



The Planning Inspectorate

Planning Act 2008 – Section 91

Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2 dealing with Environmental Matters (ISH2)

Date:	Thursday 25 February 2021 (Day 1 of 2)
Joining available from:	9.30am ¹
Meeting start time:	10.00am ²
Location:	Virtual event

Notes on participation, conduct and management of the hearing

All Interested Parties are invited to attend issue specific hearings but as this event is being held virtually it would assist with the running of the hearing if you could let the Inspectorate's Case Team

(A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) know by **Friday 19**

February if you wish to participate in the hearing so that the relevant instructions can be sent for you to join the event. The event will also be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project page of the National Infrastructure website closer to the event date.

Each Interested Party is entitled to make oral representations at the Hearing. However, this is subject to the Examining Authority's (ExA) power to control the Hearing.

The ExA requests that the following attendees participate in ISH1 into the dDCO:

- **Highways England (the Applicant)** - including representatives of the Applicant who are in a position to discuss the matters on the agenda;
- **Northumberland County Council (NCC)**;
- **Environment Agency (EA)**;
- **Natural England (NE)**; and
- **Any other Interested Parties (IPs)** - with an interest in environmental matters.

¹ Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate.

² If you are joining as an active participant, please follow the joining instructions for the virtual event carefully and connect to the Hearing in good time. In common with traditional Hearings, the event will start on time irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will be led by the ExA.

The virtual event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a Hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. Should the consideration of the issues take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the Hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to.

If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any Hearing, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

It is possible that all matters on the agenda will be discussed on **Day 1 (Thursday 25 February)**. However, if there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue discussions on **Day 2 (Friday 26 February)**. In addition, it may be necessary to prioritise matters or defer others to further written questions. **Consequently, can participants therefore please make sure that they are available for both days.**

All Examination documents are provided with a unique identification number for referencing purposes shown in square brackets [].

Purpose of ISH2

The main purpose of the second Issue Specific Hearing is to undertake an examination of various environmental matters. In particular:

- To review environmental impact considerations, including matters arising from the application documentation and representations relating to:
 - design, landscape and visual impacts;
 - biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment; and
 - the water environment

- To review transport matters arising from the application documentation and representations including the need for the Proposed Development, the impact of construction traffic and the effect on Public Rights of Way.

Please Note:

In order to ensure timely publication of the agenda, this has been drafted shortly after the receipt of submissions for Deadline 3. As a consequence, the ExA may need to adjust the agenda at the Hearing to allow for responses received at this deadline.



Issue Specific Hearing 2: Environmental Matters

10:00am, Thursday 25 February 2021 (Day 1 of 2)

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for this Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2)

2. Design

- To consider how the Proposed Development can deliver good design with particular focus on structures.

3. Landscape and Visual Impacts

- To explore how areas of sensitivity have been developed and how their significance has informed the Proposed Development;
- To consider the visual effects of the Proposed Development, particularly in relation to areas of sensitivity; and
- To explore the adequacy of proposed mitigation measures, including monitoring and evaluation.

4. Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment

- To consider whether the design and mitigation measures to compensate for the proposed loss of ancient woodland is appropriate and whether it is adequately secured through the DCO;
- To consider the issue of Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity No Net Loss;
- To explore the effects of loss of hedgerows, other Habitats of Principal Importance and the loss of watercourses on biodiversity; and
- Discussion regarding proposals to minimise the impacts of the A1068 diversion on the Northumberland Marine SPA (paragraph 2.6.24 [REP1-026]), and whether these proposals constitute mitigation (in light of relevant case law, i.e. People Over Wind).

5. Water environment

- To consider how the design of the Proposed Development has taken into consideration its potential effects on watercourses, with particular regard to the River Coquet;

- To consider the potential impact of the Proposed Development on flooding, with particular regard to areas at medium and high risk of flooding; and
- To consider the proposed mitigation measures and their adequacy, particularly in relation to drainage and run off impacts on land, watercourses and waterbeds.

6. Transport and Traffic

- The ExA will ask the Applicant to present the case for the Proposed Development in terms of predicted increases in traffic flows and to explain whether, in the light of the COVID 19 pandemic the need for the Proposed Development has changed;
- To consider the scope of the Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- The effect of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way, and Non-Motorised Users; and
- To consider the extent of highway adoption in relation to the de-trunked A1 and the new local highway network.

7. Review of issues and actions arising

The ExA will address how any actions placed on the Applicant are to be met and consider the approaches to be taken to the examination of environmental matters, in the light of issues raised.

8. Any other matters

9. Closure of the Hearing