

Margaret Telfer

From: DC Consultation
Sent: 14 May 2018 11:14
To: Rebecca Adams; Margaret Telfer
Subject: FW: Planning Application Consultation 18NP0022 Land at Herdlaw Farm, Elsdon, Northumberland, NE19 1EN

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 11 May 2018 17:52
To: DC Consultation
Cc: Rebecca Adams
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 18NP0022 Land at Herdlaw Farm, Elsdon, Northumberland, NE19 1EN

Rebecca,

18NP0022 - Installation of a 10m high lattice mast on a concrete base accommodating 3no. antennas and 2no. 600mm transmission dishes and associated ground based equipment including 1no. generator and 1no. 1200mm satellite dish on a 2.6m high support pole. Installation of a 3m wide, compacted stone access track between the existing farm access track and the proposed site location on Land at Herdlaw Farm, Elsdon, Northumberland, NE19 1EN

Thank you for consulting me on the above proposed development. I would like to make the following observations with respect to the landscape and Dark Sky Park implications for the National Park, of the proposals as set out in the applicant's documentation.

Located in the Northumberland Sandstone Hills National Landscape Character Area and Outcrop Hills and Escarpment Landscape Character Type, guidelines for development stipulate that man-made vertical structures could detract from the distinctive skyline of this NCA and should be avoided where they would markedly detract from the distinctive notched skyline of the sandstone outcrops. These stipulations clearly apply to this proposed development for a 10m. high lattice communications mast that is proposed to sit atop the Grasslees valley side at Herdlaw, which itself stands 230m above sea level.

Having said that, I welcome the applicant's considered approach to identifying this site at Herdlaw and note the various other sites that were considered and subsequently rejected as part of their pre-application investigatory work. I believe that early engagement with the National Park Authority at the pre-application stage has helped identify a location that can, despite the guidance for developers stated above, be considered for the siting of this proposed development. The reduction in height from an original 20m. mast to this 10m. mast is welcomed as this decision will significantly reduce the likely impact on landscape character and views that this development will have. The site that they have chosen at Herdlaw is located adjacent to an existing Ministry of Defence building and ancillary barn that itself stands approximately 3m. high. In addition, a nearby mature tree to the west of the proposed site currently standing approximately 10m. in height will help both screen the proposed mast from receptor sites to the west but also provide a backdrop for the mast when viewed from receptor sites to the east.

It should also be pointed out that due to its location on the southern edge of the Controlled Access Impact Area of the Otterburn Training Area, publicly accessible receptor sites for this development would be limited to an arc spanning from due east through due south, an arc of approximately only 50° Public access is excluded from sites to the west, north and east on the grounds of health and safety due to the land being used as a live firing area for modern day field artillery weapons.

In relation to the other infrastructure that is proposed with the 10m. lattice mast, ie the compound fence, antennas, transmission dishes and associated ground based equipment, I am less concerned as to the potential impact that this will have on the landscape character and views of this part of the National Park due to its subservient size compared to the mast itself and adjacent existing buildings. I note and welcome the choice of dark green for the colour of the proposed equipment cabinets that will sit beneath the mast. This is considered appropriate for this setting and will blend in with the vegetation already found on site.

I understand that there will not be any external visible lights attached to this structure and as such there should not be an impact upon the Dark Skies status of the National Park.

In summing up, whilst this 10m. mast will be visible from receptor sites located on the north west facing slopes of the Grasslees Valley, including the popular Darden Lough public footpath, I do not believe that it would have a significant effect upon the landscape character or views in this part of the National Park. Due to the distances involved, wide open landscape, careful site location, additional mitigation measures proposed (choice of cabinet colour), the effect would be less than substantial. As such I do not have any objections to this proposed development.

I do believe that it would be prudent to consider placing some conditions on this application should it be approved, namely;

- Should the mast and its equipment become redundant for a period of six months or more then it should be dismantled and removed from the landscape, including the concrete plinth that everything stands on so that a full site restoration can be achieved.
- Should any external lighting be deemed necessary for the safe operation of this installation of this mast in the future, then proposals should first be submitted to the local planning Authority for approval.

I trust that you find the above comments useful and should you require any further clarification or need any further information please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

regards

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 04 April 2018 13:26

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 18NP0022 Land at Herdlaw Farm, Elsdon, Northumberland, NE19 1EN

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/plaPlanningAppDisplay.aspx?AppNo=18NP0022>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

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