

**From:** [Robert Mayhew](#)  
**To:** [DC Consultation](#)  
**Cc:** [Adam Ewart](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Planning Application Consultation 21NP0032 The Dod, Harelaw, Ilderton  
**Date:** 27 June 2021 23:14:39

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Dear Adam,

Application 21NP0031 - **Construction of 2no Grouse Butts at The Dod, Harelaw, Ilderton**

Many thanks for consulting me on the above pre-application request for development in the National Park.

I can confirm that this response is being made without having attended site but I welcome sight of the recent photos of the application site that you have shared. With these, the use of recent aerial imagery and my knowledge of this part of the National Park, I am happy provide you with my thoughts of the potential effect of this proposal on the landscape character and views of this part of the National Park.

I understand that the applicant is seeking to construct two additional sunken grouse butts, adding these to a line of 10 existing on land known as Hare Law. From a landscape perspective, the points for consideration include the effect of both the grouse butts themselves and also the track that would be needed to service the butts. Publicly accessible receptor sites for this proposed development would include Ilderton public bridleway no. 10 that runs to the south of the line of butts and the surrounding Access land that the butts are actually located within.

I can confirm that the application site is set within an existing actively managed grouse moor and as such this development is in keeping with the current land management for this area concerned. This being the case, the effect upon the landscape character would be negligible. Being of a sunken design with the construction materials not protruding above ground level, I can also confirm that the visual effect of these two additional butts would also be negligible, even when viewed from higher elevations found to the west/south-west.

That leaves the implications of the new track needed to service the two new butts, see image below.



As can be seen from the aerial imagery and your site visit photos taken in January 2021, the service track to this existing line of grouse butts on Hare law is a formalised but un-made ATV track. The applicant implies in bullet point six of question 2 of the pre-application letter that the two new butts would also be serviced by an ATV track but which is clearly not in existence at present, (see image above). Given that the intended use of these new butts would be in line that of the existing and, the existing service track has a vegetative cover exceeding 95% of its surface area, I can deduce that the new ATV track is likely to have the same visual appearance within the landscape setting. Linear features of this nature are in keeping with a managed grouse moor and being substantially vegetated, the visual effect of the new ATV track is likely to have a negligible effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park.

In conclusion, I can confirm that I have no objections in relation to the likely effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park.

A word of caution however, if the use of this unsurfaced ATV service track (12 shoots a year max. Para. 4.5 P8 of supporting doc.) were identified to be unsustainable, i.e. the surface vegetation started to degrade and break up, then the track would become more visually prominent within the landscape and as such would have a greater negative effect upon the views of this part of the National Park. It is my understanding that the applicant is likely to recognise and prevent such a scenario from occurring, but you may wish to consider placing a condition on the use of the track along the lines of :-

- Should the use of the service track that support the line of shooting butts on Hare law be deemed to be non sustainable, i.e. vegetative cover falls below 80% cover, then the use of this track should cease until, in the view of the Planning Authority, the vegetation has time to fully recover thereby protecting the soft peat and carbon store that the track passes over.

If you have any questions with any of the points raised above please do not hesitate to come back to me.

Kind regards

Robert Mayhew  
**Head of Conservation & Environment**  
**Northumberland National Park Authority**



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**From:** DC Consultation [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 May 2021 13:54  
**To:** Robert Mayhew [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Planning Application Consultation 21NP0032 The Dod, Harelaw, Ilderton

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=21NP0032>

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