



# 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 4 dealing with Environmental Matters (ISH4)

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 9 June 2021 ( <b>Day 1 of 2</b> )
<b>Joining available from:</b>	1.40pm <sup>1</sup>
<b>Meeting start time:</b>	2.00pm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location:</b>	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](mailto:A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)) know by **Friday 4 June** 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 ISH4 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate.

<sup>2</sup> 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 9 June)**. However, there may be a need to continue discussions on **Day 2 (Thursday 10 June)**. **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 ISH4**

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:
  - the water environment;
  - biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment;
  - landscape and visual impacts;
  - transport matters; and
  - combined and cumulative effects.
- 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 Plans;

- Clarification of other outstanding environmental matters; and
- Clarification of progress with Statements of Common Ground (SoCG).

**A further ISH (ISH5) will be held on Tuesday 15 June which will primarily address matters related to the Applicant's Change Requests 1, 2 & 3. Consequently, ISH4 will not deal with matters arising from the Change Requests.**

#### **Key Documents for ISH4**

- Draft Development Consent Order [REP8-004] (clean) and [REP8-005] (tracked);
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [REP8-011];
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP8-013];
- ES Figure 7.8 - Landscape Mitigation Masterplan Part A [REP4-060];
- ES Figure 7.10 - Landscape Mitigation Plan Part B [REP8-010];
- Culvert Mitigation Strategy [REP8-023];
- Water Framework Directive Assessment Part A [APP-255];
- Water Framework Directive Assessment Part B [APP-312];
- Combined Effects Technical Note [REP7-016];
- SoCG with NCC [REP8-016];
- SoCG with NE [REP8-017];
- SoCG with the EA [REP8-018];
- SoCG with Historic England [REP8-019];
- SoCG with The Forestry Commission [REP8-020];
- SoCG with National Grid Gas [REP2-013];
- SoCG with Northern Powergrid [REP5-018];
- SoCG with Northern Gas Networks [REP2-015]; and
- SoCG with Northumbrian Water [REP5-019].



## **Issue Specific Hearing 4: Environmental Matters**

**2:00pm, Wednesday 9 June 2021 (Day 1 of 2)**

### **1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for this Issue Specific Hearing (ISH4)**

### **2. Water environment**

- To consider outstanding matters of disagreement between the Applicant, the Environment Agency and Natural England, particularly in respect of the Culvert Mitigation Strategy and compensation; and
- To consider any other outstanding matters still under discussion between the Applicant and the Environment Agency.

### **3. Biodiversity, ecology and the natural environment**

- To confirm the position in respect of outstanding matters between the Applicant and NE related to air quality impacts on the River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI.

### **4. Landscape and Visual Impacts**

- Issues related to tree protection and tree/vegetation removal.

### **5. Transport and Traffic**

- To consider NCC's proposed amendments to the dDCO in respect of Schedule 1 and Schedule 3.

### **6. Mitigation of Construction Impacts**

- To consider revisions to the outline CEMP submitted at D7 and D8; and
- To consider alternative wording for Requirement 17 of the dDCO – Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan.

## **7. Combined and Cumulative Effects**

- To consider the combined and cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, including climate change.

## **8. Statements of Common Ground**

- To consider progress with concluding Statements of Common Ground.

## **9. Review of issues and actions arising**

## **10. Any other matters**

## **11. Closure of the Hearing**