



National Infrastructure Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000  
e-mail: A1inNorthumberland  
@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

---

Highways England  
c/o Mark Stoneman  
Project Manager

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010059

By email only

Date: 5 August 2020

---

Dear Mr Stoneman,

## **Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89(3)**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham**

#### **Procedural Decision following issue of Acceptance decision**

Following my recent appointment as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA), I have reviewed the submitted application documents received on 7 July 2020 and I have concluded that there are matters which require resolution at the outset of this pre-examination period. I have therefore made a Procedural Decision to request additional and updated evidence. I strongly recommend that the following evidence should be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for publication on the National Infrastructure Planning **website at the start of the Relevant Representations period.**

Timely receipt of this updated evidence is essential to ensure all persons with an interest in the application will have the opportunity to make Relevant Representations based on evidence that comprehensively describes the Proposed Development. Where the requested updates are not submitted by the deadline provided there may be implications for the date upon which the Preliminary Meeting can be held.

#### **1. Habitats Regulations Assessment**

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (Doc 6.14) presents Planning Inspectorate screening matrices for Part A and Part B separately. The ExA requests that for the following sites which have experienced impacts from both Parts A and B of the Proposed Development, a single revised matrix is provided (per site), to reflect the effects on the site from the Proposed Development in its entirety:

- Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA);

- Northumbria Coast Ramsar; and
- Northumberland Marine SPA.

The screening matrices provided cross-reference to specific locations within the main documents that provide evidence to support the matrices' findings. The ExA requests that the footnotes to the matrices are revised to provide specific cross references to the documents and passages contained therein where the supporting evidence is located.

## 2. Navigating the Application

The Applicant has provided a Guide to the Documents to be Certified (Doc 1.4) and indicated that this will be updated where necessary throughout the Examination. However, as this document is only intended to identify documents to be certified it does not list each individual document submitted as part of the application such as the numerous Figures accompanying the ES. Similarly, Annex A of the applicant's covering letter (Doc 1.2) only provides an overview of the application documents.

The Applicant is strongly urged to provide a comprehensive and accessible guide to the project to assist those reviewing the application documentation. It is not for the Examining Authority to prescribe how this should be presented. However, the Applicant may wish to consider an approach which organises the reports, drawings and plans which make up the application into the volumes identified in Annex A of the applicant's covering letter (Doc 1.2) and to develop this structure in the way in which other recent DCO applications, including those of Highways England, have prepared document trackers.

For each document the Applicant should consider providing the Applicant's Document Reference, the Document Title, the Document Version, the Submission Date and the Examination Library Reference when this is provided subsequently. There are numerous examples of different figures in the ES sharing the same figure number which will be confusing for Examination participants. A comprehensive and regularly updated document tracker, including the Examination Library reference when available, should go some way to providing greater clarity.

If you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

*Kevin Gleeson*

Kevin Gleeson  
**Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority**

This communication does not constitute legal advice.  
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

