

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 08 January 2015 17:37
To: DC Consultation
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0102 Hesleyside Hall, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2LA

Dear Chris,

14NP0102 - Approval of details of siting and means of construction in respect of proposed brash mat roads approx 1150 metres in length to facilitate timber extraction at Hesleyside Hall, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2LA

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.

- I can confirm that I do not believe that the proposed development will have a significant effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of Northumberland National Park. The nearest publicly accessible receptor site is the minor county road between Bellingham and Low Greystead and limited views of the tracks will be gained from this road. It is my understanding that the forest tracks are being upgraded and installed in order to proactively manage the woodland found on the Hesleyside estate and this is particularly welcomed. The removal of the conifer plantation and replacement with native broadleaved species in line with the heritage management plan will in the long-term have a significant beneficial effect upon the landscape character and views for this part of the National Park.
- There are no new external lighting implications resulting from this application thus the dark skies status of the National Park should not be threatened by an increase in light pollution as a result of this proposed development.
- I understand that work on site involves maintenance to existing forest tracks and the topping up of the surface of these with crushed stone. This work should not affect any notable trees as it is utilising an existing track through the woodland, although much of this woodland is designated a site of special scientific interest and liaison with Natural England will be necessary. The other element of the work involves the creation of temporary brash mats routes. It is good forestry practice to utilise such roads as indicated within the UK Forestry Standard in order to protect soil structure and prevent undesirable soil loss and siltation of nearby watercourses as a result of the harvesting machinery. The brash mat routes are to be created through areas of conifer plantation that is being extracted (E Route 'A') and also through parts of the SSSI woodland,(E Routes 'B' and 'C'. E Route 'A' is more formalised utilising upturned stumps and drainage ditches either side but lies outside the Hesleyside SSSI whilst E Routes 'B' and 'C' overlies existing woodland tracks (as stated on the cross sectional drawing provided) and I understand that the brash is to be removed and left in heaps to rot down as per the Natural England consent previously granted. I am happy for the work to proceed on this understanding however, given the sensitivity of the SSSI, if any ditches are required for E Routes 'B' and 'C', if either of these routes deviate from the existing woodland track found on the ground or require the

felling of broadleaved trees within the SSSI then I would be concerned and would object to the inclusion of brash mat work on E Routes 'B' and 'C' without further information being provided.

I have no objections to this work proceeding as set out within the application and in time there should be a positive landscape effect resulting from the activity associated with this work.

If you have any questions in relation to the above please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

regards

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 15 December 2014 15:09

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0102 Hesleyside Hall, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 2LA

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=14NP0102>
DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation
Tel: (x)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer

Tel: [REDACTED]

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