

Your ref: TR010062  
Representation 20032254

To the Planning Inspectorate, with respect to the A66 dualling project, proposed route Cross Lanes to Rokeby Junction.

### Summary

I live in [REDACTED] with my family, including three small children. I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed Black junction at Rokeby for the above listed stretch. I fully support the Blue Route (the eastern Rokeby junction), which Highways developed in conjunction with local community groups, and which best represents those communities' needs.

National Highways traffic reports have demonstrated a significant traffic imbalance relating to the acceptance of the Black route, specifically owing to the location of the junction at Rokeby. The longer distance between this junction and the previous one at Cross Lanes will naturally encourage drivers to use Cross Lanes for accessing Barnard Castle and beyond, rather than use the C165 as previously.

Highways recognised the issues this would cause the local area and developed an eastern option, the Blue route. This option was supported by local stakeholders and authorities – including the affected landowner – and scored well on the sifting process in comparison to the Black route.

Unfortunately, despite an alternative eastern junction being developed, Historic England's original brief heritage statement stated that the Blue route would cause "substantial harm" to St Mary' Rokeby and surrounding park and gardens. Because of the decision, Highways did not believe the DCO would pass examination, and put forward the Black route.

Highways new traffic figures are significantly different from their original report. I am concerned that the new figures are not transparent and do not clearly explain why they have been revised so far, and so conveniently, downwards. I am also concerned that they admit that the imbalance of traffic flow still exists and if their numbers are wrong (or change, as they already have) Barnard Castle and its environs will suffer the resulting harm as a direct result of the choice of junction.

I believe that increased traffic along unsuitable roads will lead to increased air pollution, increased journey times, traffic congestion, safety risks, and most important, damage to the dozens of culturally significant locations on the listed buildings register along the affected route. I believe that these effects in fact cause the Black route to potentially do substantial harm to residents, the local environment, and our cultural heritage.

As such, I wish to state clearly my opposition to the Black route and support for the alternative Blue route with the eastern junction at Rokeby.