

Our reference Licence application 022/89/08-09

Dear

**North East England Region  
Felling Licence for site 44**

The Forestry Commission has decided to approve the felling Licence application submitted by Middlesbrough Council to fell 1.2ha at site 44 at Coulby Newham. The site is known locally as Longridge Wood.

The application attracted strong public opposition against the felling licence application and the Forestry Commission felt it was necessary to ask the North East England Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to review the felling proposals. At a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 the RAC received presentations from Middlesbrough Council and from the local residents objecting to the proposals. Afterwards the RAC produced a reply to the Commission recommending approval. This recommendation has been taken into account by the commission, along with other information received from statutory bodies and the general public. This information has helped the Commission reach their decision to award the felling licence.

In reaching it's decision the Commission made a rigorous assessment of the issues affecting the site and on balance felt the argument for granting the licence was strong. Factors taken into account were as follows:

- The ecological impact assessment survey instigated by Middlesbrough Council found that the site was considered to be of limited ecological value.
- The site was subject to the FC's own EIA screening, which showed no need for the EIA and consent of the Forestry Commission.
- Housing plan designation of the site as part of Coulby Newham masterplan of 1976 and local planning designations thereafter. The site was held back until 2005 when the electricity pylons were removed and allowed development of the site. Site 44 has only been used by the local residents, since farming ceased in 1995 and the trees and shrubs have regenerated since then.
- The RAC recognised that the 3 felling licence tests had been fulfilled, and the RAC felt that there was no reason for the FC not to grant the licence.
- Compensatory planting for the felled area was planned and being completed nearby.

The detail of the evidence used to make the decision to grant the felling licence is contained in the RAC papers, and supporting documents which are available for viewing under the felling licence section of the FC website which can be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/northeastengland). If you would like to have paper copies please contact Ian Everard at the FC office at Hamsterley.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Everard  
EIA Regulations and Project Officer