

THE SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? . Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
Brief Project Description: Removal of around 3 hectares of (mostly) naturally regenerated woodland (average 10 – 15 years old) comprising mainly birch, willow and some ash. The woodland is located in West Marton, Middlesbrough.		
1. Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc)?	Yes – land use will change due to clearance of 2.49ha of woodland. Proposal is to convert to a meadow.	No – land was open ground until around 15 years ago before the natural regeneration of the trees that are to be cleared.
2. Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes – fuel for vehicles and machinery. The felling will lead to a loss of woodland area in urban Middlesbrough.	No – general business use. The proposal includes replanting of an equivalent area within 2 Km, this will compensate for the felling so there is no loss of woodland.
3. Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	No	
4. Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes – wood from harvesting ops	No – all biodegradable and given the small quantity could easily be mulched or chipped onto the site.
5. Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	No	
6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes – plant operation	No – short term only, <1 week
7. Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Yes – fuel spillage	No – adherence to correct procedure will avoid high risk and allow any spillage to be dealt with quickly and effectively
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	No – area is now fenced off, likelihood of accidents to operators is low due to small tree size.	
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No – access is relatively recent (within 25 years).	

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10. Are there any other factors which should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	No – application concerned with tree felling only. Any further proposals would need to be considered by the appropriate authority at a future date.	
11. Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	No – buffer proposed to protect adjacent beck valley.	
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – Woodland is to be removed, there is an adjacent watercourse.	No – buffer zone proposed along beck to protect watercourse. An ecological survey of the woodland has concluded that only the hedgerow has any ecological significance. The hedgerow will not be felled.
13. Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?	No – bats in adjacent woodland have sufficient foraging area (trees in woodland to be cleared are too small to provide roosting opportunities).	
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes – adjacent minor watercourse	No – buffer proposed
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No designations	
16. Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – currently there is informal access on the site by local residents	No – A PROW runs alongside the site giving access to a larger area of mature woodland.
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	No, project is unlikely to have any affect on traffic or roads.	
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes – adjacent to busy transport route. Clearing the woodland will have a modest visual impact.	No – Most of the people affected are commuters / transient and there is other woodland cover along the road.
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	
20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No	

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21. Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?	Yes – woodland removal in residential area	No – there will be a visual impact, however there is other woodland cover adjacent to the site and further planting proposed
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No – the site is zoned for housing, however this project does not include any proposals to build houses at this time.	
23. Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – The woodland is adjacent to a residential area and felling of around 3ha will involve a loss of part of that resource currently used by local people.	No – There is woodland of a similar age in the immediate vicinity and also adjacent mature woodland with free access. Also the proposed alternative replanting area will improve the availability of access in wider area.
24. Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No	
25. Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	No	
26. Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No	
27. Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No	

Summary of features of project and of its location indicating the need for EIA

Whilst the project will lead to the loss of semi mature woodland in an urban setting there is still a significant area of similar woodland in the immediate vicinity. The proposed replanting on the alternative site means that there will be no net loss of woodland area.

There are no significant effects on protected species habitats.

Whilst there will be some loss of amenity for local residents as a result of the deforestation this is not significant as there are still a number of areas of greenspace and woodland with footpaths and public access in this area.

