

From: [DC Consultation](#)
To: [Rebecca Adams](#); [Margaret Telfer](#)
Subject: FW: Planning Application Consultation 15NP0048 Land above Hawsden Burn, Langleeford House, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6RG
Date: 28 July 2015 15:51:36

From: Gill Thompson
Sent: 28 July 2015 14:34
To: DC Consultation
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 15NP0048 Land above Hawsden Burn, Langleeford House, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6RG

Dear Rebecca,
Thank you for consulting me on this application.

European Protected sites

The site is upstream of the Harthope Burn - approx 200m from the Hawsden burn that runs into the Harthope Burn, part of the Tweed Rivers SAC. I therefore thought it necessary to consider the potential effects of the proposal on this European site. After making a screening assessment of the butt construction taking into account the information provided it is my opinion that although the project is not directly connected with the conservation management of the site it is **unlikely** that the proposals would have a **significant effect** on the features of the designated site. **A full Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.** I have come to these conclusions based on the work being carried out as per the method statement and considering the following:

The Natura 2000 site with potential to be affected by the proposal is the River Tweed SAC. No other European sites have the potential to be affected. From the JNCC website the listed features of interest for the whole SAC are:

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

[Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation](#)

The Tweed represents sub-type 2 in the north-eastern part of its range. It is the most species-rich example, by far, of a river with *Ranunculus* in Scotland, and is the only site selected for this habitat in Scotland. The river has a high ecological diversity which reflects the mixed geology of the catchment. Stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans*, a species of southern rivers and streams, here occurs at its most northerly location as does fan-leaved water-crowfoot *R. circinatus*, along with river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*, common water-crowfoot *R. aquatilis*, pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus* and a range of hybrids. The Tweed is also the most northerly site for flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

[Atlantic salmon \(*Salmo salar*\)](#)

The River Tweed supports a very large, high-quality salmon *Salmo salar* population in a river which drains a large catchment on the east coast of the UK, with sub-catchments in both Scotland and England. The Tweed is the best example in Britain of a large river showing a strong nutrient gradient along its length, with oligotrophic conditions in its headwaters, and

nutrient-rich lowland conditions just before it enters the sea at Berwick. The high proportion of the River Tweed accessible to salmon, and the variety of habitat conditions in the river, has resulted in the Scottish section of the river supporting the full range of salmon life-history types, with sub-populations of spring, summer salmon and grilse all being present. The extensive system supports a significant proportion of the Scottish salmon resource. In recent years, the salmon catch in the River Tweed is the highest in Scotland, with up to 15% of all salmon caught. Considerable work has been done by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (and previously the Tweed River Purification Board) and the River Tweed Foundation in tackling pollution and easing the passage of salmon past artificial barriers in the river. This has reversed many of the river's historical problems with water quality and access for salmon.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

This large river system contains extensive water and riparian habitat suitable for otters *Lutra lutra*. The extensive tributary burns provide good feeding habitat. The area provides extensive suitable habitat for all the necessary aspects of otter's life cycle and the site is a good representative of the south-east lowlands of Scotland and the north-east of England.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*). Not relevant for this part of the SAC

Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)

River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)

The potential impacts on the river and features of interest are identified as pollution, sedimentation, acidification and eutrophication, bankside management, genetic pollution and disease, abstraction and impoundment management. Of these, pollution, sedimentation and eutrophication are the potential relevant issues for this proposal. It is my opinion that if the working methodologies, access and drainage described are adhered to, the construction of the butts are unlikely to cause any pollution events, soil erosion and run-off that will affect the SAC or surrounding areas.

In combination effects have also been considered. The current status of this unit of the river is unfavourable declining, but according to Natural England unit data (accessed 28/07/15) this is due to issues downstream near the Wooler STW and Haugh head, not related to anything in the vicinity of this application or sediment related. There are no known current planning applications in the vicinity or other plans that may act in combination to change the assessment I have made.

Other protected sites

The application is not within a SSSI, but is approximately 200m from the Cheviot SSSI. It is unlikely that the construction of the butts will impact on the heathland within the Cheviot SSSI. Any increase or change to the burning regime associated with the butts may have impact on the SSSI, but this would have to be agreed with Natural England in a burning plan so I do not think we can consider it as part of this application.

Harthope Burn SSSI – this is geological/geomorphological site approximately 2km away. I consider it unlikely that the proposals would have an impact on this site.

Priority Habitats

In addition to the submitted plans and method statement, the peat depths and photos supplied

in the emails of 27th July are helpful. Our habitat records show the proposed butt line to be on the edge of blanket bog and wet heath and these peat depths confirm that a small amount of wet heath habitat will be lost in the development of the butts and no blanket bog. None of the butts are proposed in areas of over 50cm depth, which describes blanket bog. The area of wet heath affected by this development is small compared to the total amount in the surrounding area and I therefore do not object on the grounds of loss of habitat.

Species

As outlined in their method statement if the work is carried out in the bird breeding season the area should be checked for ground nesting birds prior to work commencing.

I have therefore assessed this application with respect to protected sites, habitats and species and have no objections.

Yours sincerely,
Gill Thompson

-----Original Message-----

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 17 June 2015 09:36

To: Gill Thompson

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 15NP0048 Land above Hawsden Burn, Langleeford House, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6RG

Please see the attached consultation regarding a planning application which has been received by Northumberland National Park Authority. Full details can be viewed at <http://nnpa.planning-register.co.uk/plaPlanningAppDisplay.aspx?AppNo=15NP0048>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

Tel: (x)

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Gill Thompson, Ecologist
Tel: 01434 611517 (x244)

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DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation
Tel: (x)

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