



By email to: futureforestry@gov.scot

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Our Case ID: 201603167
08 November 2016

Dear Sirs

The Future of Forestry in Scotland A Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation document for the Future of Forestry in Scotland. Historic Environment Scotland offer the following comments on the proposals put forward in the consultation document. These comments have also been provided through the online consultation questionnaire.

General Comments

We recognise the areas of mutual interest regarding forest management and policy and the historic environment and look forward to continue working with the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) and proposed successive arrangements.

Historic Environment Scotland have recently been drafting an updated Joint Working Agreement with the FCS. In updating this agreement we are committed to working together with the FCS in contributing towards the delivery of both the Scottish Forestry Strategy and Our Place in Time. We note the proposed organisational changes outlined within the consultation document and welcome the opportunity to continue working closely with all stakeholders in the forestry sector across a wide range of interests.

New Organisational Arrangements in Scotland

What do you think a future land agency for Scotland could and should manage and how might that best be achieved?

We would encourage consideration of how the new agency could contribute to the aims of Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland as well as the Scottish Forestry Strategy. Proactive management and access to the historic environment within forestry should be encouraged. This would also help to ensure that the historic environment, which is currently well placed within the Scottish Forestry Strategy and its associated suite of historic environment documents continues to play a significant role in the management and promotion of forestry in Scotland.

Legislation and Regulation

Recognising the need to balance economic, environmental and social benefits of forestry, what are your views of the principles set out above?

We note that you are minded to include legislative provision for the flexibility to use National Forest Estate land for a variety of purposes, moving beyond the current restriction to tree-related activities. We would welcome the widening of this duty and would expect work in this area to be informed by the outcomes and objectives of the Scottish Forestry Strategy as they relate to the historic environment.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Andrew Stevenson and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Stevenson
Senior Casework Officer