


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?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	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 Drumconready, Draperstown.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>PROJECT DETAILS</p> <p>Townland and Location: Drumconready, Draperstown</p> <p>Project Type: Afforestation (Native woodland)</p> <p>Project Area: 5.1ha</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	<p>The proposed afforestation scheme is located at Drumconready, Draperstown xy co-ords 279274 399168 – see map 1 below.</p>  <p>Map 1. Screenshot of project area provided by Forest Service.</p>
3.2	<p>The proposal is an afforestation proposal, for the provision of new woodlands in a project area of 5.1hectares. We note the proposal is for native woodland.</p>
3.3	<p>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.</p>
3.4	<p>The proposal site is located within the Sperrin AONB, Coolnasillagh SLNCI is within the proposal site.</p>
3.5	<p>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 Moyola Water Catchment Area, Watercourses run along the western boundary of the site.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p>

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

File	ERA23/24-52
Townland and location, xy co-ordinates	Drumconready, Draperstown xy 279274 399168 H 79274 99168
Project Type	Afforestation
Block/Area	5.1ha
Type of woodland; Species; provenance of native species	Native Broadleaves & SP
Ground Preparation & Drainage & Chemical application	No Ground Prep, Tree Guards with Bamboo Cane
Land Use	Agricultural Grassland
Soil type (refer to peat depth >50cm)	SWG2
Vegetation	Agricultural Grassland, Some Gorse & Rush
Water (Incl Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchment)	Moyola Water Catchment Area, Watercourses at Boundary of site. All operations to conform to UKFS
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	Within Sperrin AONB, Coolnasillagh SLNCI within site
Is an assent/ Habitats Regulations Assessment required?	No
Non-designated priority habitats (see NIEA website); Breeding Sites (priority species and species of conservation concern, species protected under Wildlife (NI) Order); Veteran trees and Deadwood. Grassland priority habitats.	There are native trees on boundary of site. The new additional native woodland will complement this.

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 with 50m
Topography, Landscape Character Assessments & Impacts	Site within Landscape Character Area Upper Moyola Valley & Regional Landscape Character Area Sperrins
Mitigating measures (eg Design, water buffers, timing of operation etc)	Consider using local seed source for area close to Ancient/Long Established Woodland or prepare ground for Natural Regeneration to facilitate Ancient/Long Established Woodland expansion
Screening by/ Date	George McFarland, 07/11/23
Result of NIEA (and where appropriate other) consultations	In summary, no NIEA objections to this proposal.
Opinion – Relevant/ Not relevant	DRAFT Not relevant.
Reasons for Opinion	No priority habitats, species or features of cultural interest will be affected by this proposal.
Signed by/ Date	DRAFT B Mulholland 19/3/24



Appendix 2

Mid Ulster District Council
Planning Department
Local Development Plan Team
50 Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN
Tel – 03000 132 132
Email: developmentplan@midulstercouncil.org

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

Your Ref: ERA23/24-52
Date: 22/03/2024

Dear Brendan,

Re: Afforestation Project at Drumconready, Draperstown.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19th March relating to the EIA screening of a proposed afforestation scheme at Drumconready, Draperstown.

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.