

Date: 05 October 2023
Our ref: 15928
Your ref: TR010062.



A66dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir / Madam,

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FOR AN ORDER GRANTING CONSENT FOR THE A66 TRANS-PENNINE DUALLING PROJECT

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.

Natural England understand that National Highways have been asked to provide the SoS with information regarding what speed limit reduction would result in a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity of the North Pennines Moors SAC. Natural England are in conversation with other road schemes about speed reductions as possible mitigation solutions but at this time cannot indicate what speed reduction (if any) would result in no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. As mentioned in our previous letters, the exceedances from the dualling of the A66 are significant and would need a significant reduction as well as ecological evidence to explain why there would be no adverse impact on integrity to the SAC.

Natural England continue to collaborate with National Highways on the search for compensation and assisting with the mechanisms to secure blanket bog restoration. It remains our opinion that land will become available to enable compensation to be delivered, managed and secured.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 Senior Advisor