Date: 6 July 2015 Our ref: 157149 Your ref: 15NP0048

Ms Adams Northumberland National Park Eastburn South Park Hexham Northumberland NE46 1BS NATURAL ENGLAND

Hornbeam House Crewe Business Park Electra Way Crewe Cheshire CW1 6GJ

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## BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Adams,

**Planning consultation:** Construction of 10 no. sunken grouse butts. **Location:** Land above Hawsden Burn, Langleeford House, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6RG

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 17 June 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

# The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Natural England's comments in relation to this application are provided in the following sections.

#### Statutory nature conservation sites – no objection

Based upon the information provided, Natural England advises the Council that the proposal is unlikely to affect any statutorily protected sites.

#### **Protected species**

We have not assessed this application and associated documents for impacts on protected species.

Natural England has published <u>Standing Advice</u> on protected species.

You should apply our Standing Advice to this application as it is a material consideration in the determination of applications in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England following consultation.

The Standing Advice should not be treated as giving any indication or providing any assurance in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) that the proposed development is unlikely to affect the EPS present on the site; nor should it be interpreted as meaning that Natural England has reached any views as to whether a licence is needed (which is the developer's responsibility) or may be granted.



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If you have any specific questions on aspects that are not covered by our Standing Advice for European Protected Species or have difficulty in applying it to this application please contact us with details at <u>consultations@naturalengland.org.uk</u>.

# Local sites

If the proposal site is on or adjacent to a local site, e.g. Local Wildlife Site, Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the authority should ensure it has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal on the local site before it determines the application.

## Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, which came into force on 15 April 2015, has removed the requirement to consult Natural England on notified consultation zones within 2 km of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Schedule 5, v (ii) of the 2010 DMPO). The requirement to consult Natural England on "*Development in or likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest*" remains in place (Schedule 4, w). Natural England's **SSSI Impact Risk Zones** are a GIS dataset designed to be used during the planning application validation process to help local planning authorities decide when to consult Natural England on developments *likely to affect a SSSI*. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the gov.uk website.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Miss Rachel Bowden Consultations Team



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