

Mr Ian Robinson
Scottish Woodlands Ltd
Greensfield Court (6) Greensfield
Industrial Estate
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2DE

Our ref: NA/2008/102644/05-L01
Your ref: EIA 022900231
Date: 27 April 2010

Via Email

Dear Mr Robinson

CHANGES FROM ORIGINAL APPLICATION PROPOSED. INSTEAD OF UPGRADING THE EXISTING ACCESS ROAD AND TRANSPORT THE TIMBER VIA REAVELEY AND BRANDON TO THE A697, IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ROAD LINKING THE FOREST TO THE EXISTING FARM TRACK TO THE NORTH EAST AT MIDDLETON DENE. THREESTONE BURN FOREST.

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 22 April 2010. We have reviewed your letter of 21 April and wish to make the following comments:

Biodiversity

The factors listed for consideration under the EIA are adequate. However consideration should be given to the impacts that are likely to arise where the road crosses the watercourses. It is noted that the amended route will involve crossing watercourses at various points. It should be noted within the EIA if these are culverts or open watercourses and assessed accordingly.

In order to reduce the impact of the road on the area's riverine flora and fauna, it is preferred that any bridges across the watercourses in the area are of an acceptable clear span type, with abutments set back from the watercourse on both banks to provide a bank width of at least five metres beneath the bridge.

It is also preferred that the bridges are a minimum of five metres from the bank top of the watercourse so as to provide an unobstructed corridor to allow movements of otters and other animals. The use of clear spanning bridges will maintain the river corridor and allow the movement of both the river and associated wildlife.

Environment Agency
Tyneside House Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
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Land Drainage Consent

Any proposals to cross a watercourse will require early detailed discussions with Laura Wilkinson (0191 203 4302).

A consent, under the Land Drainage Act 1991 may be required for such a crossing.

Therefore the additional information which should be submitted are details of the crossing i.e. where and by what i.e. a bridge, a ford, a culvert etc. Please note that this consent process is separate to the Environmental Impact Assessment. Land Drainage Consents can take up to two months to process.

Our Previous Comments

Our previous comments made in letters dated 12 January 2010 ,19 August and 21 October 2008 and further correspondence should be taken into account in the establishment of the amended EIA/proposal. I have attached the most recent letter for your information.

If you wish to discuss any of the above matters further please do not hesitate to contact myself on the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Liz Lightbourne
Planning Officer

Direct dial 0191 203 4203

Direct fax 0191 203 4004

Direct e-mail elizabeth.lightbourne@environment-agency.gov.uk

I Everard
Forestry Commission
North East
Email: ian.everard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: NA/2008/102644/04-L01
Your ref: EIA 022900231
Date: 12 January 2010

Dear Ian

**ENQUIRY INTO PEAK FLOW RATES - FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED.
THREESTONE BURN FOREST.**

Thank you for your email dated 22 December and the further information submitted. We note that our previous letter dated 11 January contained an error and wish to amend this as follows:

The applicant has submitted a revised report assessing the flood risk of the proposed works. It has been adequately demonstrated in the report that any potential increases in the flood peaks caused by the planned clear felling will be mitigated against by employing several different measures. Therefore, we have no in principle objection to the proposed works in terms of flood risk.

We recommend that, along with the report, further details of the proposed timings and schedules for the implementation of the various mitigation works are included so that this is conditioned as part of the consent. We also note our previous comments relating to biodiversity and water quality dated 19 August 2009 and 21 October 2008. We ask to be consulted on the further information compiled.

If you wish to discuss the above flood risk matters further please contact our Development and Flood Risk Engineer, Jenny Watts on 0191 203 4096.

I trust this is of assistance. Please contact myself on the details provided below if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Liz Lightbourne
Planning Officer

Direct dial 0191 203 4203
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Direct e-mail elizabeth.lightbourne@environment-agency.gov.uk

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