

Mr Nick Kempe
23 Queen Square
Glasgow
G41 2GB

Via e mail: nickkempe1@gmail.com

**Forest Enterprise
Head Office Scotland**

1 Highlander Way
Inverness Business Park
Inverness IV2 7GB

Tel/Fòn 0300 067 6000
fescotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Árd-Oifigear/Chief Executive
Simon Hodge FICFor

Our Ref: SEC-17-56

22 September 2017

Dear Mr Kempe

WORKS IN COILESSAN GLEN, ARGYLL FOREST PARK

Thank you for your email, received on 30 August, in relation to the road work at Coilessan Glen.

This work was started last year as part of a programme of forest road maintenance to allow access for timber lorries in the event of the tree disease *Phytophthora ramorum* being discovered in Ardgartan Forest in the near future.

This road maintenance operation includes the removal of vegetation which has colonised the road structure, clearing vegetation from the roadside ditches, replacing damaged or undersized culvert pipes, grading the road to concentrate the surfacing stone and compacting the surface to create a smooth running surface. In some cases additional stone will be brought onto the road to create the depth of stone required to support the traffic using the road and this was the case for the road in Coilessan Glen. All of these activities take place within the original "footprint" of the road, with the surface of the road remaining as a water bound crushed rock surface.

We do acknowledge that the road may appear to be wider; however this is as a result of vegetation being removed to reveal the original formation width, which is approximately 6 – 7 metres wide.

The road maintenance operation is not yet complete in Coilessan Glen; the final surfacing stone has yet to be placed on the road to create the final running surface, which will be much narrower in width. This final stage is scheduled to be completed towards the end of this calendar year.

It is our experience that in a short time after maintenance is complete, the “shoulders” of the road will again colonise with vegetation, reducing the visual impact that the road currently has, with the consolidated road being an acceptable walking surface.

Forest Enterprise Scotland is aware of the requirements of the Planning Authority, and seeks to fully comply at all times. Prior Notifications and full Planning Applications are submitted when required, with any conditions imposed being implemented as directed.

In the circumstances regarding this specific forest road we do not consider that a Prior Notification was required, as the road is not being altered as described in the Scottish Government Guidance on Prior Notification, but is being maintained.

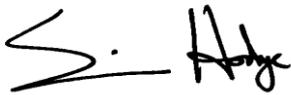
You also raised some concerns in relation to the management of the Argyll Forest Park and how it fits with National Park objectives; particularly with the recent clearfelling in Glen Croe.

Forest Enterprise Scotland works closely with the National Park to ensure that the Park’s objectives are considered during the production of land management plans for the various forest areas throughout the Park.

The felling at Glen Croe has been undertaken as part of the delivery of an approved Land Management Plan. The clearfell at the bottom of the Rest & be Thankful will be replanted with native woodland, but with slope stability as the main objective. The current felling at the top of the Rest will be partially re-established with native woodland; however the majority of the replanting will be with productive conifer species to help meet timber production objectives on the National Forest Estate.

I trust that this provides some clarity and background into how we have conducted the road maintenance and our future plans for finishing this work and in relation to the future replanting at Glen Croe.

Yours sincerely



Simon Hodge

Chief Executive