

## EIA SCREENING OPINION

<b>Application Reference Number</b>	15NP0048
<b>Description / Site Address</b>	Construction of 10 no. sunken grouse butts at Land above Hawsden Burn, Langleeford House, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6RG

### **SCREENING OPINION – Planning Authority Summary**

Following consideration of the proposed development in terms of the formal EIA Screening process, the LPA has assessed the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the development, and has concluded that, based on the information provided, the proposal would not be EIA development. A statement of reasons follows.

#### **EIA Screening Checklist**

**(Stage 1)** – Is the proposal indicated by the broad descriptions given in Schedule 2 Column 1 of the Regulations?

**No - the development does not fall within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.**

**(Stage 2)** – Does the proposal exceed the threshold criteria as set out in Schedule 2 Column 2 of the Regulations?

**No – (see Stage 1, above)**

**(Stage 3)** – Does the proposal exceed any of the more lenient criteria in Annex A of Circular 02/99?

**No – (see Stage 1, above)**

**Stage 4)** – Assessment of Sensitivity. All constraints & designations affecting or affected by the proposal, both on the site itself and its surrounding area, should be considered. EIA Regulation 2(1) defines sensitivity. The thresholds in Schedule 2 Column 2 and criteria in Circular 02/99 do not apply in sensitive areas.

**Yes – The development is within a sensitive area as defined by EIA Regulation 2(1).**

#### ***EU/National Site Designations***

**Northumberland National Park** – Designation of area including and surrounding development site. Potentially sensitive in terms of biodiversity, landscape, tranquillity and archaeological considerations

**Tweed Rivers Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**- European protected site; application site 200m from Hawsden Burn, running to Harthope Burn and into Tweed Rivers SAC

**The Cheviot Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - Nationally designated site, protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); 200m from application site

**Harthope Burn SSSI** - Nationally designated site, protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); 2km from application site

**Statement of Reasons:**

In considering the nature and location and the development proposal, the development may have the potential to have significant impacts in terms of the following:-

- Landscape Impacts
- Ecological Impacts

**Landscape Impacts**

Planning permission is sought for the construction of 10no. sunken grouse butts, in conjunction with the removal of 20no. existing wooden panel butts, which presently sit above ground level. It is recognised that the application site lies within the nationally and locally identified Cheviot Landscape Character Area, and is used for recreational grouse shooting. The proposed development involves a reduction in the level of visible infrastructure within this open and visually simplistic landscape, and as such, from a landscape perspective, the proposal would not impact detrimentally upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park.

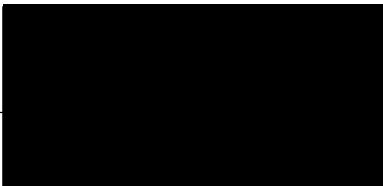
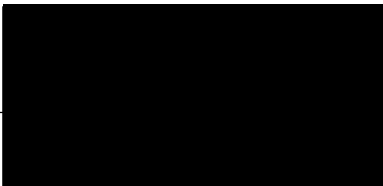
Whilst it is recognised that temporary impacts upon the tranquillity of the area are likely during the construction phase of the development, on balance, given the present nature and use of the application site, it is not considered that there would be significant detrimental impacts upon the sense of tranquillity in this area in terms of noise or vehicular movements.

**Ecological Impacts**

On the basis that the working practices, access and drainage methodologies set out within the Method Statement submitted are adhered to, due to the nature of the proposal, it is not considered that the development would impact detrimentally upon the nearby SSSIs or SAC.

**Conclusion**

The Local Planning Authority has considered the details of the proposed development in terms of the formal EIA Screening process. Based on the information submitted, the LPA's assessment of the likely significance of potential environmental impacts concludes that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. A statement of reasons is set out above.

	Signature	Date
Planning Officer		4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2015
Head of Development Management or Chief Executive		4/8/2015