



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: 3 May 2024

Sent via email to:
A1inNorthumberland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam

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

Consultation Seeking Comments from All Interested Parties (26 April 2024)

I write in response in the Secretary of State's invitation to all interested parties to provide comments on the responses provided by the Applicant and Natural England from 24 April 2024.

Ancient Woodland and Compensatory Planting

We note the advice of Natural England and their agreement with the additional woodland planting, connected to the SSSI. We also note the proposed amendments to Requirement 15 of the Draft DCO and proposed Measure A-B3 of the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.

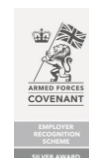
We confirm that we are content with the proposed amendments to Requirement 15 of the Draft DCO and Measure A-B3 of the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Local Wildlife Sites

We note the Applicant's response to the comments in our letter dated 14 April 2024, which related to the importance placed on Local Wildlife Sites within the Updated Biodiversity Air Quality Assessment. In consultation with the County Ecologist, we consider that this is not a significant issue affecting decision making. We therefore have no further comments on this matter.

Rob Murfin, Director of Planning and Housing
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF

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Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and Handover Environmental Management Plan (HEMP)

The comments from the Applicant in their letter dated 24 April 2024 on the need for a LEMP. In particular we note the reference to a HEMP (as detailed in Requirement 4 of the Draft DCO) and the flexible approach to the future need for a LEMP as detailed at Requirement 17 of the Draft DCO.

We are content that the post-construction protections within Requirements 4 (4.4, 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8) and 17 of the Draft DCO are appropriate.

I trust that these comments are of assistance. If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Tipple
Senior Planning Officer
Northumberland County Council

Attachment 1: Extract from “BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development (2013)”

Chapter 11 – Post-development: land management and performance review

11.1 Post-development management of habitats and species

NOTE Biological communities are constantly changing and require positive action to maintain their conservation value. Preparation and implementation of a bespoke management plan provides a convenient means of achieving this.

11.1.1 In order to provide clarity and certainty over what is being provided, and to enable adequate resources to be identified and allocated, plans for the long-term management of habitats, species and other biodiversity features should include the following.

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that could influence management.
- c) Aims and objectives of management.
- d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
- e) Prescriptions for management actions.
- f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five year period).
- g) Body or organization personnel responsible for implementation of the plan.
- h) Monitoring and remedial measures (see 11.2).
- i) Funding resources and mechanisms to ensure sustainable long-term delivery of the proposed management.

NOTE While plans setting out proposals for long-term management are often secured through planning conditions (see 9.2 and D.4.5), the funding provisions may be more appropriately secured through planning obligations (see 9.4). If a planning obligation, instead of a condition, is used to secure long-term management plans, the agreement ought to provide for the inclusion and delivery of the elements set out in a) to i).

11.1.2 Wherever possible, management of biodiversity features should be coordinated with other site management requirements, and especially with the management of landscape features where there is often considerable overlap of aims, objectives and necessary management actions. This may be achieved through the preparation of an integrated landscape and ecological management plan (LEMP) (see 9.2.3 and D.4.5).

11.1.3 The level of detail required for any given site should be that which is necessary to ensure the effective management of the biodiversity features present. The approach to management planning should remain flexible, so that time, money and energy are not expended on the implementation of non-essential or inappropriate management works. For some large and complex sites containing a variety of biodiversity and landscape features, a comprehensive management plan covering a broad range of management works should be prepared (e.g. a LEMP). However, on smaller sites the preparation and implementation of full-scale management might be beyond the resources available or simply be unnecessary. In such circumstances, an outline management document may be prepared.

Annex D: Standard or model planning conditions and planning “informatives”

D.4.5: Landscape and ecological management plans (LEMPs) – Condition

(Also referred to as a Habitat or Biodiversity Management Plan)

A landscape and ecological management plan (LEMP) shall be submitted to, and be approved in writing by, the local planning authority prior to the commencement of the development. The content of the LEMP shall include the following.

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.
- c) Aims and objectives of management.
- d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.
- e) Prescriptions for management actions.
- f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).
- g) Details of the body or organization responsible for implementation of the plan.
- h) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.

The LEMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(ies) responsible for its delivery.

The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.