

**Application for Development Consent by Highways England for the A1 Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme**

**Case Ref: TR010031**

**Examining Authority's note of unaccompanied site inspection on 16 July 2020**

***Background***

The Examining Authority (ExA) carried out an unaccompanied site inspection on 16 July 2020 to support its examination of this application. Arrangements for this site inspection have previously been set out in the ExA's letter to all Interested Parties dated 24 June 2020 [PD-029].

For all but one location visited, as noted below, the ExA was able to carry out its inspection from publicly accessible land. The inspection was therefore able to be undertaken without any other parties being present. The only exception being the Northern Gas Networks Ltd (NGN) land where access was provided by representatives of NGN. There was, however, no discussion on the merits of the application.

As part of the inspection points listed below, the relationship of any residential properties to the scheme was noted.

The inspection was carried out by car and on foot.

***Particulars of the site inspection***

The inspection was undertaken by David Cliff and Max Wiltshire (the ExA). Weather conditions were generally sunny with good visibility. The inspection commenced at approximately 8.45am and finished at approximately 4.00pm.

The following locations (including nearby view points) were visited:

- Drive southwards on A1 along the length of the scheme from Junctions 67 to 65
- Vigo railway bridge (located to the south of the application scheme)
- Drive northwards and southwards on A1 along the length of the scheme (noting views of the Angel of the North)
- Residential streets to the south of the A1 including Northside and The Brambles
- Northside Bridge at Junction 65
- Access road on north side of A1, including Bowes Incline Hotel
- Crathie and North Dene footbridge

- Longbank Bridleway Underpass and approaches (including proposed footpath diversion and Bowes Railway Scheduled Monument)
- Proposed site construction compound at Junction 66
- Junction 66 (Eighton Lodge)
- The Angel of the North and surrounding pathways
- Residential streets of Woodford and Salcombe Gardens
- Public right of way between Woodford and Salcombe Gardens (including proposed construction crossing point)
- Smithy Lane bridge
- Longacre Wood
- Lamelsey village (including views of the proposed construction compound and Allerdene bridge)
- Site of proposed construction compound southeast of Junction 67 including NGN land plot (noting the relationship with residential properties)
- Junction 67 including Kingsway Viaduct
- Lady Park residential estate

## **Conclusion**

The ExA has viewed the application site from numerous public vantage points and from different directions. The ExA has familiarised itself with the site's location and its surroundings.

**David Cliff**  
**Lead member of the Examining Authority**