

Bulby's Wood Toilet Block Refurbishment

Foul Drainage Assessment

Note: this document is cross-referenced to and should be read in conjunction with the Foul Drainage Assessment Form (FDA1) attached.

Project Ref: G5043

September 2014

Site: Bulby's Wood toilet Block, Ingram Valley, Northumberland

1.00 Description

1.01 The existing toilet block is located within a group of trees on the west side of a substantial woodland block. It is approximately 32m (on the north side) from the public highway that runs the length of the valley. A parking area and groups of trees separate the building from the road. Currently the building is largely obscured from view from the car park and road and although the project proposals aim to improve visibility from the south it will not be completely opened up.

1.02 The toilet block is open 24hrs / day and every day of the year and currently provides the following facilities:

- 4No. female wc
- 2No. male wc
- 1 No. accessible wc
- 1 No. urinal (trough)
- 3 No. wash hand basins.

1.03 Foul drainage from the building is currently served by an existing Klargester Septic tank and soakaway system installed in 1994. The owner of the property, Northumberland National Park, has not been able to locate an Environmental Permit for the existing system (FDA1/Item 1)

1.04 The septic tank is currently emptied by pump vehicle once a year. This is found to be more than adequate.

1.05 Mains Connection – It is not possible to connect to a mains system as there is no known main sewer in the village of Ingram or this part of the Ingram Valley. It is estimated that the nearest foul drainage system is *greater than 15km*.

NST have confirmed no foul drainage system within the Ingram valley.

2.01 The refurbishment of the toilet block and provision of an occasionally staffed ranger's office seeks to improve to improve the facility for visitors. However the proposals do not increase the size of the building and the toilet facilities have been reduced as follows:

- 2No. female wc
- 1No. male wc
- 1No accessible w/c
- 2No urinals (individuals)
- 5No wash hand basins

- 2.02 The existing drainage system will not be affected. The existing pipework will be used from the point that it leaves the building, there is no intention to change the existing Klargester or soakaway.
Due to the reduction in toilet and washing facilities it is anticipated that flow volumes will be reduced. There is no known problem with the efficiency of the soakaway system and for this reason no percolation tests have been carried out (FDA1/Item 5)
- 2.03 Water supply (FDA1/Item 3) – via a borehole to be located within the existing car park. No depth of this borehole has yet been established but is likely to be between 30 – 60m.
- 2.04 Expected flow (FDA1/Item 9) – no usage figures exist for the current toilet facilities, obviously this fluctuates throughout the year however it is known that visitor numbers to the valley have reduced considerably over the last two decades and continue to do so. Additionally there are now public toilets adjacent to the café in Ingram village thus spreading the use of facilities. It is anticipated that there will be no increase in the expected flow and that it may well decrease further.
- 2.05 Maintenance (FDA1/Item 10) – there are no proposals to change the existing maintenance schedule which empties the septic tank once a year.

