



**Forestry Commission  
Application: Supplementary  
Notice of Operations within a  
Site of Special Scientific Interest  
(SSSI)**



**Name of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):**

Hesleyside Park

**National Grid Reference:**

NY812840

**Forestry Commission application reference number<sup>1</sup> – (to be completed by FC staff):**

**If you already have Natural England’s consent for activities listed on the following pages, please indicate this and give details, for example, the management plan consented.**

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*Note: Forestry Commission (FC) and Natural England are committed to improving their customer service, and wish to avoid the land owner/occupier having to apply separately for permissions related to the same work. Where this Supplementary Notice is submitted with an application to FC for a grant or Felling Licence, we will issue Natural England’s consent decision at the same time as the grant agreement or Felling Licence: the applicant will not need to apply separately to Natural England for consent for the work.*

**Where this Supplementary Notice is not submitted with a grant or Felling Licence application, a SSSI owner/occupier must obtain consent for the work from Natural England separately. Failure to obtain Natural England’s consent may result in a breach of Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.**

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<sup>1</sup> This may relate to an application for a grant or a Felling Licence.



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**Additional information required about the proposed tree felling operation.**

**Please give details of how trees will be felled including the treatment of brash (for example, the type and ground pressure of vehicles and/or heavy plant, the use of horses to extract timber and the use of herbicides).**

Stands of coniferous trees (and some accessible lone conifers not considered to be part of the Historic (pre 20 century) designed landscape of Hesleyside Park) in cpt 1j as shown in more detail on the attached plan (appendix 1) will be felled by low ground pressure harvester. This will access the harvesting sites using the routes shown on the attached plan (appendix 2) and extraction will be by low ground pressure forwarder using the same routes.

Brash will be used to create temporary forwarding routes as shown and once the extraction is completed the brash will be distributed to small heaps on the clearfell conifer area and left to rot, it is not anticipated that there will be a large amount of brash after it has been tracked over during extraction. Brash will not be burnt.

No herbicides are planned to be used within or adjacent to the SSSI, (within 10 metres) with the exception of a suitable herbicide to treat Rhododendron (see specific section below).

All machines will be stored outwith the SSSI when not in use, no refuelling or machinery maintenance will take place within the SSSI.

Access from 1j to the extraction point on the Lime Avenue will be using an existing track close to the North West end of the Lime Avenue, or using the existing track access at the South Eastern end of the Avenue, no new access between any trees on the Lime Avenue is proposed.

**Please give details of any permanent or temporary structures such as storage cabins that you propose to erect within the SSSI.**

No temporary structures are proposed to be erected within the SSSI.

**On a map, please show where any construction/modifications to roads, tracks and rides, including the creation of new timber storage areas and/or vehicle turning areas, will be located within the SSSI. You must tell us the dimensions and methodology for the roading etc. below.**

Existing tracks will be upgraded within and adjacent to the SSSI to aid the extraction of agreed stands of conifers, no mature broadleaf trees will be felled during this work. The existing soil tracks (shown orange on the plan at Appendix 2) will have their surface removed and any spoil will be levelled on either side of the track, ensuring that the spoil does not abut any existing mature broadleaves and there is minimal damage to ground flora including the many areas of well luxuriant bryophyte growth and ferns (excluding bracken).

Imported whinstone hardcore from Barrasford Quarry will be used to provide a new track surface to a depth of approx 300mm with an open drainage ditch being constructed on the topside, this ditch will discharge via regular cross drains onto the ground surface to ensure that any impacts on existing water translocation is minimised, cross drains are anticipated to be required on average every 40m. Sufficient cross drains will be used to spread the flow of water from the road and ditch to avoid excessive flows from any particular cross drain causing damage by erosion and sediment loss.



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The upgrading of the stone tracks (shown yellow on the plan at Appendix 2) will involve the addition of approx 150mm of whinstone on top of the existing stone track, existing side drainage channels will also be cleaned. The upgraded tracks and new track will comply with Forestry codes of good practice as per the attached extract from the FC operations note 25 at Appendix 4.

The drain spec is to be 600mm deep dug using a V bucket this a profiled bucket with a base of approx 200mm at the bottom and 1200mm at the top. The same bucket will be used for the maintenance.

**Please give details below (and on a map) of the location of any ditches and drains that you propose to modify or install to facilitate tree felling within the SSSI.**

Only ditches associated with the road network will be cleaned or created as mentioned above, the existing track network crosses two watercourses, both under the existing stone track as shown on the plan at appendix 3, in addition there will be one watercourse crossing under the proposed brush mat access track also shown on Appendix 3, this is currently a ford to an existing track and this will become a temporary log bridge which will be removed at the end of the works.

The use of log bridges is part of the Forest and Water guidelines and built into the UKFS. The bridge is built from large sawn logs and is strapped together to create a solid structure. It will be built to withstand high flow conditions. It will be routinely checked along with the sediment traps and cleared when necessary to prevent it becoming a dam.

When not in use for periods of three weeks or more it will be dismantled and removed from the watercourse and stored adjacent.

**Please give details about the location of all proposed access and extraction routes within the SSSI (including a map where necessary).**

Please see the attached plan at Appendix 2 showing proposed brush mat extraction routes shown green, it is proposed that, once the work is complete, these brushmats will be left to rot in situ. Appendix 5 includes details of the methods of track construction, specifications and drawings etc.

**Please give further details about the proposed locations for storing timber and/or heavy plant within the SSSI, and the duration of storage.**

It is not proposed to store any ~~timber or~~ heavy plant within the SSSI, the boundaries of which are shown as appendix 6, [it is proposed that timber will be stored on either side of the Lime Avenue at the Western end where it will be uplifted by articulated lorry](#)

**Please give details about the proposed start, end and duration of felling and extraction operations. Please also give details about how you will avoid adverse ground conditions within the SSSI.**

Felling works are planned to be carried out during 2015 between January and October, the site is relatively level and works will only take place once improved access track has been completed so wet ground conditions are not expected to be an issue. Brush mats will also be used in addition to the improved access track and therefore there should be no significant ruts, minimal soil erosion and minimal sediment movement.

The UKFS will be followed. When ground conditions are soft and rutting would result in increased



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risk of damage to soils including compaction, rutting and erosion work will be stopped until conditions are dry enough for felling and timber removal to take place without damage to the soil.

An EPS will be completed which will help to identify any protected species including birds and squirrels. As no work is proposed to any broadleaves there should be little chance of any disturbance to any bats. However, bats are present on the site and guidelines will be followed to avoid disturbing summer roosts. (eg by inspection of large conifers from the ground using binoculars to identify any suitable roost sites and further action if any are found).

The proposed track construction will take place in the early part of 2015, from January to June (assuming consent is granted from NE and NNPA). The routes are already existing tracks which are currently used by quad bike; there is no evidence of any protected species or flora at risk from the work. During construction, all vehicles will remain on the track with an 8t digger clearing soil, constructing the ditch and drains etc and a 6t dumper delivering stone.

Silt traps are to be built to prevent sediment from the track and felling areas entering watercourses. They will be built into the roadside drains. The traps will be every 100m or as required (eg where culverts pass under the road downstream of felling areas). Water is then dispersed into the forest onto land. Building silt traps into the drains will allow the water to slow the flow and drop sediment. The sediment levels in the traps will be monitored and the traps desilted before they reach capacity. Any spoil will be spread, on land, outwith the SSSI area and will not be used to infill features of historic interest or areas of value botanically including land included in HLS options and the ELS options EL2, EL3, EL4, EL5 and EL6.

**Please give details about the location (within the SSSI) of any other vegetation that you propose to cut, the methodology, and what you propose to do with the cuttings.**

Large Rhododendron bushes will be cut by hand and small plants uprooted with the arisings either removed from the site or chipped and spread on the site. Cut material will not be heaped as there is a risk that it will regrow from cut wood. Stumps can be treated (immediately after cutting) with a suitable herbicide. Re-growth will be monitored and sprayed off with Roundup by knapsack during the summer of the second year (May-Sept). If necessary, follow-up treatment in year three will be carried out. 70-80% of the Rhododendron area will be tackled in this way with the aim of removing all Rhododendron from within the SSSI area. However, this will require follow-up work which will be ongoing and work from 2017 is not covered in this notice. Access to Rhododendron areas would normally be on foot with vehicles remaining on surfaced tracks unless the plants are situated in or directly adjacent to conifer felling areas.

It is expected that growth of un-welcome non-native plants will be facilitated by the provision of bare ground during the felling operation. This may include beech and conifer seedlings as well as rhododendron. Control of these plants and re-stocking will be carried out. This is part of on-going management specified in an additional management plan. Routine control of regeneration via seedlings will not be by herbicide treatment.

### **Declaration**

In providing this information and signing this form, I hereby give notice to Natural England under Section 28E (1a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981



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(as amended and inserted by Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) of my proposal to carry out, cause or permit the operations stated above within this SSSI in association with proposed tree felling operations or grant agreement.

**Name of land owner/occupier:** Hesleyside Estate

**Signed by:** James Brown

**Name (if not owner or occupier):** James Brown

**Position:** Agent

**Date:** 24.11.14

If we require any further information or details, we will contact you directly.