



A1 in Northumberland - Morpeth to Ellingham

Our ref: PL00702582

Your ref: TR001005

Telephone: [REDACTED]

11th January 2021

Advice submitted by email only.

Dear Sirs

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

Examining Authority's (ExA) First Written Questions

I write further to the Examining Authority's (ExA) First Written Questions, published on the examination website on 19th November 2020.

For two of these questions (HE.1.5 and HE.1.10), the ExA ask specifically for Historic England's comments

HE.1.5

Question - In paragraph 8.7.34 of the ES [APP-046] it is stated that the assessment identified 64 built heritage assets or designated areas within the Outer Study Area and that 20 built heritage assets have been identified as being potential sensitive receptors. The Applicant is asked to explain how the number of assets was reduced from 64 to 20. NCC / Historic England are asked to comment on the identification of the 20 sensitive receptors.

Historic England response - The 20 receptor include those heritage assets within our statutory remit which we believe need to be assessed for their impact as part of the DCO process. We defer to NCC specialists on whether the 20 sensitive receptors are appropriate to allow the assessment of impacts on those heritage assets outside of our remit.

HE.1.10

Question - Table 8.4 of the ES [APP-047] notes the presence of a Prehistoric burial mound Scheduled Monument within the current Order Limits which was identified by Historic England and NCC as being the main point of concern. Are Historic England and NCC content that there would be no direct physical impacts on Scheduled Monuments?

Historic England response - at this stage it is unclear as to whether direct physical impacts on scheduled monuments will be avoided.

In pre-application discussions, and within the information supporting the current application, it seems clear that the intention is to avoid such impacts. This is welcomed.

However, the plans submitted do not show the boundary of the DCO and the boundary of the scheduled monuments on the same plan, and at a sufficiently high scale to be able to confirm that this is indeed the case.

This means that whilst we don't doubt the intention of avoiding the scheduled sites, at this point we cannot be definitive that physical impacts on scheduled monuments will be avoided. To resolve this, our suggestion is for the applicant to submit such a plan, showing the DCO boundary and scheduled monuments on the same high scale plan.

This would then allow us to be definitive on the issue of direct physical impacts, or to allow further discussion if the DCO clips or otherwise impacts on any scheduled sites.

I hope this advice is helpful to the ExA, and we would be happy to assist further on these issues, or any others within our remit, as required.

Yours faithfully

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