



Northumberland County Council

A1 in Northumberland
National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Your ref: TR010059
Our ref:
Enquiries to: Mrs Katherine Robbie
Email: [REDACTED]@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel direct: [REDACTED]
Date: 20 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 8(3) and Rule 9

Changes to an Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham

Deadline 7a – 20 May 2021

Change 1: Earthworks Amendments

Change 1 includes changes to the temporary and permanent earthworks in both Parts A and B of the scheme. The amendments include

- Utilising borrow pits in Part B
- Maximising the use of soil bunds already proposed by the scheme in Part A
- Maximising the fill within slopes for the re-use of site material in Part A
- The creation of new soil bunds in Part B
- Maximising of slopes for re-use of excess site material in Part B
- Laying down additional material and increasing some localised ground levels
- Raising of junction bowls
- Creating new temporary soil storage areas in Parts A and B

Change 2: Stabilisation Works

Change 2 of the request comprises work to the north bank of the River Coquet to stabilise the proposed and existing bridges and the provision of permanent erosion protection measures along the north bank of the river.

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The works would comprise two rows of spaced piles to the north side of the proposed pier location for the River Coquet bridge and a third row to the south side. The piles would be concrete and approximately 600 mm in diameter and indicatively 14 m long in length.

The works will require additional land to be used for both temporary and permanent working and will require additional felling of trees in the Coquet River Felton Park Local Wildlife Site to facilitate the works. The works would also have impacts on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Change 3: Southern Access Works

Change 3 provides access to southern bank of the river in the form of a temporary bridge and also includes permanent scour protection on the southern bank of the river.

The works would have an impact on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in respect of the scour protection but would reduce the impact on the designation by removing the need for vehicular access to the construction site from this bank.

Comments

With respect to the Change 1 the Council has no objection to the proposals as set out in the Change Request Letter dated 12 March 2021. The permanent and temporary earthworks would not cause any additional adverse impacts over and above those which have been previously identified in the original scheme and it is agreed that in some instances would serve to reduce impacts on some receptors. The Council therefore raises no objection to the changes proposed as set out in REP4-034.

The changes requested to the scheme on the north bank of the River Coquet (Change 2) lie within the Coquet River Felton Park Local Wildlife Site and trees would need to be felled in order to facilitate the works. The application states that trees would be replanted following the completion of the works. Northumberland County Council recognises that the loss of additional trees in this location is unavoidable if the works proposed by the Change Request take place. However, provided that the replanting is carried out using the same methodology and approach as previously agreed, and as set out in the Woodland Management Plan, then the Council has no objection to the works.

With respect to Change 3 the Council raises no objection to this proposal, the proposed works would have an impact on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Council, however, defers to the advice of Natural England on this matter as the regulatory body with responsibility for the designation.

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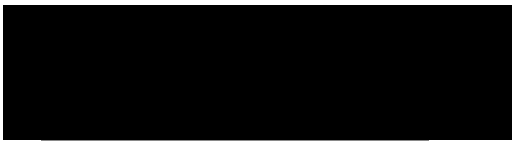
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In respect of the impact of the works on the River Coquet proposed in both Changes 2 and 3, the Council also defers to the advice provided by the Environment Agency on this matter, as they are the regulatory body with responsibility for the watercourse in this respect.

Conclusion

Northumberland County Council is content that the Change Request documentation has adequately identified and addressed the issues which require amendment in respect of any additional impacts caused by the changes proposed and raises no objection overall.

Yours sincerely,




Katherine Robbie
Senior Planning Officer

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