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05 DEC 2012

FOR THE
ATTENTION OF

Direct line 07500798316

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Sarah.allen@uuplc.co.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 6284/SO

Date: 03/12/12

Dear Sir/Madam,

New Water Distribution Main between Halstead Farm and Tosside Tank (Gisburn Forest), Slaidburn

I am writing to request a screening opinion for the above proposed development under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

Please find enclosed plans and supporting information for a proposed 3.5km water distribution main.

The proposals involve the installation of a pipeline that including the required working area meet the applicable criteria as set out in of Part 10(I) (installation of long distance aqueducts) in Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. For developments within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, the requirement for an EIA is assessed against thresholds and selection criteria as outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations. Based on the enclosed supporting information, it is the opinion of United Utilities that through appropriate design, construction, mitigation, and reinstatement the proposal will not result in significant long term environmental effects.

In accordance with Regulation 5 of the above Regulations, I ask you to confirm in writing the following:

- That an EIA is not required in this instance;
- That the proposals will be permitted by virtue of Part 16 Class A(a) and Class A(e) of the GPDO 1995.

If you have any queries or require any additional information, I can be contacted at the details above.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Allen
Environmental Planner

TOSSIDE WATER DISTRIBUTION MAIN

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EIA Screening Opinion Request

United Utilities

New Water Distribution Main between Halstead Farm and Tosside Tank (Gisburn Forest), Slaidburn

December 2012

Contents

Page No

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS	1
2.1	Proposed new pipeline from Halsteads Farm to Tosside Borehole	1
2.2	Temporary Compounds and Working Areas	2
2.3	Other Consents	2
3	POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS	2
3.1	Ecology	2
3.2	Landscape	3
3.3	Trees	4
3.4	Archaeology and Heritage	4
3.5	Contamination	4
3.6	Public Rights of Way	4
3.7	Bike Trails	4
4	CONCLUSION	5

**APPENDIX A: Method Statement for Works within Halstead Wood Biological
Heritage Site**

APPENDIX B: Tosside Ecology Constraints Plans

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1 INTRODUCTION

This statement has been prepared by United Utilities to comply with the requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 in that it includes:

- (a) Plans sufficient to identify the land;
- (b) A brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
- (c) Such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.

This screening opinion request should be read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and the additional information referred to in this statement.

The project forms part of United Utilities' AMP5 programme of works as agreed with the Environment Agency and Office of Water Trading (OFWAT).

The purpose of the project is to provide treated water from Hodder Water Treatment Works (WTW) to an existing contact tank at Tosside (near Heath Farm), thereby improving the final water quality to the village of Tosside (42 properties). This will also facilitate the abandonment of Tosside WTW and borehole. The scheme will improve and safeguard final water quality to the village of Tosside.

The proposals involve the installation of a pipeline that with working area will exceed the applicable criteria as set out in 10(l): Installation of long distance aqueducts of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. For developments within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, the requirement for an EIA is assessed against thresholds and selection criteria as outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.

2 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed development comprises the following:

2.1 Pipeline Route: New 3.5 km 90 mm diameter polyethylene pipeline is proposed to connect Halsteads Farm to Tosside Tank near Heath Farm

The pipeline will pass through Gisburn Forest, within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route follows existing tracks and footpaths through the forest. It is proposed to construct the pipeline using open cut techniques. The trencher is mounted on tracks and has a steel wheel attached to the front of the machine that consists of hundreds of teeth. When the machine is in place the wheel is activated which spins round cutting into the earth and dispelling the ground onto a conveyor belt, which is then loaded onto a Wagon / Dumper. The newly excavated trench is visually checked for any loose debris etc; and then the granular fill is installed before the PE pipe is placed within the trench and backfilled each night.

The proposed pipeline route is shown on Drawings Nos: 80028680-720-2301A-P-2301-P and Location Plan Sheet 1 and 2.

The crossing of one ordinary watercourse Dob Dale Beck is required and it is anticipated that a directional drill technique will be used. This section of the river is not subject to any environmental designations. Subject to confirmation that an EIA is not required, the pipeline works will be carried out as permitted development under Part 17 Class E(a) of the GPDO 1995.

2.2 Temporary Compounds and Working Areas

It is anticipated that the pipeline route will have an approximate working easement of 12m. There will be an additional compound area as shown on drawing no: UU/ES/P/6284/01

The compound will comprise cabins to accommodate welfare facilities and offices plus an area for pipe and materials storage. The proposed compound site is at Black Hill disused stone quarry. The site boundary will be fenced and bunds will be used where there is a risk of run off.

Subject to confirmation that an EIA is not required, the temporary compounds would constitute permitted development under Part 4 Class A of the GPDO 1995.

2.3 Other Consents

2.3.1 Footpath closures

See section 3.5 below

2.3.2 Lead Local Flood Authority Consent

A permanent Lead Local Flood Authority consent will be required for the pipe structure below Dobdale Beck.

3 POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

The following section summarises the potential impacts of the proposals:

3.1 Ecology

Extended Phase 1 habitat surveys have been undertaken for the proposed development area by James Segar MSc, BSc (Hons) AIEEM, Bowland Ecology Ltd. Ponds within 250m of the proposals were surveyed for great crested newts. Aquatic surveys were carried out up to 125m either side of each proposed crossing of a watercourse. The surveys were undertaken April to June 2012.

The majority of the route is to be constrained to the existing forestry commission track. The northern most section (prior to crossing Dob Dale Beck) is situated within species poor semi-improved grassland and semi-improved neutral grassland. This neutral grassland is species rich with attributes of Lancashire BAP habitat. Species include eyebright (*Euphrasia officinalis*), greater birds foot trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*).

The main will be directionally drilled under Dob Dale Beck. The main also crosses 6 culverted un-named small watercourses. The watercourses are not classified as main river by the EA.

In summary the main findings were:

A pond (NGR 375100 458910) situated adjacent to the Forestry Commission Track was found to support a small population of great crested newts (GCN). GCN are European Protected Species. A pond (NGR 376340 457440) situated at the southern end of the route was found to support a small population of palmate newts. Palmate newts are Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species. All works within 250m radius of the ponds are to be constrained to the existing track. All works within 250m of the ponds are to be undertaken implementing Reasonable Avoidance Measures. The track is to be backfilled and reinstated before the end of the working day. No storage of materials is permitted within the 250m buffer zone. An ecological watching brief will be present. The Contractor will be provided with a Tool Box Talk with regards to this species.

Two badger setts are located 20m from the proposed route. These setts are active and are currently being monitored by UU Ecology. The route will be directional drilled in this area to avoid impacting the setts. The Contractor will be provided with a Tool Box Talk with regards to this species. The Contractor will ensure the working area is kept tidy and any open excavation is boarded overnight.

No evidence of water vole or otter was identified 125m upstream or downstream of any of the watercourse crossings. There are currently proposed to be no in-channel works. However, for each of the 7 watercourse crossings the Contractor will ensure any silt or other pollutants including hydrocarbons are not released into any of the watercourses. Extra vigilance will be considered during periods of wet weather or high flows. Any dewatering works will pass through adequate silt removal apparatus prior to returning to the watercourse. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG5).

The main is to be installed within Halstead Wood Biological Heritage Site (BHS). Prior to works commencing in this area consent must be granted by the County Council Ecologist. The pipeline route runs adjacent to and crosses areas of species rich grassland which fall within the Lancashire BAP habitat Species Rich Neutral Grassland. All works which cross the BHS and the species rich grassland must be undertaken in accordance with the method statement: Tosside Distribution Main – Trenching within Biological Heritage Site (BHS) Appendix A. This includes details regarding turf lifting. Where the BAP grassland runs adjacent to the pipeline route the contractor must ensure that the working area remains within the forest track and there is no storage of materials or equipment within areas of BAP grassland.

3.2 Landscape

The pipeline route passes through the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area is characterised by areas of upland moorland with managed forestry plantation and access tracks. A number of the tracks are used for recreational purposes, including cycle tracks and walking trails.

The landscape and visual impacts of the pipeline will largely occur during the construction phase, and will be temporary and of short duration (i.e. for the time period of the construction phase, from start of works to reinstatement of compounds

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and the pipeline working width). The pipeline will be layed in an existing track through the forest and is not expected to have any long term adverse effects on the landscape character.

On completion of the pipeline the permanent visible surface elements along the pipeline will be occasional raised manholes and associated concrete pads. This will have a minimal impact on visual receptors, mainly the recreational users of the access tracks around the area.

3.3 Trees

It is appreciated that some of the trees in the area are visually prominent and/or mature and their importance in terms of local landscape character is valuable.

It is intended to work only with the access track areas and thus avoiding any works to trees, minimising any long term impacts on character. In some locations overhanging branches may need to be pruned to avoid snagging during construction, but due to the forestry nature of trees in the area this impact is considered to be minimal.

3.4 Archaeology and Heritage

The pipeline route was sent to Peter Iles Specialist Advisor (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council in May 2012. There are a number of noted sites in the HER in the Gisburn Forest area (see Appendix C for map and written record). The proposed pipeline will follow the line of an existing path and footpaths which run through the forest therefore there is not anticipated to be any impact on archaeology.

3.5 Contamination

Ground investigation surveys are currently being undertaken along the length of the route. Significant areas of contamination are not expected to be encountered. Should areas of contamination be identified, the necessary risk assessments and method statements will be produced in consultation with the Environment Agency.

3.6 Public Rights of Way

There are 10 public rights of way within Gisburn Forest that will be affected by the installation of the proposed water main. Applications for temporary closures of these footpaths have been submitted to Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way Team (Lynda Horrocks) who are currently processing them. The footpath closures will be staggered to ensure that the footpaths are only closed when construction work is being carried out at that location, the trench will be backfilled each day and disruption kept to a minimum.

3.7 Bike Trail Closures/Diversions

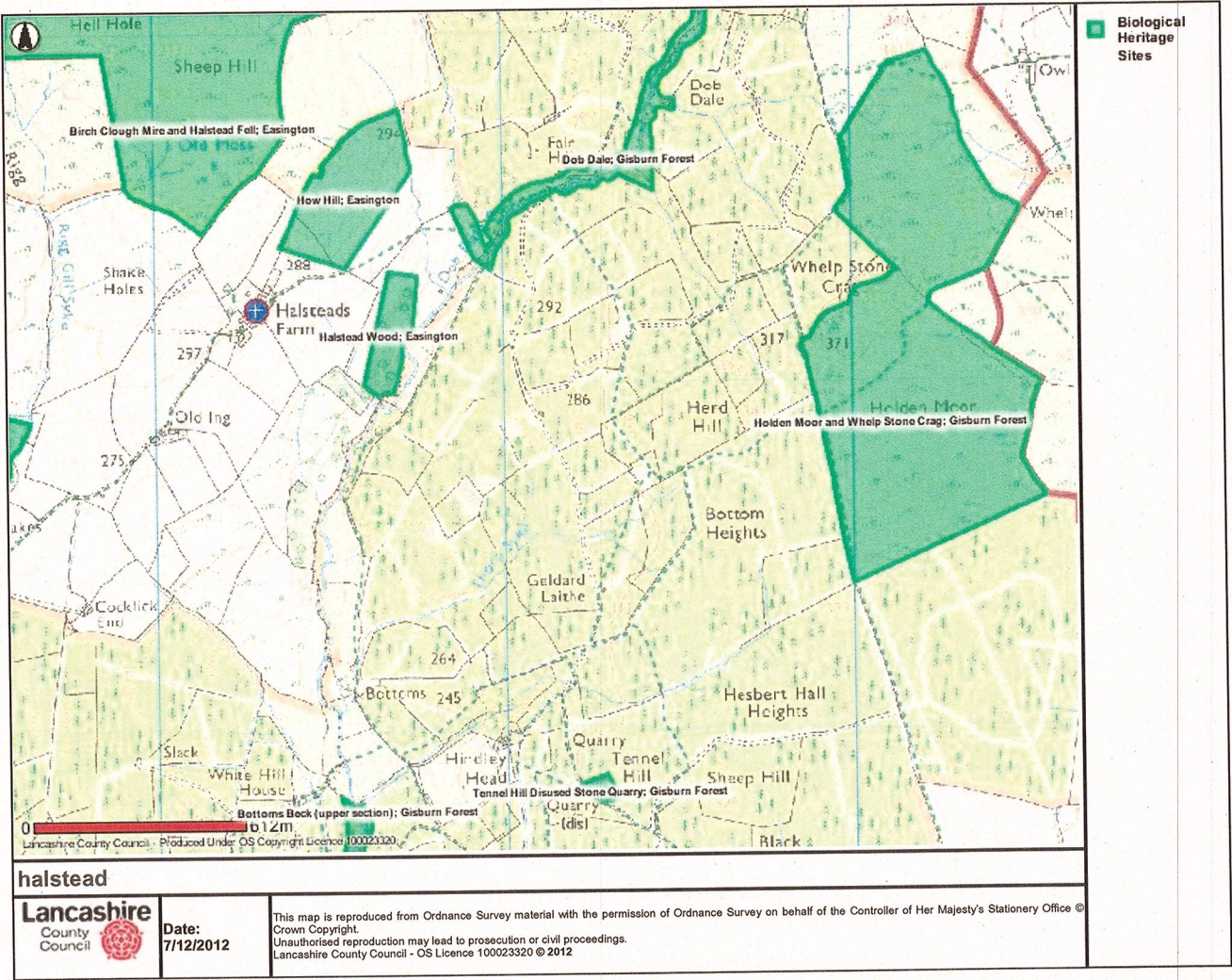
There are a number of bike trails in Gisburn Forest which will be affected by the construction work. Closures and diversions will be managed with the Forestry Commission to insure minimal disruption

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4 CONCLUSION

Through appropriate design, construction methods and mitigation United Utilities considers that there will not be significant environmental effects associated with this proposed project. United Utilities is, therefore, seeking confirmation from the appropriate Local Planning Authorities that an EIA is not required in this instance.

The proposals involve the installation of a pipeline that with working area will exceed the applicable criteria as set out in 10(l): Installation of long distance aqueducts of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. For developments within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, the requirement for an EIA is assessed against thresholds and selection criteria as outlined in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations. Based on the enclosed supporting information, United Utilities considers that there will not be significant environmental effects associated with this proposed project and as a result EIA is not required.



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Appendix A:

**Method Statement for
Works within Halstead
Wood Biological Heritage
Site**

Tosside Distribution Main

Working within Halstead Wood Biological Heritage Site (BHS) and areas of species rich neutral grassland

NB This must be incorporated into the Contractors Working Method Statement and highlighted in the Construction Phase Plan (CPP).

United Utilities Ecology must gain written consent from the County Council Ecologist prior to any works commencing within the BHS. Detailed method statements for the work within the BHS will need to be provided by the contractor in order to facilitate this. These must be provided in good time (preferably at least one month prior to start on site). The Contractor must ensure a paper copy of the consent is kept on site.

The proposed pipeline route runs adjacent to and crosses areas of species rich grassland which fall within the Lancashire BAP habitat type 'Species Rich Neutral Grassland'. The habitat within the pipeline easement running through Halstead Wood BHS is also species rich neutral grassland.

Impacts to the species rich neutral grassland will be largely avoided by containing the works within the Forestry Commission track for a large proportion of the route.

Where avoidance of impact is not possible the method of turf-lifting will be used, with the turfs stored upon a geotextile membrane within a suitable location adjacent to the proposed works location. Where appropriate ground protection boarding will also be employed in order to minimise ground disturbance to the vegetation. Pipe will not be welded or stored within the BHS.

United Utilities Ecology will supervise the contractor when hand digging turfs. Turfs will be as large as possible and a minimum of approximately 30cm by 30cm with a soil depth aiming for a minimum of 20cm.

After being removed, turfs will be placed on Terram, lifted onto a flat-bed trailer and moved to the receptor site in a single movement. The turfs will then be laid onto the Terram at the receptor site in the order that they were removed. This will allow them to be accurately replaced to their original location during reinstatement.

The period the translocated turfs remain in the receptor site must be minimised. Depending the duration of time the turfs are stored and the weather conditions, the turfs will need to be monitored and watered to prevent degradation.

The turfs will then be re-laid in their original habitat location. United Utilities Ecology UU will monitor the reinstated turfs at the end of the next available growing season to ensure that the vegetation disturbed by the working areas has re-established. United Utilities Ecology will provide a final monitoring report to the County Council Ecologist.

The contractor must ensure there is no storage of materials or equipment, and pipe will not be welded or stored within areas of BAP grassland.

Refer to Tosside Distribution Main Environmental Review Record (ERR D) for full details with regards to the ecological constraints for this project.

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