



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 3 dealing with Environmental Matters (ISH3)

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Date: | Wednesday 21 April 2021 (Day 1 of 2) |
| Joining available from: | 9.40am 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 16 April** 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 ISH3 into Environmental matters:

- **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 20 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 (Wednesday 21 April)**. However, if there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue discussions on **Day 2 (Thursday 22 April)**. 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 ISH3

The main purpose of the third 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:
 - landscape and visual impacts;
 - biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment;
 - the water environment; and
 - transport matters.

- To examine matters related to mitigation of impacts particularly through the dDCO, outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), and the Landscape Mitigation Masterplans;
- To confirm the scope of, and progress with, the submission of the proposed hydraulic modelling and geomorphological information associated with the change requests submitted at Deadline 4; and
- Clarification of other outstanding environmental matters.

Key Documents for ISH3

- Draft Development Consent Order [REP5-005] (clean) and [REP5-006] (tracked);
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [REP5-012] (clean);
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP3-015];
- ES Figure 7.8 - Landscape Mitigation Masterplan Part A [REP4-010];
- ES Figure 7.10 - Landscape Mitigation Plan Part B [APP-144];
- Culvert Mitigation Strategy [REP5-022];
- Water Framework Directive Assessment Part A [APP-225];
- Water Framework Directive Assessment Part B [APP-312];
- SoCG with NCC [REP5-015];
- SoCG with the EA [REP5-017]; and
- SoCG with NE [REP5-016].



Issue Specific Hearing 3: Environmental Matters

10:00am, Wednesday 21 April 2021 (Day 1 of 2)

1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for this Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)

2. Water environment

- To consider outstanding matters of disagreement between the Applicant and the Environment Agency in respect of the Culvert Mitigation Strategy and Water Framework Directive Assessment;
- To consider whether the Proposed Development would have an effect on Otters within the Order limits or wider study area; and
- To consider any other outstanding matters still under discussion between the Applicant and Environment Agency.

3. Change Requests – Outstanding Information

- To confirm the scope of, and progress with, the submission of the proposed hydraulic modelling and geomorphological information associated with the change requests submitted at Deadline 4

4. Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment

- Biodiversity No Net Loss Assessment – outstanding matters between the Applicant and the EA; and
- The approach to air quality assessment and in particular the air quality impacts on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI – outstanding matters between the Applicant and NE.

5. Landscape and Visual Impacts

- Methodology used for the assessment of landscape and visual effects and how it has informed the Proposed Development;
- The effectiveness of the Applicant's landscape mitigation strategy; and
- Any outstanding issues related to tree protection and tree/ vegetation removal.

6. Transport and Traffic

- To consider outstanding matters in respect of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- The effect of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way, and Non-Motorised Users;
- To consider the extent of highway adoption in relation to the detrunked A1 and the new local highway network; and
- To consider maintenance arrangements at junctions including the management and adoption of the soft estate

7. Mitigation of Construction Impacts

- Whether the outline CEMP [REP5-012] enables the environmental commitments made within the REAC to be adequately actioned;
- Whether a LEMP is required to be provided as part of the Examination; and
- Whether the Landscape Mitigation Masterplans adequately address matters previously included within Environmental Masterplans.

8. Combined and Cumulative Effects

- To consider the combined effects of the Proposed Development, occurring due to impacts from different environmental topics combining to cause multiple effects on a single receptor; and
- To consider the likely significant, cumulative environmental effects associated with the Proposed Development.

9. 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.

10. Any other matters

11. Closure of the Hearing