

Rhu And Shandon Community <rhuandshandoncc@gmail.com>

Letrault and Stuckenduff

Emma.Gray@forestry.gov.scot <Emma.Gray@forestry.gov.scot> 11 April 2024 at 13:04 To: secretary@rhuandshandoncommunity.org Cc: Cameron.Maxwell@forestry.gov.scot, robertcstuart@protonmail.com, john.mcgall1@btinternet.com

Good afternoon Jean,

Archaeology

Please see attached received archaeology report. The list of sites and approved mitigation from our compliance letter are below, please can you confirm you received our letter in the last correspondence?

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.

Public Access

Please could you clarify the public access request?

Tree species selection, local natural conservation area and invasive commercial conifers

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1. For woodland creation design process, the UKFS and landscape design planning illustrates that seeding of species into nearby habitats should be considered as part of a proposal. Particular for this case, the conifer edge is brought back from the boundary and much of the woodland edge is a buffer of broadleaf species to limit the likelihood of this occurrence.

If diseases occur, Statutory Plant Health Notices are applied with a deadline to limit the spread.

In a longer sense, seeding onto sensitive habitats should be addressed through the long-term forest planning process. Letrault and Stuckenduff is likely some time away from this process however in the future it will be an opportunity to review this potential effect and re-engage with the community formally, implementing corrective actions as appropriate.

2. The BL habitats are prescribed as W4 and W9. SF are satisfied the proposed species meets the criteria to create these recognised woodland communities which will provide meaningful ecological benefit.

3. At year 5, we would expect broadleaves to reach an overall stocking density of 1,600 stems/hectare in order to meet criteria set out in the UKFS.

4. Scottish Woodlands are planting broadleaves that are set out in the Ecological Site Classification system to be suitable for the site. In this calculation are the moisture and soil nutrient regimes for the site which suggests the species have resilience for such events. However, should failure occur through any means, the trees will be replanted to stocking density.

5. This has been addressed from previous correspondence 20/03/2024, please see response from section 6 and associated attachments.

Torr Farm Management Plan

I have also attached the Torr Farm Management Plan as we had discussed this previously as an action point you needed to close off. We approved this document a few weeks ago and are satisfied it meets UKFS requirements.

Kind regards, Emma

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Torr West Forestry Management Plan V1.8 - Approved Expiry 03-2034 REDACTED.pdf

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