



# Northumberland County Council

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

Your Ref: TR010059  
Our Ref: A1 Dualling – Morpeth to Ellingham  
Enquiries to: Kevin Tipple  
Direct Line: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Date: 4 March 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

## **Application by National Highways for an Order granting Development Consent for the A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham**

### **Request for Comments from All Interested Parties (4 February 2022) – Update to the Environmental Information**

I write in response in the Secretary of State's invitation to all interested parties to provide comments on the Applicant's response of 26 January 2022 to the Secretary of State's consultation letter of 22 December 2021. Northumberland County Council's comments on the matters in the Applicant's response are set out below.

#### **2.1 Update to the Environmental Information**

The response provided by National Highways is noted. We have no comments on the response provided.

#### **2.2 Article 14(2) and (3)**

We have reviewed the response provided by National Highways and have no problem with the interpretation of Article 14(2) and (3). We also have no concerns with inserting an explicit reference to the arbitration provision at the end of paragraph (2).

#### **2.3 Article 31**

The response provided by National Highways is noted. We have no specific comments on the response provided.

**Rob Murfin, Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services**  
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

[REDACTED]  
[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



## **2.4 Work No 5B**

The response provided by National Highways is noted. We have no specific comments on the response provided.

## **2.5 Paragraph 1 of Schedule 2**

We agree with the response provided by National Highways.

## **2.6 Paragraph 10 of Schedule 2**

We agree with the response provided by National Highways and can confirm that the reference number 16878 refers to a historic milestone in the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Record.

## **2.7 Part 1 of Schedule 3**

The response provided by National Highways is noted. We have no comments on the response provided.

## **2.8 Part 3 of Schedule 4**

In relation to the response provided by National Highways at 2.8.2, it is our understanding that a new public right of way under the River Coquet bridge is no longer proposed. This route has been the subject of recent discussions between the Council and the Applicant. The Applicant considered that the steepness of the slopes on south side on the River Coquet meant it would be too difficult to construct a footpath under the River Coquet bridge at this location. We agreed that the best way forward would be for a diversion route to be provided down east side of A1 southwards to the West Moor road junction, over the A1 at this point, then back in a northerly direction along the west side of the A1 to re-join existing Public Footpath to the west of the River Coquet bridge.

We agree with the suggested changes by National Highways to Entry 18 and Entry 19.

## **2.9 Part 1 of Schedule 5**

We agree with the response provided by National Highways.

## **2.10 Part 2 of Schedule 5**

In relation to the response provided by National Highways at 2.10.5, it is our understanding that a new public right of way under the River Coquet bridge is no longer proposed as discussed in our comments on Part 3 of Schedule 4 above (2.8).

On Part 3 of Schedule 5 we have concerns about the wording of the heading in column 3. This section relates to the closure of existing private rights of way and the provision of alternative private rights of way. In our opinion, the heading for the alternative private rights of way should not be describing these as "New highway to be substituted". These private ways are not "highways" (see definition on a highway on Page 6 of the draft Development Consent Order). It is suggested that the heading for column 3 should read "Private way to be substituted" (or similar).

**2.11 Part 1 of Schedule 9**

We agree with the response provided by National Highways.

**2.12 Part 4 of Schedule 10**

No comments.

Yours faithfully



**Kevin Tipple  
Senior Planning Officer  
Northumberland County Council**