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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Claire

Proposals for the temporary use of the area of grassland as a remote compound and material store area in relation to a maintenance project to the water on the rivers Brennand and Whitendale

Land off private access track off Newton Road Dunsop Bridge Lancashire

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 03/04/2012

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.

We have considered the proposal against the full range of Natural England's interests and offer the following comments:

Protected Sites Bowland Fell SSSI¹/SPA²

It is our opinion that the proposed development is unlikely to materially or significantly affect the designated features of the Bowland Fells SPA/SSSI by reason of its size, nature or location.

To ensure that there is no direct damage to the habitat of the protected site, a condition should be placed on any permission granted to ensure that vehicles are prevented from damaging the part of the SSSI which lies directly to the east of the track. If there is not already a boundary fence or wall dividing the SSSI from the track, then temporary fencing or marking of the edge of the SSSI should be undertaken, and it should be ensured that no vehicles pull on to the SSSI when passing other vehicles.

Protected species

Where there is a reasonable likelihood of a protected species being present and affected by the proposed development, the LPA should request survey information from the applicant before determining the application (Paragraph 99 Circular 06/05)³.

Natural England has produced standing advice, which is available on our website [Natural England Standing Advice](#) to help local planning authorities to better understand the impact of particular developments on protected or BAP species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, the local planning authority should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

¹ Designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Designated under the Habitats Directive 1992 (92/43/EEC) and transposed in to UK law

³ Paragraph 98 and 99 of ODPM Circular 06/2005.

Local wildlife sites

The proposed compound is adjacent to a Lancashire Biological Heritage Site, Valley of the River Dunsop which lies approximately 50m south of the compound site. The authority should ensure it has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal on this local wildlife site, and the importance of this in relation to development plan policies, before it determines the application.

For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact me. For all other correspondence, please contact the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Willshaw

Adviser

Land Use Operations Team

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