

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 20 October 2014 10:52
To: DC Consultation
Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0088 Gleedlee Forest, approximately 650m North of Heathery Hall, Tarsset, Northumberland - Updated

Michael,

Further comments added to those previous submitted.

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

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 13 October 2014 17:13
To: DC Consultation
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0088 Gleedlee Forest, approximately 650m North of Heathery Hall, Tarsset, Northumberland

Michael,

14NP0088 - Forestry Determination in respect of proposed road 425m in length for timber extraction purposes at Gleedlee Forest, approximately 650m North of Heathery Hall, Tarsset, Northumberland.

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I wish to make the following comments on the potential landscape, lighting and tree implications associated with this proposed development.

- From a landscape perspective the nearest publically accessible receptor sites for this proposed development is Tarsset Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) 46 that runs along the north eastern boundary of the plantation. Gleedlee plantation is also bordered on its north western and north eastern sides by 'Access Land' although the use of this by members of the public is thought to be somewhat limited. Further afield the development site will be seen from the minor county road that runs between Burnbank and Diamond Cottage when travelling in a northerly direction, although this is approximately 1.5km away. Set within the Border Moors and Forests National Character Area, Moorland Forestry Mosaic Landscape Character Type and Kielder, Wark and Redesdale Landscape Character Area, this proposed development is in keeping with the nature of development that one might expect in this area of the National Park and specifically within this forestry plantation. In my opinion, whilst there is likely to be a short term disturbance caused by the felling and haulage of the timber derived from the Gleedlee forestry plantation, the proposed development of this forestry track on its own would not have a significant effect upon the landscape character of this part of the National Park. In terms of the effect that this proposed development may have on the views of the National Park, it is accepted that the track is likely to be visible initially, post felling from adjacent receptor sites as well as from the Burnbank and Diamond Cottage minor county road located to the south of the site. However, standing less than 1 metre high, the track will after five to ten years post restocking, once again be hidden from view within the emerging tree crop such that its presence will only be noticeable by the gap in the planted area creating a linear break in the developing tree canopy. It will remain largely hidden from view and screened by the forestry crop until this is once again felled in roughly 45-55 years time. From the details provided within this application I do not believe that this proposed development will have a significant effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park.

An observation that I would make relates to the choice of extraction route identified by the applicant within the application details provided. I question why the timber is not being

taken out via the forestry extraction route in Kielder/Redesdale forest some just some 700 metres to the north west of the Gleedlee site rather than the proposed haulage route using the minor county road (U5040) via High Green and through to the A68 at Dunns Houses. This choice of extraction route will have an effect on the landscape character and tranquillity of the National Park and is a consequence resulting from the felling activity and new extraction road. The indirect effects include the upgrading of the U5040 with new lay-bys and the noise and disturbance of the haulage lorries using this route over a prolonged period of time. The U5040 is a single track road, unfenced for much of its length passing several residential properties and across exposed moorland. It is currently used for local access and by horse riders and cyclists alike and in my view not necessarily an ideal timber haulage route.

- From the application form it would not appear that that this proposed development requires any new external lighting and thus the dark skies status of the National Park should not be threatened by an increase in light pollution as a result of this application.
- The requirement of this forest road is to enable the extraction of forestry timber from the Gleedlee Forestry Plantation. These trees were planted for the purpose of extraction and it has been ascertained from a site visit that the proposed development will not affect any notable trees or hedges on or adjacent to the application site. Given the nature of the work identified within the application I do not believe that a tree survey and tree protection measures are required in this case and I understand that all forestry works are to be undertaken in line with the UK Forestry Standard guidelines and requirements.

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

regards

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 02 October 2014 15:49

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0088 Gleedlee Forest, approximately 650m North of Heathery Hall, Tarsset, Northumberland

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=14NP0088>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

Tel: (x)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer
[REDACTED]

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