

Cameron Alford
Planning Inspectorate

By email only

Date: 5 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposal: A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order for Non-Material Change Application
Sport England Reference: PA/26/NW/CUC/72861

We refer to the consultation from National Highways relating to the above Development Consent Order.

Sport England – planning policy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field land remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

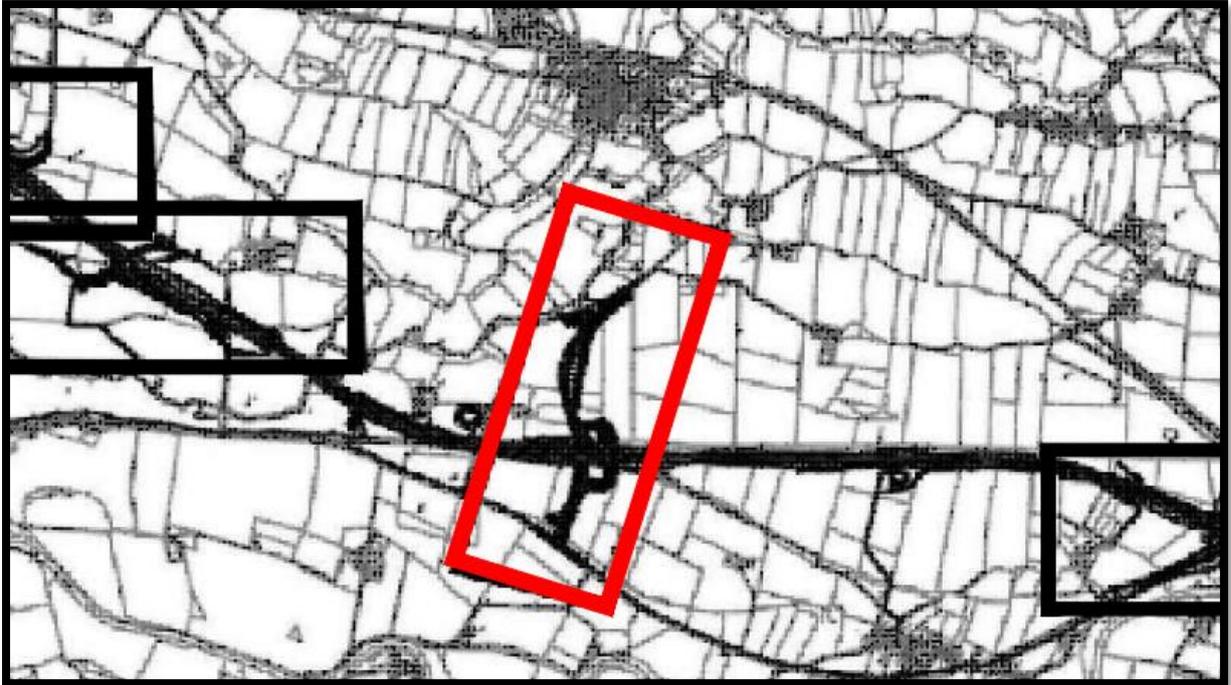
unless, in the judgement of Sport England the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions. The exceptions are provided in the Annex to this response.

The proposal and impact on playing field.

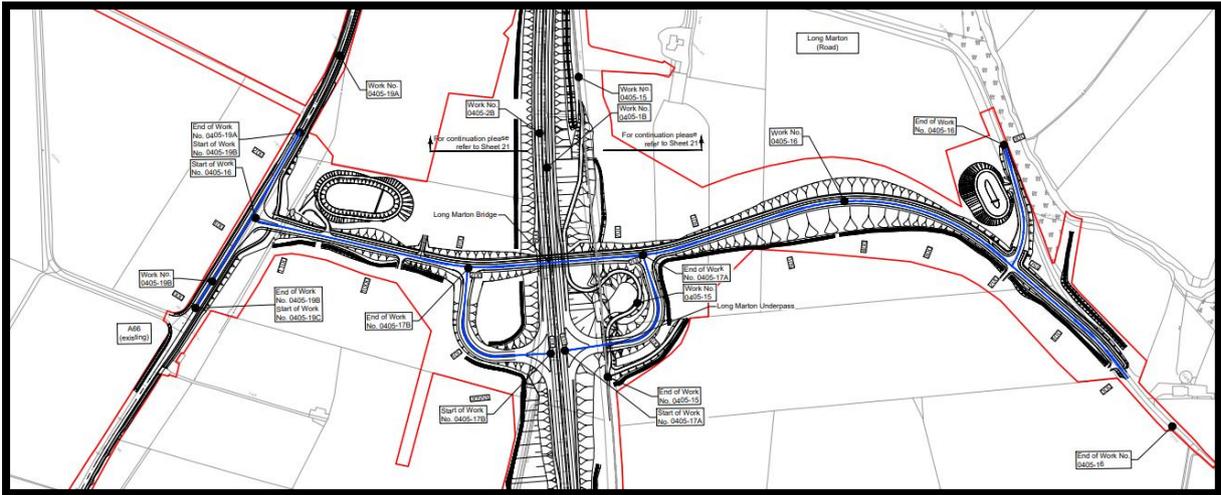
It has proved somewhat difficult to review the minor amendments due to the details shown on the plans to see whether the minor amendments have any impact on playing fields or sport facilities, either through actual loss, or the potential for ball strike.

The scheme key plan shows very little detail in order to identify the exact location, for example no settlements are named, and it has not been possible to identify

the exact locations based on the shape of the field enclosures or the outlines of settlements. It is also not clear whether the scheme plan shows the existing line of the A66 or the proposed new routes. Some examples are provided below:







Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF

In light of the above, Sport England makes the following limited comments on the proposed minor amendments.

In 2022, Sport England provided comments on this proposal and our records indicate that we signed a Statement of Common Ground that covered the following sites that included playing field:

- Kirkby Thore Primary School.
- Wetheriggs Country Park, Penrith
- MOD Playing Field at Warcop
- Ullswater Community College, Penrith

In respect of Ullswater Community College, Sport England has provided some detailed comments on the proposals separately and outside this current consultation.

Given the lack of detail in the plans, as explained above, it has not been possible to fully review all of the minor amendments to see if they have any new impact on these sites.

Furthermore, Sport England is unable to provide comments on whether the minor amendments introduce any new impact on any other playing field sites, either through directly being proposed on the playing field/sport facilities or giving rise to the potential for ball strike which could cause a danger to users of the highway.

Sport England's position

Given the above, Sport England is currently unable to provide any comments on the minor amendments due to the lack of detail that has been provided.

Sport England would suggest that, given the length of the proposal, a targeted consultation should be undertaken with us, should the minor amendments be on playing field (or any other sport facilities), or be adjacent to playing field and therefore could be at risk of ball strike.

We would be happy to provide comments if detailed plans that clearly identify the location of the amendments can be provided on any relevant sites.

Yours sincerely,

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Planning Manager