

**From:** Gill Thompson  
**Sent:** 12 March 2015 12:24  
**To:** DC Consultation  
**Cc:** Chris Stanworth  
**Subject:** Re: Planning Application Consultation 15NP0010EIA North from Cold Law to Broadstruther, near Langleaford, Wooler, Alnwick, Northumberland

Dear Chris,

I have the following comments to make regarding the potential impact of the track on the ecology of the area.

**Impact on protected sites** - The Harthope Burn, part of the Tweed Rivers SAC/SSSI, is approximately 1.2 km away from the site. The Carey burn which runs directly into this site is 500m below the proposed track at the nearest point and drains that run into the Carey burn are closer, in some cases within 50m of the proposed track. The proposals may have the potential to impact the SAC by increase of sediment if water management is not undertaken during the construction of the track and afterwards during use. The steepest parts of the track, which are the parts that are most likely to be subject to intense run-off (and therefore potential problems with soil movement and sedimentation) are however the furthest areas away from the drains and Carey burn. The closest areas are the flatter areas in the acid grassland habitat. It is possible that potential adverse effects could be mitigated for by the construction method and after care/use of the track. I would like to see evidence that this issue has been considered and details of the methodology to prevent detrimental impact on the SAC should be provided. I think overall however it is unlikely that there will be an adverse impact on the SAC if the construction and maintenance of the track is carefully managed.

**Impact on priority habitats** - Part of the route of the track is proposed on an area of heather moorland with peaty soil. One area west of Carling crag near the fence junction at NT955242, where there is a dip in the topography, is deep peat over 50cm indicating a small area of blanket bog. I would like the effect on these habitats to be assessed and the amount lost to the track construction put into context with the surrounding areas and their quality and size. This information is partly provided in the ecological letter from Econorth, which I believe they are using as the basis for a full report. The lower area of the proposed track, where it leaves the existing track and passes the cross-shaped plantation up to the fenceline at NT957247 would be across acid grassland and there are unlikely to be significant ecological issues.

Loss of heather moorland may be able to be compensated for with seeding of the track surface and the surrounding area affected by the soil reversal. I would like to see details of this including seeding mix and the methodology the applicant intends to use to reinstate vegetation after the soil reversal.

**Impact on protected and other species** - There should be some assessment of any potential negative effects on species, particularly considering the impact of the timing of the track construction, but I do not consider it likely that there will be issues that could not be dealt with via working methods.

**Alternative routes** - I would expect there to be some comment on whether alternative routes were considered to avoid the more sensitive habitats and the pros and cons of these routes and why this proposed route was chosen.

I hope these comments are useful for your decision regarding the EIA screening and the pre-

application enquiry. If you would like further clarification of any of the points, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,  
Gill Thompson

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 11 February 2015 09:38

To: Gill Thompson

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 15NP0010EIA North from Cold Law to Broadstruther, near Langlee Ford, Wooler, Alnwick, Northumberland

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/planningAppDisplay.aspx?AppNo=15NP0010EIA>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

Tel: (x)

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Gill Thompson, Ecologist

Tel: [REDACTED]

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