

EIA SCREENING OPINION

Application Reference Number	14NP0102
Description / Site Address	Forestry Determination in respect of proposed brush mat roads approx 1150 metres in length to facilitate timber extraction

SCREENING OPINION - Planning Authority Summary

After considering this proposed development in terms of formal EIA Screening, the LPA has assessed the significance of potential environmental impacts. It is concluded that, based on the information provided, the proposal would not be EIA development.

Screening Checklist

(Stage 1) - Is the proposal indicated by the broad descriptions given in Schedule 2 Column 1 of the Regulations?

Yes - 10. Infrastructure projects, (f) Construction of roads.

(Stage 2) - Does the proposal exceed threshold criteria in Schedule 2 Column 2 of the Regulations?

No – The project does not exceed one hectare in area.

(Stage 3) – Does the proposal exceed any of the more lenient criteria in Annex A of Circular 02/99?

No – A22 states that EIA is more likely to be required for linear transport schemes over 2km.

(Stage 4) – Assessment of Sensitivity. All constraints & designations affecting or affected by the proposal, both on the site itself and its surrounding area should be considered. EIA Regulation 2(1) defines sensitivity. The thresholds in Schedule 2 Column 2 and criteria in Circular 02/99 do not apply.

EU/National Designations

Northumberland National Park – Within proposed development site & surrounding area, potentially sensitive in terms of biodiversity, landscape, tranquillity and archaeological considerations

Hesleyside Park SSSI – Nationally designated site, protecting by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Statement of Reasons:

The development is Schedule 2 development under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. The proposal for a new track is not considered to have any significant environmental impacts in terms of landscape and visual effects, archaeology and the cultural heritage of the National Park, or through noise or impacts upon tranquillity. The proposal is also not considered to have the potential to give rise to potentially significant ecological impacts or significant impacts on the features for which the site has been notified as a SSSI.

	Signature	Date
Planning Officer		
Development Manager		