

From: [REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk
Sent: 05 December 2014 14:46
To: DC Consultation
Subject: Environment Agency Response to: 14NP0094
Attachments: PlanningProposal.rtf

The proposal has been reviewed and I enclose the Environment Agency's comments on:
Linacres, Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3DP.

LPA ref: 14NP0094

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Northumberland National Park
Eastburn South Park
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 1BS

Our ref: NA/2014/111623/01-L01
Your ref: 14NP0094
Date: 05 December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A SINGLE SOLAR TRACKER WITH 36 NO. PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY. LINACRES, WARK, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE48 3DP.

Thank you for referring the above application that was received on 10 November 2014.

The Environment Agency has no objections to the proposed development but wishes to provide the following information:

Biodiversity

The application indicates that the cable from the solar panels will run across the Linacres Burn. If technically feasible, the preferred option would be to attach the cable to one of the two bridge crossings. If this is not possible, the applicant is reminded that work within the channel has the potential to cause ecological harm, either through direct impacts, i.e. changes to bed morphology, loss of spawning beds, or indirect off-site consequences such as the release of fine sediments. This may result in a breach of the Salmon and Freshwater Fish Act (1975).

The risks associated with in-channel work can be greatly reduced, or avoided, if a number of simple measures are employed. If any further advice/information regarding this is required, the applicant should contact Alistair Laverty on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Biosecurity

It is important that you or your contractors do not inadvertently spread any invasive species. You should follow bio-security guidance and follow the 'Check, Clean, Dry' procedure. This involves checking all equipment and clothing has no materials or creatures attached, Clean it, and fully dry it before entering water in another area. If this is not possible disinfection can be used. For more information look at <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/checkcleandry/documents/check-clean-dry-poster.pdf>. By following these simple steps you can protect our valuable native species. "

Surface Water Disposal

Environment Agency
Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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The Environment Agency recommend visiting <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/82584.aspx> for standing advice regarding general surface water drainage issues.

Charging for Planning Advice

The Environment Agency began charging for the planning advice we provide to developers and their consultants on 3 March 2014.

We will continue to provide a free service to developers and their consultants in the form of a preliminary opinion. The above information constitutes our preliminary opinion which outlines our position and highlights any environmental issues we are concerned about as a statutory consultee. Should you require any further bespoke advice, we can provide this at a chargeable rate. Our charge will be £84 per hour and we do not charge VAT

Further information can be found on our website at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33580.asp>

I have sent a copy of this letter to the agent/applicant.

Yours faithfully

Susan Davison
Planning Officer - Sustainable Places Team

Direct dial [REDACTED]

Direct fax [REDACTED]

Direct e-mail [REDACTED]

cc I Need Planning Permission