

PINS Ref: TR010059

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Applications and Plans
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Date: 14 September 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Submission of Documents in Response to the Section 55 Checklist and Procedural Decision

Please find below confirmation of the documents submitted by Highways England (the “Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) in response to the Section 55 Checklist issued on 4 August 2020 which accompanied the notification of the decision to accept the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for examination on the A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham (the “Scheme”) and the Procedural Decision issued by the Examining Authority (ExA) on 5 August 2020.

Submission of documents

In response to the section 55 Checklist issued by the Inspectorate the Applicant has enclosed the following documents:

Document Name	Status of Version	Comments
Statement from David Laux, Northumberland County Council (NCC)	Final	Submitted as evidence that a deposit point was made available during the statutory consultation This is in place of the photographic evidence requested in the section 55 checklist (see further details below).
Example of email send to s42 consultees enclosing s48 notice during statutory consultation	Final	Submitted as requested as an example email with attachments (see further details below).

Example of email alert and subscriber numbers	Final	Submitted as requested as an example of the regular emails sent to subscribers (see further details below)
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In addition to the above documents, the Applicant provides the following response to queries raised in the section 55 checklist:

Section 55 Checklist reference	Applicant's Response
<p>Section 42: Duty to consult Item 6</p> <p>The Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.</p>	<p>The following consultees will be sent the section 56 notice at the Inspectorate's request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eglington Parish Council ● Murphy Gas Networks Limited ● Murphy Power Distribution Limited ● Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited <p>The Inspectorate also identified that Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited was not previously consulted and should receive a section 56 notice. Please note that the Applicant consulted Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited who are the parent company of Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited. The addresses for Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited and Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited are the same.</p>
<p>Section 47: Duty to consult the local community Item 18</p> <p>Although the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has carried out the consultation in line with the final SoCC, the following observations have been noted with regards to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screenshots of the Scheme web page are not available as the page has been taken down and is no longer accessible. However, the Consultation Brochures for the statutory consultation for Part A and Part B are enclosed as an example of the

<p>evidencing certain commitments that have been carried out: • Screenshots of the scheme webpage showing the documents available to view and website traffic data has not been provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic evidence of the deposit location documents in situ and information on the number of requests to view the documents has not been provided. • An example of an outgoing email alert and information on the number of subscribers has not been provided. 	<p>material that was available on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic evidence of the deposit point is not available, as due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible for the Applicant to travel to obtain such evidence. Please see enclosed statement from NCC confirming that deposit point was available during the duration of the statutory consultation. There were no requests received to view the documents on deposit during the statutory consultation period. • Please see example of outgoing email alert enclosed. The number of subscribers to that alert is 3,419.
<p>Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application Item 22 Samples of the s42 consultation letters provided at Appendix H of the Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 5.2) do not, however, confirm that copies of the s48 notices were enclosed.</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that a section 48 notice was enclosed with letters to consultees during the statutory consultation. The email sent to consultees with attachments is enclosed.</p> <p>A copy of the section 48 notice was not issued with the letters to consultees during the targeted consultation as the information contained within it was out of date at that time. Instead the detail was included within the letter itself to ensure that no one was prejudiced during the consultation period.</p>
<p>Section 55(3)(f) and section 55 (5A) Item 30 The Planning Inspectorate notes that on numerous occasions, Environmental Statement Figures and Appendices are assigned the same reference number making the navigation of the documentation difficult.</p>	<p>Please see enclosed Application Document Tracker which provides a list of Environmental Statement figures and appendices.</p>

Section 55(3)(f) and section 55 (5A) Item 31 The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the Examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform the HRA Report and the competent authority.	Please see enclosed updated Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Addendum which includes additional information as requested.
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In response to the Procedural Decision made by the ExA the Applicant has enclosed the following documents:

Document Name	Highways England Document Number/Version	Status of Version	Comments
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (clean)	TR010041/APP/6.14 (Rev 1)	Final	Planning Inspectorate screening matrices footnotes revised to provide specific cross references to the documents and passages contained therein to where the supporting evidence is found, Other minor amendments also made to correct grammatical errors, the hectareage of permanent arable habitat loss for Part B (amended from 52ha to 33ha) and the reference to support a statement regarding the reasons for screening out groundwater effects beyond 1 km from Part B (amended from Chapter 11 to Chapter 10).

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (tracked changes)	TR010041/APP/6.14 (Rev 1a)	Final	Planning Inspectorate screening matrices footnotes revised to provide specific cross references to the documents and passages contained therein to where the supporting evidence is found, Other minor amendments also made to correct grammatical errors, the hectareage of permanent arable habitat loss for Part B (amended from 52ha to 33ha) and the reference to support a statement
Document Name	Highways England Document Number/Version	Status of Version	Comments
			regarding the reasons for screening out groundwater effects beyond 1 km from Part B (amended from Chapter 11 to Chapter 10).
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Addendum Report	TR010041/APP/6.14 (Rev 0)	Final	Addendum to the HRA to provide Planning Inspectorate screening matrices with an assessment of the impact of the Scheme as a whole on the three European Sites identified by the ExA.
Application Document Tracker	TR010041/APP/1.5 (Rev 0)	Final	Provides a comprehensive list of application documents which will be updated at every deadline throughout the Examination

If you have any queries about the documents provided, the Scheme or otherwise please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



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