

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Scheme Number TR010059

7.6 Statement of Commonality for Statement of Common Ground

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure
Rules) 2010, Rule 8(1)(c)

January 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure
Rules) 2010**

The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Development Consent Order 20[]

**STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY FOR STATEMENTS OF
COMMON GROUND**

Regulation Number:	Rule 8 (1) (c)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010059
Author:	A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham Project Team, Highways England

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0	January 2021	Deadline 1 Version

STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY FOR THE STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

This Statement of Commonality for the Statements of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) Highways England Company Limited

Signed.....

[NAME]

Project Manager

on behalf of Highways England

Date:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality for Statements of Common Ground (this “Statement”) relates to an application made by Highways England (the “Applicant”) on 7 July 2020 to the Secretary of State for Transport via the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the “2008 Act”) for a Development Consent Order (DCO). If made, the DCO would grant consent for A1 in Northumberland, Morpeth to Ellingham (the “Scheme”). The application was accepted for examination by the Inspectorate on 4 August 2020.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme is formed of two parts as follows: A1 Morpeth to Felton (Part A) and A1 Alnwick to Ellingham (Part B). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in **Chapter 2: The Scheme** of the Environmental Statement (ES) [APP-037].
- 1.1.3 This Statement has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the current position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties (“other parties”) in relation to the Scheme.
- 1.1.4 This Statement also provides a position on the commonality on specific points between SoCGs at the first deadline on 12 January 2021.

2 STRUCTURE OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

2.1.1 To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to further negotiation or matters not agreed, each of the SoCG adopted a standard format in order to provide clarity to other parties and ultimately the ExA.

2.1.2 Each SoCG has the following structure:

- Section 1: introduces the SoCG and a description of its purpose;
- Section 2: states the engagement that has occurred between the Applicant and other Party;
- Section 3: sets out any issues that have arisen, reporting on the status of each issue, i.e. whether it is agreed, still under discussion or not agreed, and any remaining actions.

3 LIST OF STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

- 3.1.1 The Applicant has prepared SoCG with a number of other parties it considers beneficial to do so with during the preparation of the DCO application.
- 3.1.2 The parties which the Applicant has prepared SoCG with are listed in Table 3.1 below. Further detail about the current position of each SoCG can be found at Chapter 4, Table 4.1 of this Statement.

Table 3.1 - List of SoCGs

Stakeholder
Local Authorities
Northumberland County Council
Prescribed Consultees
Historic England
Environment Agency
Natural England
Forestry Commission
The Woodland Trust

- 3.1.3 SoCG with further specific parties were also requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter dated 19th November 2020. These include the following Statutory Undertakers: National Grid; Northumbrian Water; Northern Power; and Northern Gas Networks. SoCGs with these Statutory Undertakers are being prepared for deadline two, and progress will be recorded in the next iteration of the Statement of Commonality.

The Woodland Trust

- 3.1.4 The Woodland Trust confirmed by an email dated 12/01/20 from Jack Taylor (Lead Campaigner for the Trust) that: *“the Trust is unable to participate in any Statement of Common Ground agreements for road schemes. As we are currently considering both our internal and external position on involvement with transport schemes, we have put in place a moratorium on partaking in any such agreements.”*
- 3.1.5 As such no further work is proposed on the Woodland Trust SOCG.

4 SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION

4.1.1 This section provides the position of each SoCG as at January 2021. As final versions of the SoCGs are agreed as the DCO Examination progresses, they will be submitted alongside this Statement.

4.1.2 Table 4.1 below provides a high level position and where necessary includes further detail to aid understanding of the ExA. The high level positions used in the table are:

- Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties and all matters are agreed.
- Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties, and there remain matters outstanding that the Applicant and the other party agree will not be resolved during the Examination.
- SoCG in draft – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant, it has been shared with the other party and comments have been provided. Discussion is ongoing to reach a 'Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed' or 'Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding'.

Table 4.1 – SoCGs High Level Position

Doc Ref	Party	Position Deadline 1	Position Deadline 2	Position Deadline 3	Position Deadline 4	Position Deadline 5	Position Deadline 6	Position Deadline 7	Position Deadline 8	Position Deadline 9	Position Deadline 10	Position Deadline 11
Local Authority												
7.6A	Northumberland County Council	SoCG in draft										
Prescribed Consultees												
7.6B	Environment Agency	SoCG under preparation, will look to submit initial version at Deadline 2.										
7.6C	Natural England	SoCG in draft										
7.6D	Historic England	SoCG in draft										
7.6E	Forestry Commission	SoCG in draft										
7.6G	National Grid	SoCG under preparation, will look to submit initial version at Deadline 2.										
7.6H	Northumbrian Water	SoCG under preparation, will look to submit initial version at Deadline 2.										
7.6I	Northern Power	SoCG under preparation, will look to submit initial version at Deadline 2.					Page 5					
7.6J	Northern Gas Networks	SoCG under preparation, will look to submit initial version at Deadline 2.										

5 SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1.1 This section of the Statement provides a summary of principal issues covered in the SoCG and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters.
- 5.1.2 The table is presented in such a way to show topics covered within the various SoCG and how these are relevant to each other party and a position for each topic as follows:

	Matter agreed
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Matter not agreed

- 5.1.3 Where a matter is not relevant to the other party, it is not included within the SoCG and therefore not covered in Table 5.1 and shown as a blank.
- 5.1.4 SoCG with further specific parties were also requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter dated 19th November 2020. These include the following Statutory Undertakers: National Grid; Northumbrian Water; Northern Power; and Northern Gas Networks. SoCGs with these Statutory Undertakers are being prepared for deadline two, and progress will be recorded in the next iteration of the Statement of Commonality.

Table 5.1 Table of Commonality at Deadline 1

SoCG Ref	Party	Topics																
		Development Consent Order	Environmental Impact Assessment	Air Quality and emissions	Biodiversity, ecology and nature conservation	Economic and social effects	Historic Environment	Landscape and visual effects	Noise and vibration	Traffic and transportation	Green Belt Considerations	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan	Water Environment Effects	Water Framework Directive compliance	Drainage and Flooding	Environmental permits	Effects on heritage assets	License applications
7.6A	Northumberland County Council																	
7.6C	Natural England																	
7.6D	Historic England																	
7.6E	Forestry Commission																	

6 POSITION AT DEADLINE 1

6.1.1 This section provides a summary of the current position at Deadline 1 between the Applicant and each party. This section provides the ExA with a summary. The individual SoCGs should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.

Northumberland County Council

6.1.2 The position of Northumberland County Council at Deadline 1 is currently Under Discussion.

6.1.3 A number of meetings have been held and there is a broad measure of agreement that the Scheme is supported in planning policy and that, subject to an assessment of the impacts of the Scheme on the environment, should be approved.

6.1.4 The following principal matters remain Under Discussion between NCC and the applicant:

- Discussions over the landscape and visual impacts of the Scheme;
- Measures to mitigate the impacts of the Scheme on the local road network, including discussions over the future of the de-trunked section of the A1;
- There is an ongoing dialogue with NCC over the surface water plans.

Historic England

6.1.5 Discussions are underway with Historic England over the impacts of the Scheme on identified heritage assets. There is one Scheduled Monument (Felton Old Bridge, also Grade II* Listed Buildings), one Grade I (Church of St. Michael's and all Angels) and two Grade II* Listed Buildings (Greenhouse and Bockenfield Farmhouse) within 1km of the Scheme identified for assessment.

6.1.6 There is an initial agreement that the assessments appropriately consider relevant legislation and policy and that the scope and methodology adopted for the baseline cultural heritage assessment of the potential impacts is appropriate and follows standards and guidance.

6.1.7 There are no principal matters outstanding between Natural England and the Applicant. The matters remaining subject to further discussion relate primarily to consultation on the Outline CEMP [APP-7.3].

Environment Agency

6.1.8 The position of the Environment Agency at Deadline 1 is currently Under Discussion. Discussions regarding issues related to the Outline CEMP [APP-7.3] itself have not yet taken place. Initial version to be submitted at Deadline 2.

Natural England

- 6.1.9 The position of the Natural England at Deadline 1 is currently Under Discussion.

Forestry Commission

- 6.1.10 The position of the Forestry Commission at Deadline 1 is currently Under Discussion.

National Grid

- 6.1.11 Work on a SoCG with the National Grid that will consider the content of the draft DCO is underway. Initial version to be submitted at Deadline 2.

Northumbria Water

- 6.1.12 Work on a SoCG with the Northumbrian Water that will consider the content of the draft DCO is underway. Initial version to be submitted at Deadline 2.

Northern Power

- 6.1.13 Work on a SoCG with the Northern Power to consider the content of the draft DCO is underway. Initial version to be submitted at Deadline 2.

Northern Gas

- 6.1.14 Work on a SoCG with the Northern Gas Networks to consider the content of the draft DCO is underway. Initial version to be submitted at Deadline 2.