

DELEGATED DECISION REPORT

Application Reference Number	14NP0055
Description / Site Address	Forestry Determination of Roadway 500 metres long by 3.5 metres wide for timber extraction purposes south west of Goldscleugh Farmhouse, Kirknewton, Wooler, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE71 6TT
Applicant	Stephen Crees
Agent	Border Consultants
Expiry date of publicity / consultations	N/A
Last date for decision	4 th July 2014

Planning Policy

N/A

Relevant Planning History:

Nil

Summary of Consultations/Representations

NNPA Landscape Officer: No objection

Assessment

Introduction

This application comprises of a request to the local planning authority for whether prior approval is required for additions to a forestry track under Part 7 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995.

The proposal will involve providing a new track spur adjacent to an existing forestry track which, post-extraction of timber crop will be allowed to naturalise following cessation of the programme.

Track consists of 3.5 metres wide track with shallow v drain of 0.5 metres wide to a depth of 300 mm. The track will run for 500 metres and is located south west of Goldscleugh Farmhouse.

The relevant issues for consideration are;

- *Whether the proposal is reasonably necessary for forestry purposes;*
- *Impact on Landscape and Tranquility;*

Necessity for Forestry Development

To benefit from permitted development the proposal must be reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture. In this instance, it is clear that the proposed additions to the access track are reasonably required to allow for timber extraction. There are no apparent alternative solutions that would have any lesser impact upon the National Park's special qualities.

Impact on Landscape

The National Park's Landscape and Forestry Officer has commented on the application and has come to the conclusion that the proposal will enable forestry works that will contribute to an overall improvement in terms of the landscape character in the long term. It has also been suggested that the infrastructure is removed where possible upon completion of the extraction and this will be achieved in part through the removal of the culvert and re-grading of the proposed terrace. No materially harmful landscape impact is envisaged due to the proposed track additions.

Conclusion

The proposed additions to the existing forestry track would constitute permitted development under Part 7 of the GPDO. The track additions due to their scale and location would not have a significant impact upon the landscape, tranquility, on sites of nature conservation importance, or heritage assets. For these reasons it would not be appropriate for the National Park Authority, as local planning authority, to request further details of the siting and means of construction for further assessment of the proposed works.

RECOMMENDATION & CONDITIONS

That prior approval is not required.

	Signature	Date
Planning Officer		

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I hereby certify that the proposal may be determined by the Chief Executive or the Head of Policy and Planning under the current Delegation Scheme, and is hereby **approved**.

	Signature	Date
Interim Development Manager		
Chief Executive		