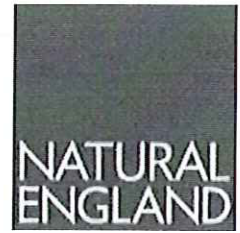


MH

Date: 19 June 2017  
Our ref: 217180  
Your ref: NYM/2017/0258/CVC



Mark Hill  
North York Moors National Park Authority

4<sup>th</sup> Floor Foss House  
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1-2 Peasholme Green  
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YO1 7PX

BY EMAIL ONLY



Dear Mark Hill

**Planning consultation:** Verification check of condition for permission NYM/2014/0676/MEIA request for further comments in relation to queries regarding Natural England Letter 217364.

**Location:** At Woodsmith Mine (Formally Dove's Nest Farm & Haxby Plantation), Sneatonthorpe Grid Reference 489495 505142

Thank you for your consultation dated 07 June 2017, which we received on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England has commented this condition verification check in our letters dated 26 May 2017 (our ref 214808), 06 June 2017 (our ref 217364) and 09 June 2017 (our ref 217180). This letter represents our response to the letter by Robert Staniland of Sirius Mineral letter to Mark Hill, North York Moors National Park dated 07 June 2017 (their ref 40-SMP-AUT-LE-0007) regarding Natural England's letter dated 06 June 2017 (our ref 217364).

Natural England notes the point that the long-term impacts of the proposal are addressed in the original Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). However, we also note that the development is changing as work progresses. The more detailed modelling that is being carried out now for assessment of impacts, as required by planning conditions, is an important part of the risk assessment. Natural England is concerned that the modelling needs to look at the longer term impacts of the development at as early a stage as possible, especially given the changing proposals. In the original proposals the main concern was the impact of the grout wall on groundwater flow. That would have masked the impacts on recharge. With the changes in the proposals, a key issue has become impacts on groundwater recharge during this phase and into the future, with the potential for deeper dewatering in later stages of the development adding to this, although that is likely to be a short term impact from the information currently available.

Given that the platform(s) are in place for a significant period of time (longer than just Phase 3), we also consider that it is important that the impact of these over a longer timescale is understood to ensure that anticipated mitigation measures are still adequate. In particular we are concerned that there appears to be an overall drawdown in groundwater levels over the 12 month period that was modelled. It is not clear whether this stabilises over time or continues to develop. Given the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation we need to be able to understand what the longer term implications of the revised development may be, as early as possible.

Natural England is content that monitoring locations closer to the spring flush do not include the modelled drawdown and appreciate the need for trigger levels at locations closer to the platform to take

account of the modelled impact. However, modelling the impact of the platforms over the longer term will also help with assessing the distance at which the method of calculating trigger levels needs to switch from including modelled data to being purely based on the baseline data. It is also worth noting that the modelling is just indicative; actual impacts need to be able to be picked up by the monitoring which therefore, along with the remediation, needs to be robust.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact Merlin Ash at  
For any new consultations, or to provide  
further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Christine Robertson, Team Leader, North York Moors  
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

