

Date: 16 February 2022
Our ref: 382983
Your ref: TR010034



The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Major Applications and Plans
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir

**NSIP Reference Name / Code: A57 Link Roads Issue Specific Hearing 2 - Invitation & Meeting
User Code: TR010034**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 November 2021 which was received by Natural England on 19 November 2021.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England's answers to the ExA's questions from Issue Specific Hearing 2 provided as Annex 1.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact Andy Stubbs at

Yours faithfully

Andy Stubbs
Lead Adviser – Planning East Midlands

382983

Annex 1: Natural England's responses to Examining Authority's Issue Specific Hearing 2 questions.

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| Item 4 LANDSCAPE, VISUAL AND GREEN BELT Study area, baseline conditions; overall methodology and mitigation Question r) Please could Natural England comment? |
| Answer Natural England understands further discussions were held by the applicant and the Peak District National Park Authority in March 2021 to which Natural England were not involved. Natural England therefore would defer to the advice provided by the Peak District National Park Authority whose landscape adviser/planner will be best placed to provide the Planning Inspectorate with detailed advice on this proposal as their knowledge of the site and its wider landscape setting, together with the aims and objectives of the of the park's management plan. |
| Item 5 BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION c) It is noted that in December 2021 new Guidance on Decision-making Thresholds for Air Pollution was published by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), which provides an evidentiary basis for decision-making thresholds to inform the assessment of air quality 13 impacts on designed sites. Please could the Applicant and Natural England provide any comments on the implications of the guidance for the assessment of air quality impacts as presented in the Habitat Regulations Assessment Report [REP2-004] |
| Answer Natural England are satisfied that the Air Quality impacts as presented in the Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (REP2-004) will not be implicated by the 2021 Guidance and the overall conclusions presented in the HRA Report provided. |
|) Would Natural England comment on the strength of evidence presented to screen out any effect on ground breeding birds? |
| Answer Natural England are satisfied with the evidence presented to screen out any effect on ground breeding birds as submitted by the applicant. This is reflected by our Statement of Common Ground. |

) Would the Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England comment on the Applicant's responses [REP2-028] in regard to concerns raised by the Peak District National Park Authority [REP2- 048 8.6.2] on the effect on the wider range of wider range of birds for which the Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest qualifies, such as Curlew, Snipe and Dunlin, together with impacts on Mountain Hare?

Answer

Natural England have no further comments with regards to the Applicant's responses (REP2-028) regarding concerns raised by the Peak District National Park Authority (REP-048 8.6.2) Natural England were unfortunately unable to attend the Issue Specific Hearing 2 but we are happy to answer any further questions as required should any further issues arise.