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All Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010031

Date: 24 June 2020

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 9**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A1 Birtley to Coal House Improvement Scheme**

#### **Site Inspection**

The revised Examination Timetable includes an Accompanied Site Inspection scheduled for Thursday 16 and Friday 17 July 2020.

Due to the ongoing need for social distancing and the limitations on meeting with other people, the Examining Authority (ExA) does not consider that it is practicable to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection. However, the ExA intends to carry out an **Unaccompanied Site Inspection** on Thursday 16 July 2020. This will be in addition to the [Unaccompanied Site Inspection that has already been carried out by myself on 27 and 28 November 2019.](#)

The ExA has previously invited comments from Interested Parties on the locations it should visit as part of the site inspections and the Applicant subsequently provided [an itinerary for the postponed site inspection on 31 March 2020.](#)

All but one of the inspection locations within this itinerary are on publicly accessible land and therefore the ExA is satisfied it would be able to visit such locations and view the relevant features on an unaccompanied basis.

The only location that is not publicly accessible is Stop 8 in the itinerary which is land owned by Northern Gas Networks Limited (NGN). Access to this location will be arranged with NGN but, in order to ensure fairness, this will be done on the basis of there being no communication on any matter concerning the application between the ExA and any representatives of NGN, or any other party, at the site inspection.

Should any Interested Party wish to: a) suggest any additional site inspection locations for the ExA to visit, and/or b) wish to draw to the attention of the ExA to any particular feature(s) that the ExA should view from each location point, then please submit these to the Planning Inspectorate case team by **Wednesday 8 July 2020 (Deadline 9)**.

Yours faithfully

*David Cliff*

**David Cliff**  
**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

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