



major projects

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The Major Projects Team are responsible for the project management of all planning and environmental issues that exist in relation to the implementation of major infrastructure and development projects. The team also prepare and co-ordinate Environmental Impact Assessments and secure Environmental Consents on various development projects ranging from minerals and waste planning applications, marine developments, and supporting environmental assessments for a range of development projects.

Major Projects support the other Divisional Teams in Newcastle, Glasgow, Manchester, and Leeds as well as all other 11 offices in the Partnership to ensure that the delivery of assessments is co-ordinated and that they meet the requirements of the Local Planning Authority and other consenting organisations.



An example of Major Project's work includes:

- Continued planning advice to Tarmac Limited for development proposals in Gateshead;
- Providing planning advice for the upgrading and repowering of Wansbeck Blyth Harbour Wind Farm;
- Securing planning permission and environmental consents for the construction of the Tyne Crossing Units for the Second Tyne Crossing;
- Working for Sunderland City Council to assist in the determination of a planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment for mineral extraction at Eppleton Quarry; and
- Providing continued planning advice to ensure the remediation work to former Dry Docks in North Shields as part of a residential development is undertaken in strict accordance with the planning permission and environmental consents.

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Eppleton Quarry – Determination of Planning Applications

Major Projects are responsible for providing planning services and to project manage the determination of two planning applications at Eppleton Quarry in Sunderland. A Full Planning Application was submitted for the reclamation of the Quarry and Colliery by the extraction and processing of minerals, coal washing, construction of a new access road, importation of inert construction waste and soil and restoration to a country park and 5 year aftercare on 37.8 ha of land.

The first application is a Section 73 Application to vary two conditions relating to timescales for the completion of works on site. The second application is a Full Planning Application and Environmental Statement for the continuation of operations in the eastern part of the existing Eppleton Quarry and the extension of sand and limestone extraction northwards from the existing site.

Second Tyne Crossing – Planning and Environmental Support

The Major Projects Team working for Bouygues Travaux provided planning and environmental support to facilitate the manufacture of units for the Second Tyne Crossing in Tyneside. The Tyne Tunnel Units are proposed to be constructed in a Dry Dock at Wallsend and then transported down river to the site of the Second Tyne Crossing.

To facilitate this, silt material had to be removed from Dry Dock No. 4 into Dry Docks No. 3, 2, and 1. Consent was secured under the Water Resources Act from the Environment Agency for the siting of a silt curtain in the River Tyne to ensure that no silt material was deposited into the River itself. Consent was also required from the Marines and Fisheries Agency under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.

Smiths Dock – General Planning Services

The Major Planning Team are currently responsible for the planning input on the regeneration of the former Smiths Dock site in North Tyneside. Outline Planning Permission had been granted in 2003; with reserved matters approved in 2005. Full Planning Permission was granted for part of the site in 2006 for a mixed use scheme incorporating 1,200 new homes and community facilities such as shops (A1) restaurants and café's (A3).

Development commenced on in August 2007; and Major Projects continue to support Making Places with expert planning advice and management to ensure the everyday process of development at Smiths Dock.

Wansbeck Blyth Harbour Wind Farm – Planning Advice

Working for Hainsford Energy Blyth Harbour Ltd, The Major Projects Team were commissioned to provide planning advice for inclusion in the Planning Application and Environmental Statement, for the upgrading and repowering of Wansbeck Blyth Harbour Wind Farm, Northumberland.

The existing wind farm, consisting of 9 turbines, had a maximum capacity of 300kw when constructed in 1992. These are to be replaced by six new 125m high turbines, generating eight times as much power. A larger 'landmark machine' is also proposed, which from ground to blade tip would dwarf Nelsons column. Standing at 163m in height this machine is to be the largest land based turbine in Europe.



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