



A1 in Northumberland - Morpeth to Ellingham

Our ref: PL00702582  
Your ref: TR010059



29th 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**

**Historic England Respond at Deadline 2 (D2)**

I write further to the letter from the Planning Inspectorate dated 6th January 2021.

For this deadline we are asked to provide specific comments in a number of areas:

**Comments on responses for Deadline 1**

Historic England notes, and welcomes, the submission of document 'Appendix B Working Area around West Linkhall Scheduled Monument and North Charlton Scheduled Monument'.

The stated intention of Highways England was to avoid any direct impacts on these scheduled monuments, which we welcomed. However, the concern was that the plans previously provided did not show the DCO boundary and boundary of the scheduled monuments at a scale which allowed this to be confirmed.

The submitted document referred to above allows confirmation on this issue - the boundary of the DCO does not extend into the scheduled monument. This provides us with reassurance on this key issue.

**Comments on responses to ExQ1;**

Having been through the heritage-related issues mentioned in Highways England's response, we would comment as follows:

- DCO 1.74 - Historic England welcomes the change made in the revised DCO, which corrects the earlier use of English Heritage, where the appropriate body for further engagement was ourselves



- HE. 1.15 - Historic England welcomes the suggested change to replace the reference to English Heritage with Historic England

### **Written Representations (WRs) including summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words**

This scheme has been the subject of extensive, and positive, discussions between Historic England and Highways England and their consultants at pre-application stage.

This process allowed the scheme to be developed in a way that largely avoids harm to those elements of the Historic Environment where Historic England has a statutory remit. Where we do not have such a remit, we have deferred to the specialist conservation and archaeology advisors at Northumberland County Council, whose local experience and knowledge best equips them to provide expert comment.

For assets within our statutory remit, we believe that direct harmful impacts will be avoided or, in the case of listed milestones to be moved, this impact can be addressed by their relocation. Further, although the development will change the appearance of this part of Northumberland to a degree, and be visible from a number of heritage assets within our remit, the degree of change and the current context of a major A-road means that this change would not be harmful to the settings of these assets.

The remaining issue for us, discussed above, was to ensure that the DCO boundary did not include any part of the two scheduled monuments (NHL 1018499 and NHL1018348) which lie close to or adjacent to this boundary. The further information submitted by the applicant confirms this to be the case, and that no part of the DCO area intrudes into these scheduled monuments. This is welcomed.

This advice is clearly given in relation to the application as it has been submitted. We do understand that there may be changes or additions proposed to this, potentially connected with drainage issues. We are, of course, happy to discuss any such proposal, and to provide further advice to the ExA on them.

### **Progressed Statements of Common Ground**

We note the submission by Highways England of a draft Statement of Common Ground between Highways England and Historic England.

Although, as discussed above, it appears that those issues relating to the Historic Environment within Historic England's remit have been resolved at this stage, we understand that it would nevertheless be helpful for the ExA for such a statement to be agreed.

In this context, Historic England is very happy to discuss this Statement further with the hope that this can be finalised and this communicated to the ExA as soon as possible.



Historic England

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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