


Report on	Consultation on Forest Service afforestation proposal
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 9 th April 2024
Reporting Officer	Lorraine Moon
Contact Officer	Melvin Bowman

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members of a statutory consultation received from Forest Service, an Agency of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) in relation to an afforestation proposal at Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>PROJECT DETAILS</p> <p>Townland and Location: Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh</p> <p>Project Type: Afforestation (Native woodland)</p> <p>Project Area: 8.73ha</p>
2.2	Forest Service on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) is required to form an opinion under the EIA (Forestry) Regulations as to whether the above project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
2.3	They have consulted with Mid Ulster District Council as a Statutory Consultee requesting any information relating to this project or considerations the Council may have which would assist them in providing an opinion in accordance with the Regulations.
2.4	Forest Service have included an initial screening of this project in respect of the Forestry EIA Regulations and is based on limited data only.
2.5	The consultation was received by email on 19 th March and a response is requested within 14 days. Forest Service on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) is required to form an opinion under the EIA (Forestry) Regulations as to whether the above project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Forest Service have requested views on this project proposal which MUDC consider may be of assistance in providing an opinion in respect of the Regulations.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The proposed afforestation scheme is located at Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh xy co-ords 248705 374687 – see map 1 below.
3.2	
	Map 1. Screenshot of project area provided by Forest Service.
3.3	The proposal is an afforestation proposal, for the provision of new woodlands in a project area of 8.73hectares. We note the proposal is for native woodland.
3.4	In addition to the features identified in Forest Service’s screening report, which is attached in appendix 1, we have the following comments to make.
3.5	According to DFI Rivers Flood Map the proposal site is not affected by any existing flooding issues or potentially by any climate change flooding issues. However it should be noted that the site is within the Camowen Water Catchment Area and a watercourse runs along the western boundary of the site.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human:
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of this report and agree to issue the consultation response attached in appendix 2.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Appendix 1 – Forest Service Screening matrix- Appendix 2 – Consultation Response to Forest Service from MUDC (Draft – To be agreed)

Appendix 1

Screening Matrix for Afforestation Projects

File	ERA23/24-79
Townland and location, xy co-ordinates	Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh xy 248705 374687 H 48705 74687
Project Type	Afforestation
Block/Area	8.73ha
Type of woodland; Species; provenance of native species	Mixed Native Broadleaves with SP & Open Space
Ground Preparation & Drainage & Chemical application	Hinge Mound & No Drainage, Comply with UKFS Soil & Water Guidelines Tree Guards on Broadleaf Species
Land Use	Agriculture, Grazing & Silage
Soil type (refer to peat depth >50cm)	SWG2, SWHG
Vegetation	Mixed Grass, Rushes & Hedgerows
Water (Incl Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchment)	Camowen Water Catchment Area. Watercourse on Boundary
Designated areas - Within a 2km radius of project - SAC,SPA, ASSI, RAMSAR, hen harrier breeding sites, breeding wader sites. Within 1km – red grouse. Within 100 m - SLNCI, AWI, fens. Within AONB Within or adjacent to NNR	Sperrin AONB 830m from site boundary, BWader sites x5, 50m, 503m, 580m, 580m, 989m from site
Is an assent/ Habitats Regulations Assessment required?	No (Sperrin AONB 830m from site boundary, BWader sites x5, 50m, 503m, 580m, 580m, 989m from site)
Non-designated priority habitats (see NIEA website);	None

Breeding Sites (priority species and species of conservation concern, species protected under Wildlife (NI) Order); Veteran trees and Deadwood. Grassland priority habitats. Champion trees.	
Built Heritage/ Archaeological Features Scheduled monuments /SMRs/ listed buildings within 50m of site boundary) Check Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ASAI - Areas of Special Archaeological Interest	None within 50m
Topography, Landscape Character Assessments & Impacts	Site within Landscape Character Area Camowen Valley / Bessy Bell & Gortin & Regional Landscape Character Area Omagh Basin
Mitigating measures (eg Design, water buffers, timing of operation etc)	SS & NS in Planting Plan 5.0 but not in Prescription 5.1 (looks like copy paste error)
Screening by/ Date	George McFarland, 15/11/23
Result of NIEA (and where appropriate other) consultations	
Opinion – Relevant/ Not relevant	
Reasons for Opinion	
Signed by/ Date	

Screenshot of project area below including notable GIS features against ortho backdrop

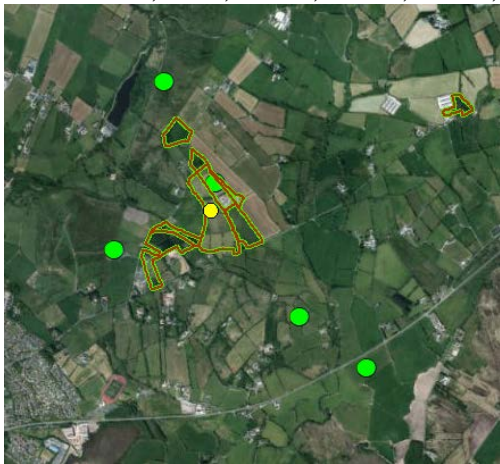
Site Boundary



Sperrin AONB 830m from site boundary



BWader x5, 50m, 503m, 580m, 580m, 989m from site



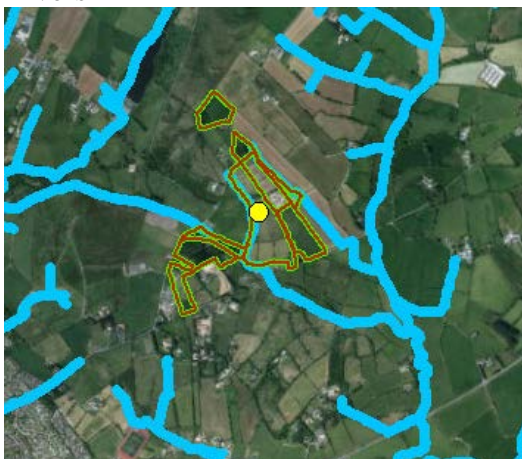
Register of Parks, Gardens & Demesnes >2.7km



Industrial Heritage >150m+



Rivers



NIE



Medium Priority Land



Medium Priority Woodland Planting



Listed Buildings >540m House





Mid Ulster District Council
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Local Development Plan Team
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BT45 6EN
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Email: developmentplan@midulstercouncil.org

Mr Brendan Mulholland
Forest Officer
Brendan.mulholland@daera-ni.gov.uk
By email only

Your Ref: ERA23/24-79
Date: 22/03/2024

Dear Brendan,

Re: Afforestation Project at Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19th March relating to the EIA screening of a proposed afforestation scheme at Tirquin, Killyclogher, Omagh. Mid Ulster District Council note the contents of your assessment of the site contained within the attached Screening Matrix. In addition to the information provided within your documentation and having carried out an assessment of the site and location, the Council have no comments to add for the purposes of this EIA screening exercise. Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Mr Melvin Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning MUDC.