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Chief Executive (National Park Officer): Tony Gates

Northumberland County Council
Development Management
Development Services
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Date : 26th March 2015
Our Ref : 15NP0015CO
Your Ref : **15/00407/FUL**
Contact : Rebecca Adams
Direct Line : 01434 611552

Dear Sir or Madam,

Neighbouring Authority Consultation in respect of proposed construction of a new road access at Kenterdale Hill, Wooler Common, Northumberland

Northumberland National Park Authority has considered the above proposal, and has the following observations to make:-

No objections, subject to further comments raised below.

Northumberland National Park raises **No Objection** to this application, however raises the following concerns and requests that these be taken into consideration by Northumberland County Council in their assessment of the application.

It is deduced from the information submitted that the proposed track would be 5m in width. However, as the proposed track runs diagonally across Kenterdale Hill, it is anticipated that there will be need for a cutting and topside ditch associated with the track and a fill/bank section associated with the down slope side of the track, potentially significantly widening the track to around 10m. In order to fully understand the extent and scale of development, including the adjacent disturbed ground, a cross sectional drawing and details of how any water runoff will be managed should be sought and considered, so as to avoid a diffuse pollution and long-term landscape scarring issues as the result of water movement.

The Design and Access Statement submitted makes reference to the Forestry Civil Engineering specifications and Forestry Engineering Code, however fails to provide further specific details of these. Clarification as to whether the applicant is referring to Forestry Civil Operations Note 25 should be sought.



The NPPF states that “great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty”. Its presumption in favour of sustainable development indicates that permission should not be granted for development which would have adverse impacts that would significantly and demonstrably outweigh its benefits. In this case, whilst there may be some visual effect and impact upon tranquillity of the surrounding area, on balance, the need to manage the Kenterdale Hill plantation and awareness of the potential adverse impacts of its mismanagement are such that the proposal would not detrimentally impact upon the landscape and character of the Northumberland National Park.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

National Park Officer