

North York Moors National Park Authority

Delegated decision report

Application reference number: NYM/2022/0818

Development description: prior notification for creation of forwarder track for forestry purposes under Part 6 and extraction of associated stone materials

Site address: land north east of West Side Road, Darncombe

Parish: Darncombe-Cum-Langdale End

Case officer: Miss Lucy Gibson

Applicant: Forestry England

fao: Mr Stuart Startup, Outgang Road, Pickering, YO18 7EL

Agent:

Director of Planning's Recommendation

Approval subject to the following:

Condition(s)

Condition number	Condition code	Condition text												
1	PL01	<p>The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Document Description</th> <th>Document/Drawing No.</th> <th>Date Received</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Site Plan</td> <td>Rev A</td> <td>08 November 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plan View- Forwarder Track and PRow Interface</td> <td></td> <td>17 January 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction Environmental Management Plan</td> <td></td> <td>27 January 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Document Description	Document/Drawing No.	Date Received	Site Plan	Rev A	08 November 2022	Plan View- Forwarder Track and PRow Interface		17 January 2023	Construction Environmental Management Plan		27 January 2023
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Site Plan	Rev A	08 November 2022												
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Construction Environmental Management Plan		27 January 2023												
2	MC00	The development hereby permitted shall accord with the recommendations of the Ecological and Habitat Report dated 27 January 2023, as outlined on pages 3-4.												

Reason(s) for condition(s)

Reason number	Reason code	Reason text
1	RSN PL01	For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that the details of the development comply with the provisions of Strategic Policies A and C of the North York Moors Local Plan, which seek to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.
2	RSN MISC03	To conserve protected and Priority species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species).

Consultation responses

Parish

No comments received

Third party responses

None received

Publicity expiry

Advertisement/site notice expiry date: 26 December 2022



This photograph shows West Side Road, looking towards the north. The proposed track would lead from this road towards the top of Langdale Rigg before following the field boundary towards the south.

Background

This prior notification application seeks approval for the creation of a forwarder track for forestry purposes.

The forwarder track is proposed to facilitate works to fell the conifer crop within the Forestry England High Langdale Bank plantation. Access to the plantation is required for the uplift of the felled timber. The works will upgrade an existing track which starts from West Side Road and joins the top of Langdale Rigg, which then follows the field boundary to meet the PRow and continues towards the south. The track would be widened to 4m and overlaid with locally sourced sandstone.

Other materials to upgrade the track will be sourced from a borrow pit (using stone extraction permitted development rights Part 6 Class E (c) from within the Forestry England plantation. This borrow pit will be reinstated and landscaped to leave a shallow depression.

Main issues

In the consideration and determination of prior notification applications, the Authority can only assess the proposal in relation to its siting (landscape impact), design and impact on ecology and archaeology.

It is considered that the proposed upgrading of the existing forestry track would not have any adverse impact on wider landscape views given the location and nature of the development. The applicant has confirmed that the road edges will be blended with topsoil to encourage growth and mature trees are proposed on the western fringe of the track to mask any potential visual effects of the upgrade.

In response to the Authority's Ranger's comments, the applicant has confirmed that where the track crosses the PRow, it will be constructed from concrete sleepers. This would be an appropriate grade to walk on and access will be retained during the works. A timber access gate would be installed at the entrance to the track and the proposed borrow pit would also be located an adequate distance from the PRow. As such, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on the PRow.

In response to the Authority's Ecology team's comments, a CEMP has been submitted and the recommendations and mitigations as suggested in the report have been secured through a condition, to ensure that there is no disturbance to any protected species. Water bars, silt traps and silt netting will also be installed to mitigate any materials from entering the water course.

Overall, it is not considered that the proposed development will have a detrimental impact on the character of the wider area, nor will it have ecological or archaeological implications. Further to this, it is considered that the Ecology team's and Ranger's comments have been adequately addressed. As such, it is recommended that the application is approved.

Pre-commencement conditions

N/A

Explanation of how the Authority has worked positively with the applicant/agent

The Authority's Officers have appraised the scheme against the Development Plan and other material considerations and confirmed to the applicant/agent that the development is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.