



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Perth and Argyll Conservancy
Upper Battleby, Redgorton
Perth, PH1 3EN
Tel: 0300 067 Choose an item.
panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot
Conservator: Cameron Maxwell

Mike Page
Ruthvenfield Road
Inveralmond Industrial Estate
Perth
PH1 3EE

Our Reference – Letrault and Stuckenduff New Woodland Creation 21FGS62925, archaeology

19/03/2024

Dear Mike

**UK Forestry Standard – Warning Letter
Letrault and Stuckenduff**

Following a report to Scottish Forestry regarding the operations at Letrault and Stuckenduff, we have carried out an investigation in relation to potential breaches of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).

As the person responsible for this operation you have an obligation to comply with the legal and good forestry practice requirements and guidelines set out in the UKFS. Scottish Forestry takes a serious view of any possible breaches of the UKFS.

The sections of the UKFS which relate to this investigation are -

General Forest Practice:

Good Forestry Practice: Page 84, 3: “Steps should be taken to ensure that historic features, which may be adversely affected by forestry, are known and evaluated on an individual site basis, taking advice from the local environment services”

Sustainable Forest Management:

Forests and Historic Environment

Good Forestry Practice: Forest Operations: 22 “Identify relevant historic environment features in the operational plan and identify them on the ground, ensure they are excluded from the operational area and that the plan is communicated to all those working on the site.”

Having investigated and considered all the circumstances in relation to this incident we believe that the UKFS has been breached in the following ways:

Non-scheduled archaeological features have been disturbed through ground preparation operations. These features include: Earthen banks, grouse butts, lime kiln, quarry infrastructure, stone piles and small structures.

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

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In this case, we have deemed the breach to be **moderate** in terms of scale and impact on forest sustainability and the environment, as a result Scottish Forestry have decided to issue you with this formal warning letter.

We recognise that you have obtained professional archaeological advice following these breaches, which is helpful.

In addition the following corrective actions must be undertaken by the end of 30/04/2024.

Corrective actions:

Obtain further archaeological advice to ascertain corrective measures (completed).

From corrective report:

Lime kiln: Re-instate the mounded areas and implement a 10 metre buffer for ground preparation and planting.

Quarry and channel: Re-instate the mounded areas where possible, implement a 5 metre planting buffer.

Stone mounds and bank: No ground preparation has occurred. Implement 5m planting buffer.

Building (small stone and turf structure): Re-instate mounds occurring within 5m buffer. Implement 5m planting buffer.

Earthen Bank & Grouse Butts: Three surviving grouse butts - implement 5m planting buffer.

Flaws in original survey: The NCAS survey has highlighted that gaps exist in the baseline data reported in the 2019 GUARD Archaeology Survey. Although the area subsequently surveyed by NCAS represents only a small percentage of the overall woodland creation area, the new assets NCAS recorded were primarily located along the edges of water courses. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that a similar number of assets would have been missed during the previous GUARD Archaeology survey in areas of more open moorland.

Mounding of the areas of open moorland already undertaken has resulted in a significant change to the appearance of the ground surface meaning the identification of any ephemeral surface archaeology that may be present in these areas could be difficult.

For these reasons, additional archaeological survey should be undertaken along the existing watercourses and areas of open moorland that have not been mounded. This will ensure any archaeological remains visible on the surface that were not previously identified can be recorded and avoided during ongoing woodland creation work.

You must notify this office as soon as the corrective actions have been completed and Scottish Forestry will reinspect the site to ensure compliance with the UKFS.

I must advise you, any future incidents concerning breaches of the UKFS may result in permissions being suspended or revoked.

Yours sincerely



Cameron Maxwell
Conservator