Our ref: HDS/BMBC / 2022
Your ref: Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI
Worsbrough Mill - Replacement of waterside banking

Nicola Staniforth
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Dear Nicola

ASSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND UNDER SECTION 28H OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED) Dearne Valley Wetland Site of Special Scientific Interest South Yorkshire

Natural England assent to the proposals made in your notice of 23/09/2022 3/10/2022 and email 13/10/22 under S28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), specifically operation as detailed below. Worsbrough Mill - Replacement of waterside banking

If you wish to change the proposed operation or carry out additional operations for which assent has not yet been given, or if a time period given in your letter of date has expired, you are required to give further written notice to Natural England.

I draw your attention to your duty, under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as inserted by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of your functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI.

Signed for Natural England:

[redacted]

Print name: …Helen Smith…. **Date 20/10/2022**

Notice of proposal to carry out an operation affecting a site of special scientific interest (SSSI)

Name of site of special scientific interest (SSSI):
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI

Name and address of public body or statutory undertaker:
Barnsley MBC
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG

Email address:
Nicolastaniforth@barnsley.gov.uk

Phone number:
[redacted]

We give notice to Natural England under Section 28H(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended and inserted by section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) of our proposal to carry out the operations specified below in the exercise of our functions and on the land as specified below.

Operation and land details

Continue on separate sheet if necessary or attach additional information or documents.

Specified operations (summary of proposal):
Replacement of waterside banking to the north-west of Worsbrough reservoir in the interest of health and safety for site users.

Details of proposed operations:
The existing low level retaining wall has collapsed into the water creating a significant hazard for site users.

The proposal is to demolish what remains of that wall and replace the low level banking with either rock armour or sheet piling backfilled with earth, then reestablish a level top surface to provide a platform for access to the area.

The extent of the works will take into consideration the presence of mature native tree species.

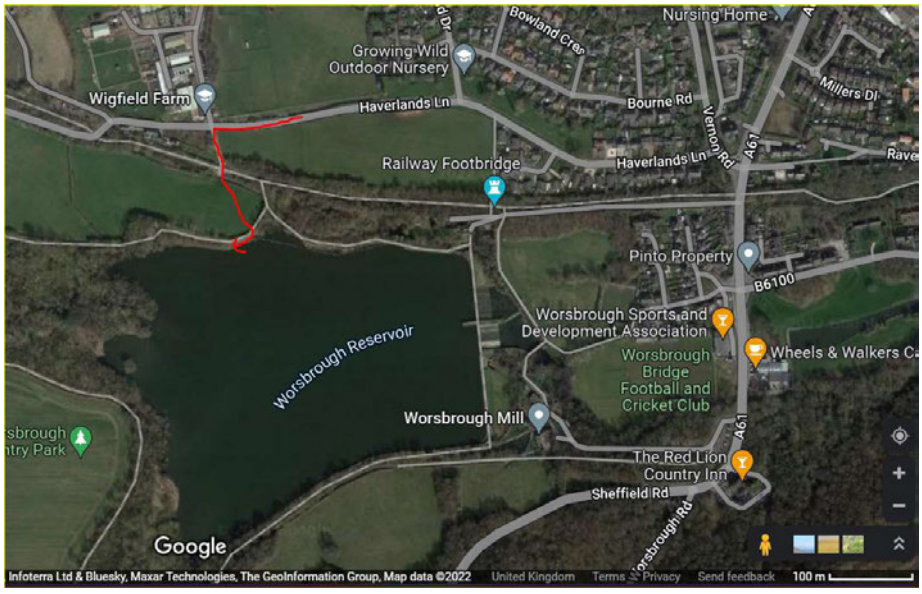
The standard reference numbers for the types of operation which will be undertaken are:
13c, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23, 26,

Timing of proposed operations (including avoidance of certain weather conditions):
It is proposed to undertake the works during autumn/winter 2022/23. Given that we have already entered that period, there is a possibility that works will be underway but not concluded before April 2023. Were this to be the case, we would require NE support to continue working in the area with completion expedited to minimise impact on nesting and spawning seasons.

Land on which operations are to be carried out (include map):
The accompanying appendix 1 shows a map of the affected site and images of the types of vegetation and wildlife currently present.

Storage and disposal of materials:
Materials will be stored in access the field adjacent the north bank (as indicated in appendix 1).
Wherever possible, existing materials will be re-utilised to reduce waste. Where materials have to be disposed of this will be undertaken in compliance with UK legislation.

Precise routing of operations and vehicles:
Materials and equipment will be delivered to site along Haverlands Lane then cross into the field site compound. A temporary road surface will be installed to minimise damage to the grassland.
It will be necessary to take down a section of hedgerow between the field and the waterside to enable access. (This will be replanted upon completion of the works.) Operations and vehicles will then turn right along the footpath to reach the waters' edge.



Frequency of access:
The scope of banking replacement works extends beyond the SSSI area so it will be necessary to keep this access route open for several months. Traffic is expected in this area for 5-6 days per week during the construction phase.

The provenance and chemical nature of imported materials:
Options for the final design solution are based on use of limestone rock armour or steel sheet piles to create a cavity which will be lined with a geotextile membrane and backfilled with existing materials plus any additional type 1 or 2 aggregate and topped with topsoil or type one material to create a porous but firm surface.
Natural materials will be sourced from local quarries wherever possible.

Type and ground-pressure of vehicles to be deployed:
It is anticipated that much of the work will be carried out from the waterside using a barge/boat to carry materials.
Restricted path widths in the area mean only vehicles of a long wheel-based Transit-type van can get to the water's edge. Once their load is deposited they will return to the field site compound.

Mitigation measures:
The full extent of the collapsed wall will not be replaced. Works will cease ahead of the area where established trees are present to minimise long term impact on habitats (This is indicated in appendix 1).
Any damaged grassland and hedgerows will be replaced upon completion of the project.
Additional native low growing shrubs and trees will be incorporated on the upper banking area to increase opportunities for habitat creation.

Further information:
An ecology survey and a tree study have been carried out at this site. The reports are included as appendix 2 and 3(a-d) respectively.

Signed by on behalf of public body / statutory undertaker:

[redacted]

Date:
23rd September 2022

Using and sharing your information

The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information please see the sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) privacy notice at www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notices.

Email 13th October 2022

Good afternoon Helen

Thank you for looking at this for me. Please see attached re-attempt on annex 1.

In terms of timeline, an indicative programme (based on finishing detailed designs and obtaining planning permission) suggests works commence on the banks in April 2023 and conclude in August 2023 – the overall works cover a wider area than that in the SSSI so it may be that the time spent here is reduced. I'm working with the local angling society and the EA about wider ecological impact.
Pre-construction works to clear vegetation and reduce the water level will take place Jan/Feb to ensure we avoid nesting and spawning seasons. Reinstatement of hedgerows etc will form part of the remediation works under the scheme.

I'm actually on leave next week so if you need any further information I'll be around tomorrow (14th) then back on 25th.

Best wishes

Nicola Staniforth (Mrs)
Programme Management Service Manager
Property Services
Growth and Sustainability
Barnsley Council
[redacted]
Mail: Property Services, PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG