



# The Planning Inspectorate

## **Application by National Highways for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project** Case Reference: TR010062

### **Examining Authority's record of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection to which the Application or specified matters relate**

Examining Inspectors R Allen, N Humphrey, S Roscoe and M L Milliken (the Examining Authority (ExA) appointed by the Secretary of State for the application for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project) undertook the Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. Individuals from the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team and the Environmental Services Team were also in attendance.

The USI was undertaken only from publicly accessible land in order to view the areas subject to the proposed development, the existing road network, surrounding properties and the environment. Further USIs may or may not take place during the Examination.

### **Particulars of the Site Inspection**

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The USI was undertaken on foot and by car.

The USI began at the eastern end of the route (at the A66/A1(M) Scotch Corner interchange) and travelling westbound, undertook multiple stops along the route to Penrith (at the A66/M6 interchange), at locations and/or landmarks that were on the southern side of the A66 highway. From Penrith we then proceeded in the same fashion in an easterly direction back towards Scotch Corner, focusing on locations and/or landmarks on the northern side of the road.

Weather conditions were partially cloudy, with prevailing wind from the south west and the occasional rain shower. The air temperature was around 14 degrees Celsius. Weather conditions allowed for long range views to be visible at all times. Inspections commenced at approximately 08:15 and finished at 18:40.

A detailed list of the sites observed can be found in Annex A attached to this USI Note.

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

A shorter USI was undertaken on foot and by car. The USI began at Barnard Castle and proceeded towards the proposed A66/C165 Rokeby junction. Weather conditions were sunny. The air temperature was around 14 degrees Celsius. Inspections commenced at approximately 09.30 and finished at 10.30.

A detailed list of the locations visited is attached in Annex A.

## **Annex A – Detailed List of Sites Visited by the ExA**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Westbound Direction**

#### **Scotch Corner (Scheme 11)**

The ExA began their site inspections at the A1(M) Junction 53 Scotch Corner, observing the existing junction and the locations of the proposed improvements.

#### **Mainsgill Farm Shop and Moor Lane Junction (Scheme 09)**

After leaving Scotch Corner, the ExA drove westbound on the existing A66 towards the Mainsgill Farm Shop, noting the location of Carkin Moor Roman Fort and Mainsgill Bridge on the approach. Upon stopping at Mainsgill Farm Shop, the ExA walked towards the exit on foot, to observe the existing highway layout and land to the north, where the new junction is proposed.

#### **C165 Rokeby Junction (Scheme 08)**

Upon leaving Mainsgill Farm Shop the ExA proceeded to drive in a westerly direction along the A66, stopping briefly in a layby to note the location and setting of C165 Rokeby Junction. A second and longer observation took place on the following day (see below).

#### **The Old Rectory and Church of St. Mary, Rokeby (Scheme 08)**

The ExA noted the existing highway and buildings, the proposed location of the new route to the rear of the Old Rectory and the proposed junction to the west.

#### **Cross Lanes Farm Shop / Tutta Beck (Scheme 08)**

The ExA walked to the existing exit onto the A66 from Moorhouse Lane and noted the proposed location of the new junction, before walking in a southerly direction towards Tutta Beck.

#### **The Street / Bowes Bypass (Scheme 07)**

The ExA drove along 'The Street' through Bowes, noting the location of the proposed westbound works, before stopping at a layby near to the Old Armoury Campsite. The ExA then noted the locations of proposed works north of the highway, including the new junction arrangement with the A67.

#### **Brough Bypass / Brough Castle (Scheme 06)**

The ExA stopped at a layby west of Brough to note the location of the proposed junction and the proposed relocation site for the Brough Hill Fair, before proceeding to the south east on foot, along the existing footpath and bridleway towards Brough Castle. The ExA stopped at Brough Castle to experience views across the landscape to the existing A66.

#### **Proposed Langrigg Junction (Scheme 06)**

The ExA stopped at Langrigg Lane to note the proposed location of the new Langrigg Westbound junction layout and drainage ponds and the potential effects on residential properties in this location.

#### **Flitholme Road Junction / Brough Hill Fair Site (Scheme 06)**

The ExA drove along Flitholme Road towards Flitholme, to observe the proposed location of the new junction and access road. The ExA then stopped at the existing exit of Flitholme Road with the A66 to note the historic and extant location of the Brough Hill Fair.

### **Station Road / Alternative Brough Hill Fair Site / New Warcop Westbound Junction (Scheme 06)**

The ExA proceeded westbound on the A66, turning off onto Station Road, noting the location of a pre-application alternative site for the Brough Hill Fair, before stopping at the Station Road / Warcop Road junction, noting the location of the Moor Beck and the proposed location of the new Warcop Westbound junction. The ExA drove into Warcop, noting the village and proximity to the proposed development area.

### **Hayber Lane / New Warcop Eastbound Junction (Scheme 06)**

The ExA stopped and proceeded to the south east on foot, along an existing footpath, noting the existing landscape and the proposed locations of the new junction arrangement, including the elevated viaduct sections and Walk Mill underpass.

### **B6259 Sandford / New Sandford Westbound Junction (Scheme 06)**

The ExA stopped at the B6259 junction to view the proposed location of the new junction and drainage ponds. The ExA also noted the location of Dyke Nook and the proposed access arrangements.

### **B6542 / Bolton Junction (Scheme 0405)**

The ExA drove westbound, passing Café Sixty Six and noting its location, before turning off the A66 and passing through Appleby, then stopping at a layby on the B6542 to note the location of the eastern end of the proposed dual carriageway section of Scheme 0405. The ExA then proceeded westwards, noting the proposed location of the new Long Marton Road upon passing the Bolton junction.

### **Centre Parcs Access (Scheme 03)**

The ExA stopped at the access and proceeded on foot towards the existing junction with the A66 to note the location of the proposed new Centre Parcs junction, including the buildings proposed for demolition and the proposed area for the construction of a new connector road at the junction.

### **Site of the former Llama Karma Kafe (Scheme 03)**

The ExA stopped and noted the proposed locations of the works, including the compound and footpath and connections towards Countess Pillar.

### **Brougham Castle B6262 Junction / Countess Pillar (Scheme 03)**

The ExA stopped in a layby and walked in an easterly direction along the existing permissive footpath towards Countess Pillar. The ExA were able to view the monument and appreciate its current setting and access, including views towards Brougham Castle.

### **M6 J40 / Skirsgill Business Park (Scheme 0102)**

The ExA noted the location of Skirsgill Business Park and Skirsgill Hall and Park, before driving around the existing roundabout observing the proposed location of the junction works.

## **Eastbound Direction**

### **Kemplay Bank Roundabout (Scheme 0102)**

The ExA stopped and walked in an anti-clockwise direction around the roundabout, noting the location of the proposed works, including the proposed area for replacement open

space, Toll Bar Cottage, and works to the south of the roundabout including the location of Eamont Bridge. The ExA then drove under the existing Carleton Underpass to observe the location of a proposed compound and drainage pond on land to the east of the Cumbria Police Station.

### **Culgaith B6412 Temple Sowerby Junction / Priest Lane / Kirkby Thore (Scheme 0405)**

The ExA drove along this route, noting where the proposed new highway and junction arrangements along the road to Kirkby Thore, including the proposed Priest Lane underpass and the Cross Street bridge.

### **Kirkby Thore Area / British Gypsum (Scheme 0405)**

The ExA stopped adjacent to Sanderson Croft on Fell Lane, noting the proposed location of the new highway and junction, including site proposed bridges, compound locations and landscape reprofiling areas. The ExA then drove along Main Street in an easterly direction to observe properties proposed for demolition.

### **Sleasetonhow Lane/ Trout Beck Crossing (Scheme 0405)**

The ExA stopped on Sleasetonhow Lane and walked in a southerly direction along an existing track to observe land proposed for the new highway and the Trout Beck Crossing.

### **Proposed Long Marton Lane Junction (Scheme 0405)**

The ExA stopped and observed the proposed location of the new highway and junction, including a property proposed for demolition and the locations of the new Long Marton underpass. The ExA were also able to observe the existing Roman Road and disused railway, visible as an earthwork structure.

### **Eastern A66 exit at Appleby (Scheme 06)**

The ExA stopped at a layby on Long Marton Road and were able to note land used for the Appleby Horse Fair and the existing Roman Road, together with the proposed route of the new highway.

### **Barnard Castle / The Sills / Rokeby Park (Scheme 08)**

The ExA proceeded eastwards on the A66 towards Barnard Castle, before taking the B6277 into the town, noting The Sills / County Bridge before turning right and travelling in a north easterly direction along the A67, then turning right onto Newgate, past the Bowes Museum, onto Westwick Road, before turning right onto the C165 to the A66. The ExA then travelled over and observed the Egglestone Abbey bridge, before stopping at the Rokeby Park entrance. The ExA then adjourned the USI due to failing light.

## **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022**

### **Barnard Castle (Scheme 08)**

The ExA travelled to Barnard Castle. The ExA then walked from Market Street through the Castle grounds down to the County Bridge, noting its size and restrictive conditions for certain vehicle types. The ExA then walked along The Sills, noting the existing highway layout and proportions of the footpaths, as well as the proximity to nearby properties.

### **A66/ C165 Rokeby junction (Scheme 08)**

The ExA then travelled by car along the B6277 towards the Cross Lanes junction with the A66, observing again the site for the proposed junction. The ExA then travelled towards the proposed A66/C165 Rokeby junction, observing for a longer period the existing highway layout and the location of the junction in relation to the Rokeby Park Registered Park and Garden. We also observed the location of the so-called "Blue Option" junction.