



DELEGATED DECISION REPORT

Application Reference Number	17NP0080
Description / Site Address	Forestry determination in respect of proposed installation of 1 temporary bridge for the purpose of timber extraction at White Burn, Kidland Forest, Alwinton, Northumberland, NE65 7DA
Expiry date of publicity / consultations	9 August 2017
Last date for decision	23 August 2017

Details of Proposal

This application has been submitted in order to determine whether prior approval is required from the Local Planning Authority for the proposed installation of 1no. temporary bridge over the White Burn within Kidland Forest, Alwinton. This request is made to the Local Planning Authority under Part 6 Class E 'Forestry Developments' of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (GPDO).

The proposed bridge would replace an existing ford crossing, in order to avoid its use during timber harvesting operations, and is one of three temporary bridges proposed to be installed within this area for which applications have been submitted to Northumberland National Park Authority, this being the westernmost bridge. The bridge would be a 9m length 'Mabey C200' type bridge and would be constructed as per the Method Statement provided.

The application site falls within the River Coquet & Coquet Valley Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Planning Policy & Guidance

National Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)

National Planning Practice Guidance (2015)

Local Policies

Northumberland National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Policies Document (Core Strategy) (2009)

Policy 1	<i>Delivering Sustainable Development</i>
Policy 3	<i>General Development Principles</i>
Policy 17	<i>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</i>
Policy 20	<i>Landscape Quality and Character</i>
Policy 22	<i>Trees, Woodlands and Forests</i>

Supplementary Planning Guidance

NNPA Landscape Supplementary Planning Document (Landscape SPD)



Relevant Planning History

- 17NP0086 Forestry determination in respect of proposed installation of 1 temporary bridge for the purpose of timber extraction at White Burn, Kidland Forest. *Pending consideration*
- 17NP0087 Forestry determination in respect of proposed installation of 1 temporary bridge for the purpose of timber extraction at Yoke Burn, Kidland Forest. *Pending consideration*

Consultation/Representations

NNPA Ecologist: No objections. *The application is within proximity to the River Coquet SSSI. No objections are raised as the proposed work is intended to reduce the impact of timber extraction on the SSSI by creating bridges rather than using fords across the river. The proposed works should be carried out before the spawning season in order to minimise any risk to breeding migratory fish; the application states that the work is intended to be completed before the end of September, which would be acceptable.*

NNPA Landscape and Forestry Officer: No response received

Assessment

The issues to be taken into consideration in the assessment of this application are:-

- The Principle of the Development; and
- The siting and means of construction of the private way

The Principle of the Development

The formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways for the purposes of forestry, including the construction of bridges, can be undertaken under permitted development rights set out within Part 6 of the 2015 GPDO, provided that the works are reasonably necessary for the purposes of forestry, and meet with further criteria set out within legislation. Where these criteria are met, the Local Planning Authority can only assess whether prior approval is required to assess the siting and means of construction of the private way.

The proposed bridge would be undertaken on land used for the purpose of forestry and would be reasonably necessary for those purposes, and would not fall within 25 metres of the metalled portion of a trunk road or classified road. Based on the information made available to the Local Planning Authority it is therefore considered that the requirements set out within Part 6 of the 2015 GPDO have been met. The principle of the development is therefore deemed to be acceptable.

The siting and means of construction of the private way

It is not considered that the proposed temporary bridge would have a significant impact upon the landscape or views of this part of the National Park, in accordance with Core Strategy policy 20.



The application site falls within the River Coquet & Coquet Valley Woodlands SSSI and is accompanied by a Method Statement detailing the proposed means of construction of the bridge. The NNPA Ecologist has reviewed the information submitted and raises no objections to the work, identifying that this would reduce the impact of timber extraction on the SSSI by creating temporary bridges, thus preventing vehicles from using the existing ford crossing. It is therefore considered that the proposed development would have an acceptable impact upon ecology within the area, in accordance with Core Strategy policy 17.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the assessment detailed above, it is considered that **prior approval is NOT required.**

Background Papers

Application file 17NP0080
EIA Screening Opinion

	Signature	Date
Planning Officer		
Head of Development Management or Chief Executive		