

A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham

Scheme Number: TR010059

7.17.1 Applicant's Written Summary of Oral Submissions at Hearings - Appendix A - Relevant Protections in Relation to Vegetation Clearance

Rule 8(1)(c)

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Planning Act 2008

March 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

**The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to
Ellingham**

Development Consent Order 20[xx]

**Appendix A - Relevant Protections in Relation to Vegetation
Clearance**

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1 BROCKTHORPE CONSULTANCY – VEGETATION PROTECTION

- 1.1.1. This Technical Note provides a response to a request from Brockthorpe Consultancy to be provided with information relating to the retention and protection of existing vegetation within the Order limits.
- 1.1.2. Vegetation clearance is indicated on Figure 7.9 Vegetation Clearance Plans Part A [APP-096] and Figure 7.11 Vegetation Clearance Part B [APP-145], which show the assumed vegetation clearance for the purpose of assessing the impacts on vegetation, biodiversity, landscape and visual features, and have assumed that for the most part vegetation potentially impact by the construction of the Scheme would be cleared. This reflects a reasonable worst case scenario, and is the basis on which the assessment set out within the relevant chapters of the ES, including Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual Part B [APP-045] and Chapter 9 Biodiversity Part B [APP-049], has been conducted.
- 1.1.3. In practice, the Applicant is committed to retaining as much vegetation as practicable, and this is evidenced in S-L2 and S-L5 of Table 3-1: Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments: The Scheme within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline CEMP) [REP3-013 and 014] (and as updated at Deadline 4). This requires the avoidance of vegetation removal, and retention of mature vegetation, in order to reduce impacts on landscape and visual receptors. This is further reinforced through item S-L8(f) of Table 3-1: Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments: The Scheme within the Outline CEMP [REP3-013 and 014] (and as updated at Deadline 4). This requires the retention of vegetation in accordance with BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations, and ensures that any vegetation retained within the Order limits would be robustly protected.
- 1.1.4. Item S-L8(a) within the Outline CEMP [REP3-013 and 014] (and as updated at Deadline 4) requires that vegetation within 15m of the Order limits is identified, and measures are put in place to protect the root systems from damage, these include hand digging within the protected root areas of the vegetation, pruning in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work. Recommendations, to mitigate damage during trees works, and no-dig construction are to be considered at detailed design.
- 1.1.5. With regard to which vegetation is to be removed and which is to be retained and protected, item S-B10 within the Outline CEMP [REP3-013 and 014] (and as updated at Deadline 4) establishes that the clearance of vegetation would be identified on site by the Environmental Clerk of Work, in consultation with the Contract Manager.
- 1.1.6. Where vegetation is to be removed, the landscape mitigation plans, provided in Figure 7.8: Landscape Mitigation Masterplan Part A [REP3-008] (and as updated at Deadline 4) and Figure 7.10: Landscape Mitigation Plan Part B [APP-144], set out how the vegetation would be replaced. The delivery of the landscape and ecological mitigation is secured through item S-L2(c) of the Outline CEMP [REP3-013 and 014] (and as updated at Deadline 4) and Requirement 5 of Schedule 2 to the dDCO [REP3-004 and 005]. Should additional

hedgerows require removal over and above that identified in the Figure 7.9 Vegetation Clearance Plans Part A [APP-096] and Figure 7.11 Vegetation Clearance Part B [APP-145], item S-L2(e) secures replacement species rich hedgerows similar to the existing.

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