



Department for Transport

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To: Natural England and National
Highways

16 April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent to authorise the widening of an approximately 20.6km stretch of the existing A1 from Morpeth to Ellingham, with approximately 14.5km of online widening and approximately 6.1km of new offline highway (“the Proposed Development”).

Updated Biodiversity Air Quality Assessment and Construction Environmental Management Plan (“CEMP”)

The Secretary of State notes the comments from Natural England in [their response of 11 April 2024](#) regarding the need for additional compensation to be secured for the predicted increase in ammonia concentrations to the Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natural England’s suggestion that this includes a long-term management plan (for example via a comprehensive Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (“LEMP”)) for the planted areas and a commitment to securing a specific hectareage of additional woodland planting. The Secretary of State also notes the comments from the Applicant in its response of [15 November 2021](#) in relation to a LEMP.

The Secretary of State requests that the Applicant and Natural England set out what amendments they agree should be made to the Development Consent Order and the outline CEMP to secure this. Where agreement cannot be met, the Secretary of State invites both parties to set out their view on what is needed to address this matter.

The Secretary of State also invites the Applicant to respond to any other comments from NE as they consider necessary to inform the Secretary of State’s decision.

The Secretary of State also notes the other responses from [Northumberland Council dated 14 April 2024](#) and [Northumberland Wildlife Trust dated 11 April 2024](#) and invites the Applicant to respond to any comments raised by these parties that they consider necessary to inform the Secretary of State’s decision

Update to Environmental Information

The Secretary of State notes from the Applicant's response of [March 2024](#) the update to the opening year of the Proposed Development. Whilst noting the Applicant's reply of [October 2023](#), the Secretary of State requests that the Applicant updates its response of [January 2022](#) regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on carbon, in particular Table 2.1, to reflect the revised construction and operation dates. The Secretary of State also invites the Applicant to confirm that no further updates to the application documents are required as a result of the change in timetable for construction and operation.

Deadline for Response

The deadline for response is 24 April 2024.

Submissions sent by post may be subject to delay therefore your response on the information requested above should be submitted to the Case Team, if possible, by email to A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team.

Responses will be published as soon as possible after the deadline on the A1 project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at: [A1 in Northumberland - Morpeth to Ellingham - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the A1 Morpeth to Ellingham DCO, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit