

**Development Control Committee**  
Meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Electoral Division affected:  
Morecambe North

**Lancaster City: Application number DCO HEYSHAM M6 06**  
**The Lancashire County Council (Torrisholme to the M6 link (A683 completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road) Order 2013 schedule 2 - Amendments to the general arrangements of Beaumont Gate retaining wall in accordance with drawing B1082600/31741/0001 revision C2 under requirement 4(2) of the confirmed Development Consent Order. Heysham M6 Link Road, Lancaster.**

Contact for further information:  
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### **Executive Summary**

Application - The Lancashire County Council (Torrisholme to the M6 link (A683 completion of Heysham to M6 link road) Order 2013 schedule 2 - Amendments to the general arrangements of Beaumont Gate retaining wall in accordance with drawing B1082600/31741/0001 revision C2 under requirement 4(2) of the confirmed Development Consent Order. Heysham M6 Link Road, Lancaster.

### **Recommendation – Summary**

That drawing 5/3/ST18/IPC/01 showing the design of the Beaumont Gate Retaining Wall be replaced by drawing B1082600/31741/0001.

### **Applicant's Proposal**

The Development Consent Order for the construction of the Heysham to M6 Link was made by the Secretary of State in March 2013.

The section of the route to the east of the A6 passes under a National Grid electricity transmission line. In this section of the route, the road will be cutting where it passes close to one of the pylons supporting the overhead line. A retaining wall was therefore incorporated into the design for this part of the road in order to avoid undermining the foundations of the pylon. The application is to amend the design of the retaining wall in order to reduce its length from 80 metres to 70 metres with a consequent increase in the area of graded cutting slope.

### **Description and Location of Site**

The application relates to part of the route of the Heysham to M6 Link Road to the north of Lancaster which is currently under construction.

The application site relates to that part of the route to the east of the A6, where the road alignment passes under an existing high voltage power line. The site location is in an area of agricultural land and there are no residential properties close to the application site.

## **Background**

History: The Development Consent Order authorising the construction of the Heysham to M6 Link was made by the Secretary of State in March 2013.

## **Planning Policy**

National Planning Policy Framework: Paragraphs 56 – 66 and 109 -118 of the NPPF are relevant in relation to the need for good design and the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

Lancaster District Local Plan

Policy DM35 Key Design Principles

## **Consultations**

Lancaster City Council: No objection.

National Grid Gas and Electricity: No objection.

## **Advice**

The Development Consent Order for the completion of the Heysham to M6 Link was made by the Secretary of State in March 2013. Construction operations have now commenced and the road is scheduled to open for traffic in summer 2016.

Requirement 4(2) of the DCO states 'Replacement structure general arrangement drawings and landscaping plans may be approved in writing by the relevant planning authority and substituted for the relevant approved development plans provided that the development so altered accords with the environmental statement and falls within the Order limits'.

The length of the new road to the east of the existing A6 lies within a shallow cutting and runs under a high voltage power line. The approved plans provide for a retaining wall to be constructed along the northern side of the new road in order to protect a pylon which carries the high voltage lines. The size of the retaining wall was originally designed to meet National Grid requirements for working space around the base of their pylons.

Since construction operations commenced, National Grid have agreed that the size of the working area around the pylon can be reduced which therefore allows a reduction in the length of the retaining wall from 80 to 70 metres and a consequent increase in the length of graded slope forming the cutting.

The revised proposal would have a slight visual and ecological benefit by reducing the length of masonry faced wall and increasing the length of landscaped cutting slope. The proposed change would have no implications for noise from the road or the outlook from residential properties. The proposals are therefore considered acceptable in terms of Policy DM35 of the Lancaster City Local Plan.

In view of the scale, location and design of the development, it is considered that no Convention Rights set out in the Human Rights Act 1998 would be affected.

### **Recommendation**

That drawing 5/3/ST18/IPC/01 showing the design of the Beaumont Gate Retaining Wall be replaced by drawing B1082600/31741/0001.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Ext
DCO Heysham 06		
	15th May 2015	
Jonathan Haine		
534130		

**Reason for Inclusion in Part II, if appropriate**  
N/A