

PINS Ref: TR010059

The Planning Inspectorate  
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Date: 16 April 2021

Dear **[REDACTED]**

**A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham**

**Deadline 5a**

The response below is submitted by Highways England (the “Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) for Deadline 5a of the Examination for the A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham (the “Scheme”). This is in accordance with the request set out by the Examining Authority (the “ExA”) in the Rule 8 letter dated 6 January 2021 updated by the Procedural Decision and amended Examination Timetable dated 9 April 2021.

**Applicant’s Comments on the Environment Agency’s Response to the Rule 17 Request for Information**

Ref No.	Question	EA’s Response	Applicant’s Response
Q2	The Applicant is asked to explain why it was not possible to submit the hydraulic modelling and geomorphological information at D4 alongside other change request submissions. Furthermore, the	Our discussions with the Applicant have mainly been with regards to the timings of the review process and how we can review each stage of the model creation in order to make the review as efficient as	The Applicant is particularly grateful to the Environment Agency for its helpful and constructive involvement in preparing to review the River Coquet hydraulic model.

	<p>Applicant is asked to confirm the extent of dialogue it has had with the Environment Agency on this matter since Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 2 on Thursday 25 February. The Environment Agency is asked to confirm the extent of dialogue which it has had with the Applicant since ISH2 and to confirm when it expects to have receipt of the necessary hydraulic modelling and geomorphological information in order to assess the impacts of the proposed changes.</p>	<p>possible given the short timeframes. It is anticipated the hydraulic model will be submitted to the EA for review after the Easter weekend. This will take between 4-5 weeks to review. The EA have also reviewed and provided comments back to the Applicant regarding hydrology report.</p>	<p>Producing a hydraulic model is a complex and involved process. The model has to be constructed and then tested to ensure that it is stable (i.e. not subject to unpredictable and unrepresentative oscillations in water levels) and that the outputs are reliable with bounds of confidence in model results understood. It is a normal part of hydraulic modelling processes to iteratively review model results and to amend the model until instabilities have been resolved. This must be undertaken for all hydraulic models before the modelling of baseline and future modelling scenarios is performed and the result from them considered reliable.</p> <p>As a result of instabilities experienced in the baseline hydraulic model and the need to rectify these, completion of the first phase of the modelling work has been delayed. This has necessitated a revised approach to the EA's review of the modelling ahead of submission at Deadline 7.</p> <p>The baseline model runs and associated reporting will be submitted to the EA on Mon</p>
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		<p>19<sup>th</sup> Apr. Submission of the Proposed Scheme model runs and associated reporting (i.e. for the temporary construction phase and the permanent operational phase) will commence on Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr and continue into the week commencing Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. The Applicant is aiming to provide these data as early as possible. This will allow the EA to commence their review of the baseline model from Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Apr and the Proposed Scheme models, once all information has been submitted, in the week commencing Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. The EA have informed the Applicant that four weeks for review of the baseline model and four weeks for review of the Proposed Scheme models will be required, however best efforts will be made to complete their review more quickly.</p> <p>In order to receive timely feedback from the EA on any emerging issues with the models, the following has been agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once review of a model has commenced, if any issues or concerns are identified, an update will</li> </ul>
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			<p>be provided to the Applicant, notifying them of such and a meeting will be arranged between modelling teams to discuss further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If no issues or concerns are identified, the Applicant will be informed of this outcome and to confirm that a meeting will not be necessary.</li> </ul> <p>This will allow the Applicant to consider whether changes need to be made to the models before final comments are returned to the Applicant, thereby facilitating the finalisation of the modelling and other related assessments (e.g. the updated geomorphology assessment) by Deadline 8. Responses to final comments received from the EA could then be submitted at Deadline 8a ahead of the hearings.</p>
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Please also find enclosed an updated version of document reference 1.5 Application Document Tracker (Rev.6) which has been updated to reflect the acceptance by the ExA of the Proposed Changes as set out in the Procedural Decision dated 9 April 2021.

If you have any queries about the documents provided, the Scheme or otherwise please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



Project Manager

Highways England

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