

Date: 31 March 2021
Our ref: 334610 Case 15676
Your ref: TR010059



The Planning Inspectorate
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/Madam,

NSIP Reference Name : A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham; Natural England’s Air Quality Position

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.


Clarification on Air Quality Issues

As stated by Natural England [REP2-029] and detailed within the Statement of Common Ground with Natural England [REP4-017], the Applicant and Natural England do not agree on the approach to air quality assessment detailed in the updated DMRB guidance (LA 105 Air Quality).

This matter is currently under discussion at a national level between the Applicant’s and Natural England’s national specialists, with this national level approach being agreed by both parties as the preferable way forward. However, it has also been agreed that it may be necessary to seek agreement at a scheme level (i.e. for this Scheme) depending on the timescales of discussions at a national level. The Applicant and Natural England continue to engage to reach agreement on the air quality impacts on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI as a result of the DMRB sensitivity assessment. As detailed within Natural England’s relevant representation [REP2-029], “Natural England’s advice is that this matter is capable of being overcome.” The Applicant also agrees with this position (as detailed in the Applicant’s response to Natural England’s relevant representation [REP3-026]).

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 0208 225 6263

Yours faithfully


Team Leader- Sustainable Development and Marine.
Northumbria Area