

Date: 13 November 2017
Our ref: 231157
Your ref: NYM/2017/0505/MEIA



Mr Rob Smith
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley,
North Yorkshire
YO62 5BP

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Rob Smith

Planning consultation: Additional information regarding application for variation of condition 5 of planning permission NYM/2014/0676/MEIA to allow minor material amendments relating to that part of the development at the Woodsmith Mine site (formerly known as Doves Nest Farm and Haxby Plantation), including; re-design of foreshafts and shaft construction methodology, changes to building layout and shaft access arrangements, revisions to construction and operational shaft platform levels, revisions to location and layout of surface water attenuation ponds, revisions to groundwater management arrangements and amendments to internal access road arrangements.

Location: Land at Woodsmith Mine (formerly Doves Nest Farm & Haxby Plantation), Sneatonthorpe (minehead); underneath 252 km² of the NYMNPA (winning & working of minerals); a corridor extending underground from the edge of the NP boundary to Wilton Complex (mineral transport system); Ladycross Plantation near Egton, Lockwood Beck Farm near Moorsholm, Tocketts Lythe, near Guisborough (intermediate shaft sites); site within the eastern limits of the Wilton Complex, Teeside (tunnel portal) NYM/2014/0676/MEIA. Grid Reference 489495 505142

Thank you for your consultation on the above. Natural England has commented previously on application NYM/2017/0505/MEIA in our letters dated 10 August 2017 (our ref 221245) and 06 November 2017 (our ref 228828). This letter represents our further comments in response to the additional information provided in relation to this further consultation dated 09 November 2017.

Objection withdrawn regarding impacts on North York Moors Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Following receipt of further information on 09/09/2016 Natural England is satisfied that the specific issues we have raised in previous correspondence regarding the hydrological impacts of the proposal have been resolved.

We therefore consider that the identified impacts on North York Moors Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI can be appropriately mitigated with measures outlined and withdraw our objection in this regard only.

Please note however, as per our letter dated 10 August 2017 (our ref 221245), that we retain our objection with regards to the impacts of the proposal on the landscape character and special qualities of the North York Moors National Park

Natural England is grateful for the additional in situ testing results provided which we consider to be very useful in assessing the hydrological impacts of the proposal.

As outlined in our letter dated 06 November 2017 (our ref 228828), Natural England would recommend the following conditions to safeguard the interest features of the North York Moors SPA, SAC and SSSI:

- Evidence of appropriate tests which demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed recharge trench as mitigation. It will be important to check that the recharge trench is working as intended, and that there are not unanticipated issues resulting from the development.
- Monitoring & maintenance plans have been submitted and agreed which ensure the have been on-going function of the recharge trench throughout the life of the development. In situations where recharge trenches have been used elsewhere (eg quarry sites) it has been noted that they have a tendency to develop a layer of silt and 'blind', with the consequence that they no longer function as effectively having lost good connectivity with the relevant aquifer. This can be prevented through regular checking and clearing of the trench.
- The modelling indicates that it may take six years from completion of the development for the full impact of the development on the hydrological system to fully take effect (section 7.3 of the Hydro Risk Assessment). Therefore, any further modelling and monitoring should consider six years as a minimum assessment period. It will be important

Provided that these considerations are addressed in the proposal Natural England is satisfied that the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the proposal can conclude no adverse effects on integrity with regards to this issue.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

Yours sincerely

Paul Duncan
Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Team
Natural England