

# **RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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*3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024*

## **RE: Commercial Forest Creation at Letrault and Stuckenduff Farms Archaeology**

Dear Emma

The following is an extract from your reply of December 21st:

“The concerns raised around archaeology have now addressed through discussions between Scottish Forestry and Scottish Woodlands and some further archaeological advice obtained by Scottish Woodlands. We’re satisfied that all the archaeological features have now been identified and appropriately buffered to protect them from operations.”

I am afraid that, as the Regulator you have failed to protect at least one archaeological feature. You recall that we have asked for the revised Archaeology Report, plus when this was not forthcoming we asked, in our last letter for:

- a. A list of these features for our records and to ensure completeness
- b. Details of the mitigation steps SF have requested SW to put in place for each feature.

We might have been able to stop the damage that has occurred if you had agreed to our request.

The photograph attached, taken on 2 March 2024 shows the limekiln located at NS 27391 86138. Planting holes have been dug right across it damaging the whole monument.

Not only did the original archaeological survey fail to record this site and we had to advise Gresham House /Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Forestry about it, now we see that the planting has shown zero respect for it.

The revised archaeology report for this site instructed by Cameron Maxwell of SF has never been forwarded to the CC but considering we had provided a map and grid references for the archaeological sites that we know were missed in only one small area, we would have hoped the additional archaeological survey was undertaken by more experienced surveyors and would have recorded all of the things the first survey failed to identify or record.

The standard procedure is to flag the archaeological sites so the contractors know something needs to be avoided. This site is obvious to a trained archaeologist who points out that you can see the bowl of the kiln in the middle and the turf covered enclosure walls all around it. The bag and walking stick are just outside its edge at the top of the photo.

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RSCC recommended an Archaeological Clerk of Works and Archaeological Watching Brief during the afforestation and this is exactly why. An archaeologist needs to be on site to show them this, but if the contractors can't see something as obvious as this and avoid it there is no hope at all of other archaeological sites being avoided.

These planting holes should be reinstated including a 5m protective buffer zone all around it. The limekiln should be avoided and should not be planted over. There are at least 10 holes dug into the monument.

We would expect some immediate action on this matter.

*Jean Cook.*

Jean Cook  
Secretary, Rhu & Shandon Community Council

**Copied by**  
**email to** Members of the Rhu & Shandon CC  
Councillors Maurice Corry, Iain Shonny Paterson, Mark Irvine.

