

Flockrake Noddle, Broxa -Ecological statement

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Background

Broxa Forest is part of a network of Forestry England (FE) land in the east of the North York Moors National Park. The area of the proposed works is predominantly secondary conifer plantation of mainly Japanese larch (1998) with some birch.

Phytophthora ramorum has been detected in some of the Larch in this area of Broxa forest and Forestry England has been issued a statutory health notice for its removal.

There is currently no vehicular access to the site and, in order to avoid assisting the spread of the disease by taking felled timber through healthy crop to an existing transfer facility, it is proposed to construct a new facility which will enable the timber to be loaded on to timber lorries within the affected area.

No protected species or habitats, veteran trees or trees of significant interest have been identified in the area of proposed works.

Bats - The risk of the impacts on bats have been assessed as very low. Works are planned to be carried out in March when bat activity is limited and most are still in hibernation. There are no known hibernation roosts in the area of proposed works and no features that would support one. No foraging or navigation pathways will be affected during the works.

Nesting birds - Although works fall within an exception of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 due to the statutory plant health notice (the reason for works being the prevention of spread of disease) any nest located during the construction operations, outwith the standing crop, will be preserved as far as reasonably possible.

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