

Date: 16 December 2022
Our ref: 401929
Your ref: TR010062.



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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mr, Allen,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project
User Code: A66D-EIA006

Title: Natural England's Summary of Relevant Representations

Examining authority's submission deadline 18th December

Natural England have provided a summary of our Relevant Representations on the next page, however, please be aware that some of these comments have been superseded by comments in our Written Representations.

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.

For any queries relating to specific advice in this letter only, please contact Niamh Keddy at [REDACTED] [@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk). For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,
Niamh Keddy
Sustainable Development Lead Advisor

Summary of Natural England's Advice

Natural England welcome the opportunity to comment on the DCO for the A66 and welcome the inclusion of the mitigation and biodiversity principles. Natural England are disappointed that our advice surrounding the use of LA105 for assessing the air quality impacts has not been taken on board, we still have fundamental concerns with the air quality assessment section within the environmental statements and do not support the use of LA105. Therefore, Natural England do not agree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment in regard to air quality as we do not agree with the loss of one species that LA105 allows for.

We have also provided comments on the mitigation proposed for the River Eden SAC below in Table 1 and Table 2 and are satisfied that if our comments are taken on board and the biodiversity priorities are secured, and the design and mitigation principles are adhered to (and not subsequently amended) then there should be no adverse effect on integrity of the River Eden SAC. Further information is needed to understand the impacts and design of the construction works and any temporary structures (in particular the temporary bridge over Troutbeck) in relation to the River Eden SAC and its designated features. It should be noted that our conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity may change if the guidance we have provided on the mitigation and design principals is not followed appropriately.

Joint Position Statement from Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

The Statutory Environmental Bodies (NE/EA and HE) share general concerns over the NH self-approval process as there are many elements of the project still to be worked up. Further clarification is needed as to what this will entail to enable a fuller assessment of the proposals against our respective statutory remits.