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Date: 10 March 2026

Dear Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit,

**Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Changes To, and Revocation Of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011**

**Application for a Non-Material Change to the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent Order 2024 (SI 2024/360), as corrected by the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Development Consent (Correction) Order 2025 (SI 2025/1084)**

**Applicant's response to the Department for Transport's Request for Comments dated 24 February 2026 (the RfC)**

I am writing in response to the RfC issued by the Department for Transport to National Highways ("the Applicant") on 24 February 2026 in relation to the Application above.

The RfC invites the Applicant and Sport England to agree a position on any impacts on playing fields or other sport facilities, including adjacent areas at risk of ball strike, and where necessary, set out any agreed additional mitigation measures that would be required. It also asks for detailed plans from the Applicant to allow consideration of any potential impacts of the Application on the playing field sites identified in Sport England's response, as well as potential new impacts on other playing field sites.

Sport England's representation submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 5 February 2026 said that in 2022, they provided comments on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project and their records indicated that both parties signed a Statement of Common Ground that covered the following sites that included playing fields:

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

The Applicant met with Sport England on 4 March 2026 to discuss the Proposed Changes in this Application and their location. The Applicant showed the location of each of the Proposed Changes and where they were situated in relation to the identified playing fields above from the Statement of Common Ground. Sport England were satisfied that Proposed



Changes 2 to 8 were not adjacent to these or other playing fields and therefore had no impact. However, the Applicant acknowledged that Proposed Change 1 is adjacent to a playing field at Kirby Thore Primary School. The Applicant presented the drawing showing the alignment of Proposed Change 1 which is included in Figure 2 of the Application Statement. However, there is a chainage marker (at 350m) covering the specific part of Figure 2 of the Application Statement where the playing field is located and Sport England asked for National Highways to share a drawing where this marker had been moved to better see the interface between the project overlay and the playing field location. In response, the drawing and the overlay of the drawing on background mapping appended to this letter were shared with Sport England following the meeting (correcting a previously shared version sent to Sport England prior to the meeting).

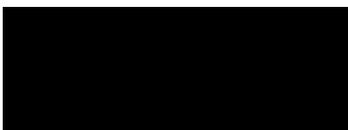
The Applicant explained to Sport England that Proposed Change 1 seeks to keep more of the existing alignment of Cross Street which will reduce land take and that it had been concluded that there are no new impacts on this playing field as a result of this Proposed Change.

Sport England confirmed by email to the Applicant on 9 March 2026 that, having reviewed the drawings that had been provided, they had no objections to the Application. Sport England confirmed their position to the Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit via the Planning Inspectorate on 10 March 2026.

In summary, only Proposed Change 1 is adjacent to a playing field, namely the field at Kirkby Thore Primary School, and the Proposed Change does not give rise to any new or different impacts on this playing field. Wetheriggs Country Park, Penrith; MOD Playing Field, Warcop; and Ullswater Community College, Penrith are not located adjacent to and are therefore unaffected by any of the Proposed Changes. Sport England have confirmed by email to the Applicant that they have no objections to the Non-Material Change Application.

If you have any further queries or comments, I can be contacted by email at [A66NTP@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A66NTP@nationalhighways.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



  
DCO Project Manager  
National Highways

Figure 1 Overlay of design on background mapping to the north of Kirkby Thore Primary School



