



Northumberland National Park Authority,
Eastburn, South Park, Hexham,
Northumberland NE46 1BS
T: 01434 605555 F: 01434 611675

Chief Executive (National Park Officer): Tony Gates

Northumberland County Council Strategic
& Urban Development Management Team
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Date : 28 July 2014
Our Ref : 14NP0063CO
Your Ref : **14/02055/SCOPE**
Contact : Chris Stanworth
Direct Line : 01434 611508

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Neighbouring Authority Consultation in respect of Environmental Impact
Assessment Scoping Opinion in respect of proposed extraction of hard
rock - development area of beyond 15ha
Lane House Farm, Newbrough, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 5EA**

Northumberland National Park Authority has considered the above scoping
report, and has the following observations to make.

Scoping Information for Landscape & Tranquillity Impact Assessment

The National Park's Landscape Officer has provided the following comments:

I note from the report submitted by the applicant that they intend to undertake a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) as part of their application and I welcome this given the close proximity of the 'Enquiry Area' to the National Park boundary, c. 50 metres at its closest point. I do however feel that the suggested number of receptor sites, 6, is somewhat limiting given the nature of the proposed development. I would suggest that a combination of photographic viewpoints and photomontage viewpoints are identified. I would also advocate that photos and photomontages are produced in line with not only the Landscape institutes Advice Note 01/11 but also that of Scottish National Heritage (SNH) 2013 update and also that produced by the Highland Council 2013. The latter two documents relate to current photomontage best practice derived from a history of windfarm developments.



A quick Zone of Theoretical Visibility analysis (ZTV) for the site identifying receptor sites that may be able to see the ground level of the application site (attached) indicates that due to topography, (the land falling away to the south from the National Park boundary), there is likely to be limited visibility of the site from receptor sites in the National Park. The exception to that is the UCR from Torney's Fell and the B6318 Military Road just west of Black Carts and another public footpath and access land to the north east at Walwick Fell. If there is a requirement to build structures above ground level on site then these will clearly be visible further afield. Preferred viewpoints within the national Park would be, in priority order,

- UCR north of application site at GR NY877705
- Brocolitia Roman Fort GR NY859711

In my view, the proposal has the potential to significantly affect the tranquillity of the National Park and also due to its proximity, affect the landscape character and views both into and from the National Park.

If mitigation measures are to be proposed such as tree planting to act as a visual screen then I would wish to be notified as I would not wish to see further conifer blocks introduced into this part of the Hadrian's Wall Landscape. I would be looking for something more in keeping with the traditional type of woodland planting that one might expect to find in this area and ensure that this might also maximise opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. Native broadleaved or mixed woodland schemes would be preferable in line with the Hadrian's Wall Management Plan.

From the information provided I do not believe that there would be a significant threat to the dark sky park status of the National Park but I would wish to see information relating to artificial light levels required for operation and any security purposes if thought necessary.



Scoping Information for Historic Environment Impacts

It is envisaged that colleagues in the County Council's Conservation Team will decide upon the potential for direct impacts to archaeological remains, but with regard to indirect impacts the location is wholly within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site, which should be addressed in any assessment as a minimum. This should include the effects on the setting of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site in addition to consideration of the effects upon individual heritage assets, such as:

- SAM 26052 Hadrian's Wall
- SAM 26053 Hadrian's Wall
- SAM 26001 Walwick Fell Temporary Camp
- SAM 26002 Limestone Corner Temporary Camp
- SAM 20943 Romano-British Farmstead

There is also good aerial photographic evidence from the National Mapping Programme and from Tim Gates' aerial survey revealing an extensive prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval archaeological landscape therefore detailed assessment of the existing aerial photographic evidence is essential.

Ecology

It is assumed that NCC will be assessing ecological impacts of the scheme and therefore no opinion is provided in respect of ecological impacts from NNPA's ecologist.

Yours faithfully,

T Gates
National Park Officer