



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Enclosure 9

Central Scotland Conservancy

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Conservator

Keith D Wishart FICFor

Brent Vivian
Senior Planning Officer
Development Management
Falkirk Council
Municipal Buildings
West Bridge Street
Falkirk
FK1 5RS

Friday 12th March 2021

Planning Reference: P/21/0046/FUL/ONLINE

Sent to brent.vivian@falkirk.gov.uk

Dear Brent,

Erection of 9 Dwellinghouses with Associated Garages and engineering infrastructure. Location - Site To The West Of Castlewood, Glen Road, Torwood,

Scottish Forestry would like to offer a consultation response on planning application P/21/0046/FUL/ONLINE.

Scottish Forestry

Scottish Forestry is an Executive Agency of Scottish Government, seeking to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands on behalf of Scottish Ministers for the benefit of the Scottish people. In fulfilling these duties, Scottish Forestry has an interest in all developments that have the potential to impact on local forests and woodlands and/or the forestry sector. Scottish Forestry (SF), acts as governments Regulator and Competent Authority with regard to the sustainable management of forests and woodland in Scotland. It is also Key Agency under Town & Country Planning legislation, and will be consulted on development impacting trees, woods and forests to ensure that any proposed changes to the woodland are appropriate, address the requirements of the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Removal Policy and are carried out in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard.

Consultation Comments

The main issue of concern to SF in relation to Development Planning is that of deforestation and the potential effects it could have on the ecology and landscape of local and wider environs. Scottish Planning Policy paragraph 218, issued by the Scottish Government, refers to the Control of Woodland Removal Policy which seeks to protect the existing forest resource in Scotland, and supports woodland removal only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits. A proposal for compensatory planting may form part of the determination.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 also places a responsibility on Local Authorities to identify how it will protect, enhance and improve the resilience of its woodlands and should take cognisance of this when making planning decisions that could reduce or detrimentally effect their woodland extent.

With regard to Application P/21/0046/FUL/ONLINE, we would offer the following observations:

1. The area proposed for development is designated as woodland on OS Base maps, listed within the National Forest Inventory and the Native Woodland Survey for Scotland and as such should remain that way.

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

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd



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2. Part of the development area (0.66ha) is covered under Felling Permission FPA 6718 granted by Scottish Forestry on 13th December 2019. Though this gave permission for a portion of the woodland to be felled, it also placed a legal obligation on the Landowner to restock the same area with Sitka spruce, Birch and Scots pine by 30/6/2022.
3. The supporting Planning Statement makes no mention of Felling Permission FPA 6718 nor the legal restock obligation, noting only *"The site is mostly formed from cleared woodland and could be considered as rounding-off the village at the north-western end of Glen Road"* and nothing of the additional felling of woodland that would be required to enable the development.
4. We would highlight that any proposal to change land use from that of a woodland to another development would be considered deforestation under the EIA Forestry Scotland legislation, and therefore must be screened accordingly.
5. Where deforestation is proposed as part of a development, the Control of Woodland Removal Policy would apply. As such suitable planning conditions to deliver compensation for any woodland removal must be applied.

Reflecting comments presented above Scottish Forestry would expect to see Compensatory Planting equal to the total area removed to facilitate the development. This should be directed by an approved Compensatory Planting Plan that meets the UK Forestry Standard and conditioned as part of the approval. We would be happy to supply the Landowner with a list of Forestry Agents able to carry out such an undertaking or one could be sought from the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

If you would like to discuss any points raised further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your Sincerely

Sasha Laing MSc MIC For

Planning and Regulations Manager
Scottish Forestry