

**Consultation Response from Emma Mills
 KC Landscape**

Application No:	2023/91093
Proposed Development:	Construction of permanent vehicular access track legally required as a 'Measure in the Interest of Safety' under the Reservoirs Act for essential safety works, ongoing inspection and emergency access and the erection of fencing (within a site of special scientific interest)
Location:	Land adj, March Haigh Reservoir, Off Blake Lea Lane, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6NJ
Applicant/Agent:	Canal & River Trust
Planning Officer	Ellie Worth
Date Responded:	09.05.23
Responding Officer:	AR
Responding Ref:	MM38

NOTES/COMMENTS: These comments are Without Prejudice

Landscape Context and Concept, Landscape Design

1. Setting – this application is for the proposed construction of a permanent vehicular access track to March Haigh Reservoir, located 3.5 km northwest of Marsden. Site is within an area designated as part of the South Pennines Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) Special Protection Area (SPA). The proposed track is in response to legal requirements in the interest of safety, under the Reservoirs Act for essential safety works, ongoing inspection, maintenance and emergency access. A partial track is known to exist below the existing ground level, this was covered over circa 1999. Currently there is no vehicle access to the reservoir. PROWs COL/195/30, COL/195/40 and COL/197/10 are within 500m of the site.
2. Previous landscape responses dated 20/12/22 (our ref LL106 and LL105). Please note we have reviewed all the current documents submitted to date as part of this application.
3. We find the submitted proposals acceptable and recognise that reasonable effort is being made to keep the visual impact of the proposed track to a minimum. Providing the details and specifications set out in the application are upheld we have no further comment on the proposals.
4. Kirklees works with a number of groups and organisations around the borough keen to improve accessibility in all practical ways. Recently we have been working with organisations developing access to our countryside for handbike users. Would the canal and river trust consider making the proposed track available to handbike users, perhaps the installation of a Radar Key access on the gate. Very few tracks and footways currently provide suitable access for handbike users. The proposed tracks specification would be suitable for handbike users and we could look at including the route it in our developing network of handbike friendly routes in the immediate area.