

Date: 04 June 2021
Our ref: 347427
Your ref: A1 Northumberland Project



The Planning Inspectorate
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BY EMAIL ONLY

T [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: National Infrastructure Planning Scheme: A1 in Northumberland.

I write regarding the above following the request for position statements for **Deadline 8** of Examination into the above. Please find enclosed our written representations for the Examiners Written Questions (ExQ3) [Appendix A] for this Development Consent Order (DCO) on behalf of Natural England.

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.

Habitat Regulations Assessment Queries: 4.4 Revised HRA Conservation Objectives [REP4-056]

I can confirm that Natural England agrees with the proposed objectives of the Updated HRA Report for the Change Request and are considered appropriate.

4.6 HRA Conclusions

I can confirm that Natural England agrees with the conclusions of the Updated HRA Report for the Change Request i.e. that the mitigation strategy proposed in the Appropriate Assessment (stage 2) of the Updated HRA is considered to be sufficient to ensure that proposals set out in the Change Request will **not** have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites listed in the Updated HRA Report.

Geomorphology: Deadline 7 Submission - 6.49 Options Appraisal of River Coquet Bridge Foundation Stabilisation and Scour Protection System [REP7-005]

We are satisfied with the updated geomorphology assessment. We have no outstanding concerns in relation to the effects of the stabilisation and southern access works. However, we disagree with the Applicant's determination of the nature and scale of the impact. The Applicant has stated that the scheme will have a 'minor adverse' impact. We consider the impacts to be 'moderate adverse' as the Applicant is permanently fixing the channel in this location, thus preventing the river from changing and adapting. Overall, we consider the impacts to be 'moderate adverse' and that the Applicant must provide compensation for the impacts of the stabilisation and southern access

works. The Applicant is prepared to make a contribution towards offsite works in order to compensate for the stabilisation and southern access works and for the localised loss of watercourses. This would be subject to a legal agreement. Please note, this response has been made in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Natural England concur with their findings.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Michael Miller
Team Leader- Sustainable Development and Marine.