

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 19 June 2014 10:36
To: DC Consultation
Cc: Michael Miller
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0055 South West of Goldsleugh Farmhouse, Kirknewton, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6TT

Dear Michael,

14NP0055 - Forestry Determination in respect of proposed construction of roadway 500 metres long by 3.5 metres wide for timber extraction purposes at South West of Goldsleugh Farmhouse, Kirknewton, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6TT

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I would like to make the following comments in relation to the proposals set out in the documentation and how they might impact upon the Landscape Character and views of this part of the National Park.

I understand that this application is for the extension to the existing forest road network, incorporating the constructing of 500 meters of new forest road 3.5 meters wide running along the northern edge of forestry block 32a near Goldsleugh in the Lambden burn valley. There will also be a new turning 'T' for timber wagons, and the mineral required to undertake the work will be acquired on site from a number of borrow pits located to the eastern end of the track.

Firstly I would point out that the proposed removal of forestry compartments 32a and 32b by the College Valley Estates and replant this conifer woodland with a mixed broadleaved wood with managed conifer regeneration will greatly improve the landscape character and views of this part of this part of the National Park and is entirely in line with the recommendations as set out in the National Character Area Profile for the Cheviots (see here). It is also in line with Objective 3.1.1 of the National Park Management Plan and I welcome this and the long term work that the estate is undertaking in restructuring their woodland resource.

So whilst the long term implications will hopefully have a positive effect what are the implication in the short term?

Well I accept that the operation of clear felling and timber extraction will have a short term negative effect on the landscape character, views and tranquillity of this part of the National Park. This is inevitable and I accept that the logistics of the operation require the need for the proposed infrastructure. Given the terrain and other ecological constraints I recognise that the opportunities to identify alternative locations for this infrastructure are limited. I consider the line of the track to be appropriate in that the area of ground to the north of this is already being managed for natural broadleaved woodland regeneration and the developing trees will screen the track from receptor sites to the north. There is also a section of stone wall that runs parallel with the proposed track for approximately 200 meters at the eastern end and this will also help screen the track. The only point that I would raise in relation to the details provided relates to the management of water run-off. The track passes across a stretch of ground that slopes to the north and falls away to the Lambden burn. I note the inclusion of a top side ditch in the cross sectional drawings provided but there is no mention of any cross drainage or piping being used to take the water from this top side ditch beneath the track and allow it to continue down to the burn. In order to ensure that a long-term water erosion problem does not occur in the future I would suggest that careful consideration is given to the management of water, particularly concerning heavy downpour events that occur more frequently these days. In so doing, erosion scars caused by water run-off will be avoided and this will also help the natural re-vegetation of the track surface over time helping to soften the effect it has on the surrounding landscape.

The location of the timber stacking areas is appropriate and would not appear to require any additional ground preparation work which is beneficial.

The intention to source the road stone on site could lead to a negative landscape effect but I note the intention to re-landscape the borrow pits and allow natural regeneration to grow up and screen the impact of these in the long-term so I am reasonably relaxed about this proposal.

In order to minimise the effect upon the landscape, views and tranquillity, the clear felling operation should be undertaken as quickly as possible and in line with the UK Forestry Standard. Timber should not be left on the stacking terraces any longer than it needs to be and the work undertaken at a time of year such that ground disturbance is minimised.

I welcome the removal of this block of conifers and accept that there will be a temporary short term impact on the landscape character, views and tranquillity of this part of the National Park but that a significant long-term benefit should prevail.

If you have any questions in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

regards

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 12 June 2014 12:45

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0055 South West of Goldsleugh Farmhouse, Kirknewton, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6TT

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=14NP0055>
DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation
Tel: (x)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer

Tel: [REDACTED]

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