



Northumberland County Council

Northumberland Line: Application for TWA Order Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Transport and Works Act Order?

A Transport and Works Act Order (TWA Order) is an order made by the Secretary of State which authorises various matters associated with the construction or operation of railways in England and Wales.

Applications for TWA Orders are submitted to the Secretary of State by promoters of the scheme (the organisation applying). If the application is successful, the order is made by the Secretary of State to provide the applicant with the powers necessary to implement and deliver the project. A guide to TWA Orders can be found on the [Department for Transport's website](#).

2. Why is a TWA Order needed for the Northumberland Line?

The majority of the works required for the Northumberland Line project are proposed to be authorised by separate planning permissions under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Planning permissions are being sought from Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Council as the local planning authorities (including for the construction of the proposed stations). Permitted development rights will also be utilised under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 in relation to works within the existing railway route. This allows the railway works to be carried out without needing to apply for planning permission.

The purpose of the proposed TWA Order for the Northumberland Line project is to provide Northumberland County Council with a range of additional powers and authorisations necessary to deliver the scheme.

In particular, the Order (if made) will:

- provide powers for permanently acquiring land and the rights over land;
- provide powers to use land temporarily for the purposes of constructing works authorised by planning permissions or under permitted development rights;





Northumberland County Council

- authorise the closure of level crossings and associated extinguishments and diversions of public rights of way; and
- authorise a limited range of works including the construction of new footpaths, parking bays at level crossings, and temporary worksites and haul roads required during construction.

3. What is involved in a TWA Order application?

Applications for TWA Orders must follow the Transport and Works (Applications and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006. These ensure that the applicant follows a set of procedures that allow members of the public to provide their views on the proposals.

Specific documents must be submitted with the application and be made available for public inspection during a six-week objection period. The documents submitted with the Northumberland Line application include:

- Draft Order;
- Explanatory memorandum;
- Statement of aims;
- Report summarising consultations undertaken;
- Declaration of status of applicant;
- Funding statement;
- List of consents, permissions or licences under other enactments;
- EIA screening decision received from the Secretary of State under rule 7 of the 2006 Rules;
- Waiver direction given by the Secretary of State under rule 18 of the 2006 Rules;
- Land and works plans;
- Rights of way plans
- Book of reference;
- Estimate of costs; and
- Request for a planning direction under section 90(2A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Once the applicant has applied for the TWA Order, there is a period of publicity where news of the application is advertised in local press and notices are served on prescribed persons. Site notices are also put up along the route. This publicity provides details about





Northumberland County Council

how members of the public can express their support or object to the TWA Order application.

4. What is the objection period, and what happens after it ends?

An objection period is the time period after the Order application has been submitted, where any objections or other comments should be submitted to the Secretary of State to be considered. This is at least six weeks from the date of the application submission. For the Northumberland Line, the objection period concludes on 8 July 2021.

Once the objection period has closed, the Secretary of State will decide the procedure for considering any objections. Depending on whether the Order application has received opposition, a public inquiry or a hearing may be held.

Once the Secretary of State has decided which procedure to follow, the Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit will inform the applicant, objectors and people who have commented of the decision.

If an inquiry or hearing is to be held, the applicant advertises the date, time and venue in local newspapers.

5. How can I receive hard copies or alternative formats of the application documents?

The application documents can be accessed online at northumberland.gov.uk/line. To request a hard copy of any of the application documents, you can contact the Strategic Transport and Employability Team at the below contact details.

- Postal address: Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
- Email: nltwao@northumberland.gov.uk
- Phone: 0345 600 6400

Hard copies can also be viewed at local libraries along the scheme route, including:

- Ashington Library;
- Bedlington Library;
- Blyth Library;
- Guide Post Library;



Northumberland County Council
www.northumberland.gov.uk/line





Northumberland County Council

- Seaton Valley Library;
- Shiremore Library;
- Morpeth County Hall; and
- Seaton Valley Community Council.

Please note that a reasonable charge for hard copies will apply. The set charges are given in the table below.

Document	Cost
Draft Order and supporting documents, comprising the below. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Application letter○ Draft of the proposed Order○ Explanatory Memorandum○ Concise Statement of Aims○ Report of Consultations Undertaken○ Declaration as to the Status of the Applicant○ List of Consents, Permissions and Licences Required○ Funding Statement○ Estimate of Cost○ Request for Planning Direction○ EIA Screening Decision○ Waiver Direction○ The Northumberland Line: A Guide to the proposed TWA Order	£35
Plans and Sections (A3 size plans comprising: land and works plans and rights of way plans)	£35
Book of Reference	£10
Full set of hard copy application documents	£80
Postage and packing	
1-2 documents	£5
3+ documents	£8





Northumberland County Council

6. How can I object to the application for the TWA Order?

Any objections to, or other representations about, the proposals in the TWA Order application should be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport. They can be contacted at the following address:

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR.

Objections can also be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport at the following contacts.

- E-mail: transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk .
- Website: www.gov.uk/dft/twa
- Telephone: 07971 145 887 or 07971 146 036

An objection or other representation MUST:

- be received by the relevant Secretary of State on or before 8 July 2021,
- be made in writing (whether sent by post or e-mail),
- state the grounds of the objection or other representation,
- indicate who is making the objection or other representation, and
- give an address to which correspondence relating to the objection or other representation may be sent.

If you are sending your objection or other representation by e-mail, please provide a postal address and state "Northumberland Line TWA Order" in the subject of the email. Objections will be carefully considered by the Secretary of State for Transport before deciding whether or not to make the TWA Order and whether to make any amendments to the proposals.





Northumberland County Council

7. How can I show my support for the scheme?

To provide notification of support for the scheme, the same process and rules apply as provided in Question 9. Any letters of support can be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport at the above address and contact details.

8. How can I keep up to date with news on the project?

You can remain informed about the project as it progresses via the project webpage: www.northumberland.gov.uk/line. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us by phone: 0345 600 6400 or by the following email address: rail@northumberland.gov.uk.



Northumberland County Council
www.northumberland.gov.uk/line

