, baffles or similar structures will be installed within existing culverts.</p>	<p>█</p>	

	<p>Details and location of baffles or similar structures, e.g. pre barrages, to be installed either within or close to existing culverts for fish passage will be agreed with the Environment Agency.</p>		
<b>7</b>	<p><b>oCEMP references [B9], [B10] and [W15]</b></p>		
<b>7.1</b>	<p>■ discussed that oCEMP references [B9], [B10] and [W15] need to be updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any watercourse diversion work, coffer dams or other in-channel works must ensure fish passage is maintained and designed in such a way as to allow fish movement at times they are actively migrating. This includes maintaining adequate space and depth of water, as well as flow velocity, for fish passage.</li> </ul> <p>■ confirmed that this has been updated in the oCEMP.</p> <p><u>Post meeting note:</u> The text below has been added to [B10] and [B11]. This particular text does not apply to [B9]. This has not been added to [W15] as this relates to specifically to minimising impacts to water quality and given that it is now included in [B10] and [B11] it is now secured.</p> <p>[B10], [B11] <i>“October to May inclusive, is the fish spawning period to avoid, rather than September to April”.</i></p> <p>■ confirmed that this has been updated in the oCEMP at [B10].</p>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Biodiversity Mitigation Measures</b></p>		
<b>8.1</b>	<p>■ discussed that document - <i>TR010031-000804-Appendix 1.2 A - Biodiversity Mitigation Measures (Written Question 1.2.3)</i> needs updating to reflect the oCEMP to include water vole.</p> <p>■ discussed that as this supported the responses to the Examining Authority (ExA) Written Questions, that she was unsure how this could be updated.</p> <p><b>Action: WSP to check with WSP Development Consent Order (DCO) team as to how to deal with this.</b></p> <p><b>Action: EA to feedback if there is anything additional to add into the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), send through any questions on the Environmental Statement (ES) Addendums, and any questions / points to agree in response to the ExA’s Further Written Questions.</b></p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p>	

## MEETING NOTES

	<b>Action: WSP to send through the EA SoCG.</b>	■	
<b>9</b>	<b>AOB</b>		
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Action: EA to feedback if there is anything additional to add into the SoCG, send through any questions on the ES Addendums, and any questions / points to agree in response to the ExA's Further Written Questions.</b> <b>Action: WSP to send through the EA SoCG.</b>	■  ■	

### NEXT MEETING

An invitation will be issued if an additional meeting is required.

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