

EIR 2020/013 Appendix A – correspondence held on unlawful tree felling

From: Modern apprentice
Sent: 13 January 2020 13:29
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: XXXX-XXX-XXX

XXXXXX

I just got a call from a member of the public, her name was XXXX (pronounced something like “XXXX” or “XXXX”), she didn’t want to give her surname. She was wondering who was responsible for the cutting down of over 100 trees at McGregor’s landing near the Drovers Inn. She says she couldn’t see any signs of who was responsible etc.

Kind regards,
XXXXXXXXXX

Modern Apprentice

From: XXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]
Sent: 21 January 2020 09:06
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Cc: XXXXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot
Subject: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling
XXXXXXX

XXXXXXand XXXXXtook a look at the site yesterday (thanks for notifying us) and it would appear that we have an un-authorized felling case to investigate. The intention is for 3 of us to come over this Thursday (23rd) to carry out a full investigation and we would like to invite you along as well so that you are aware of the process that we have to go through and to also have your input into what you understand the site history is. If Nicola wants to join us as well that would be fine. So, would you and Nicola be free?

XXXXXX will give you a brief summary when you meet later today

Hopefully hear from you soon

XXXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser
Sent: 22 January 2020 10:56
To: Stuart Mearns <stuart.mearns@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Sandra Dalziel <sandra.dalziel@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXX <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Catherine Stewart <catherine.stewart@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Bob Cook <bob.cook@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Cc: Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXXXXXXXX <XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; James Downie <james.downie@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Leigh Hamilton <leigh.hamilton@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Nicola Colquhoun <nicola.colquhoun@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXXXXX <XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Subject: FW: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling

Dear All,

As a result of a phone call to the NPA, Scottish Forestry has started an un-authorized felling investigation at a site just north of Macgregor Landing, Ardlui.

There have been recent pre apps PRE/2019/0212 and PRE/2018/0250 and the site was/ is in WDC ownership.

I understand from their initial visit circa 2 ha of native woodland has be cut to waste. If SF can show that there has been a breach of the felling permission they will be able to issue a restocking order requiring replacement planting to be undertaken

Could I ask that you highlight this to your team and should they notice any further works on site let myself and XXXXXXXX, Scottish Forestry know (XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot)
Any queries let me know.
Many Thanks

Trees and Woodland Adviser

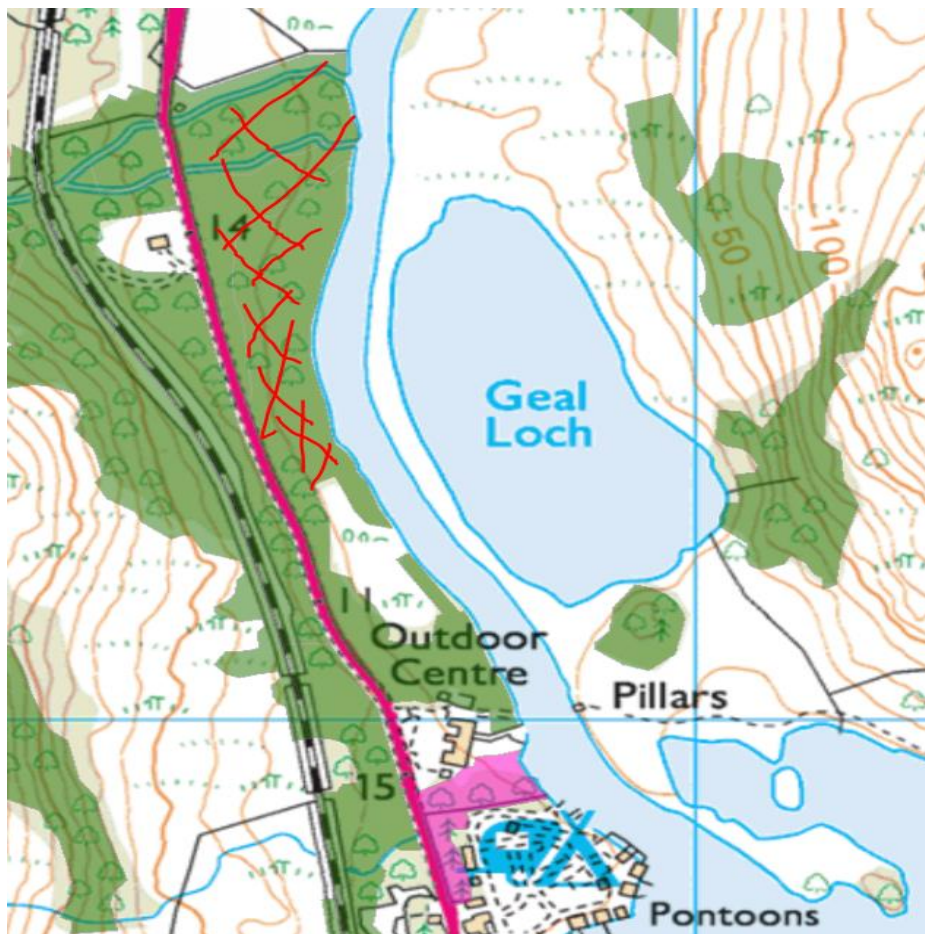
From: James Downie
Sent: 22 January 2020 13:31
To: Rangers <Rangers@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Cc: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: FW: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling

Hi,

Please see below an email from XXXXXX highlighting un-authorized felling at Ardlui. If you are in the area please keep an eye out and report any concerns to XXXXX.

Regards

Jim



From: XXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 27 January 2020 09:18

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: Ardlui selected site photos

Email attachments – 7 site photos

XXXXXX

As discussed

XXXXX

Operations and Development Officer

Scottish Forestry

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 05 February 2020 14:38

To: XXXXXX <XXXXXX@scotland.pnn.police.uk>

Cc: XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: FW: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling

Email attachment – WDC title - Loch Lomond Outdoor Centre, Ardlui

XXXXX

As discussed, see location of illegal felling reported to the NP and Scottish Forestry in January.

SF are currently undertaking an investigation in to the felling

If you or any of your colleagues notice any activity in this area please contact Scottish Forestry on XXXXXXXXXX and let myself know as well.

Many Thanks

XXXXXX

From: XXXXXXXXXn@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 06 February 2020 08:36

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser; Stuart Mearns ; XXXXXXXXX

Subject: RE: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling

XXXXXX

Just to update you

I wrote to each of the Directors of SSH Trading Ltd who own the area of land at Ardlui but got no response. Yesterday a XXXXXX XXXXXXphoned to advise that he had been instructed by the Directors to respond to me. XXXXXX is the Architect who wrote to XXXX xxxxx at the Nat park on 4 September 2018 re a potential spa development at the site before it was sold in Nov 2018 and subsequently resold on April 2019. Interesting that his name has popped up again !!! He also advised me that he will be contacting XXXXXX XXXX for an independent assessment of what has been felled. I have subsequently asked

1. Who instructed the felling?
2. Why was the felling instructed?
3. What are the plans for the site?
4. Who carried out the work on the site?

Will keep you updated

XXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 06 February 2020 17:02

To: 'XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot' <XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>; Stuart Mearns <stuart.mearns@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXXXX <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Cc: Simon Jones <simon.jones@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: RE: Ardlui Un-authorized Felling

XXXXX,

Many thanks for the update, please kept us posted with any updates.

I was contacted yesterday by the Woodland Trust about the site and explained that we're aware of it as was Scottish Forestry.

Regards

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 21 February 2020 11:57

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: Ardlui

XXXXXX

Please see the attached from the site owners representative at Ardlui. Aspects of it require pinches of salt but it does look like an admission of guilt to me. So where now

Before we issue a Restock Direction I would be grateful if you could discuss with your colleagues what an appropriate plan of action for the site would be. I am keen to get the branches and timber tidied up, but see no reason to remove from site as machinery may cause disturbance and damage. While the site may coppice, I also think that we should be pushing for some planting especially oak as there are very few on site and in theory there should be more, but it will be getting the right provenance. That's the basics but keen to have a NP input in to this.

Given what has happened here, we will also get the burden of a restock direction recorded in Registers of Scotland.

Looking forward to the collective wisdom on this one and getting it resolved

XXXXX

Operations and Development Officer

Scottish Forestry

From: XXXXXXr@ICDPArchitects.com [mailto:XXXXXX@ICDPArchitects.com]

Sent: 17 February 2020 11:40

To: XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: McGregors Landing, Ardlui, Arrochar - Illegal Felling

FAO: XXXXXXXX, Operations and Development Officer, Scottish Forestry.

XXXXXX

Further to our recent communications I confirm that XXXXXXXX visited site last Friday and reported to me on Monday . Following this consultation I decided it important that I also visit site to assess the impact on the owners future proposals.

1. The extent of works undertaken have come as a complete shock to the owners. The work was intended to simply allow access to survey the site for access by foot. This should have been described as "brashing access routes"
2. The work has been very poorly carried out because the trees have simply been felled and left lying with no attempt to create clear underfoot conditions. This was not what was intended. No felling was intended.
3. The owners were having the Walled Garden at Baronald House in South Lanarkshire cleared of self seeded whips, shrubs and trees as enabling works for development. This had been organised by XXXXXXXX on behalf of the owners. XXXXXXXX who had been involved in the acquisition at Ardlui and instructed the site labour to 'clear access' at Ardlui. When XXXXXXXX attended site and viewed what was happening he stopped works immediately otherwise the entire site would have been cleared.
4. The work was MOST definitely not intended to facilitate building works. The site has been acquired with the intention of developing Chalets and Tree Houses on approximately 6 acres at the North end of the site with raised walkways through the trees intertwined over the wet-land. The attraction of the site from a development perspective is the woodland and wetland character. The plan is for a substantial economic investment at the North end of Loch Lomond on this site. The EIA scoping is programmed to commence this Spring and the intention is to submit a Pre-Planning Application to the NPA by early summer and a full Planning Application sometime thereafter subject to the usual scope and scale of environmental and economic supporting documentation.
5. There has been a complete failure of communication between the owner's agent, XXXXXX and the labour. The agent's lack of familiarity with the site ensured that he was unable to be clear in describing what he wanted. There was a lack of any clear plan or properly specified contract.
6. The owner and agent are hugely embarrassed and apologise unreservedly.
7. In order to retrieve the situation the owner will employ a properly qualified woodland advisor and seek the advice of the LLTNP ecologist and other officials to determine whether there can be any environmental benefit from this activity ie the creation of sunny glades for invertebrates, improved public access? whilst ensuring that the area regenerates naturally. The owner will ensure guidance is followed which will possibly involve stacking the felled brash/trees in small piles to allow vegetation on the woodland floor to recover. Whilst not intended this bit of woodland has effectively been "coppiced" which is a recognised management tool and creates open glades which will be good for flowering plants and insects whilst the woodland grows back

from the cut stumps. In the first instance the owner intends to dear fence the entire site to promote regeneration.

8. The owner fully accepts that they are the liable party, and the agent fully accepts the blame for failing to properly instruct the contractor or seek the nuanced advice he would have received from his consultants.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further queries you may have at this time.

Kind regards

XXXXXXXX

ICDP Architects

From: XXXXXX <XXXXXX@eamonnwall.co.uk>

Sent: 07 February 2020 15:12

To: XXXXXX <XXXXXX@ICDPArchitects.com>

Subject: McGregors Landing, Ardlui, Arrochar - Illegal Felling

Dear XXXXXX

I visited the site this morning.

I was shocked at the devastation. The whole centre of the wood all the way from south to north has been felled, including between the two streams to the north. This was a particularly fine native woodland comprising alder, birch, willow and some oak.

Most trees are over 100mm minimum diameter required for a Felling Permission licence. So I would imagine Scottish Forestry will be rather upset to say the least.

It would take a good few hours to count all the felled trees and require two people, as it is dangerous clambering over felled trees often over very wet ground. There are hundreds of trees, possibly as many as 500-700.

A few photos attached.

Do we fee ICDP?

Regards

XXXXXX

XXXXXX

Woodland Design and Tree Management

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 25 February 2020 13:35

To: XXXXXXXX

Subject: RE: Ardlui

XXXXXX

Many thanks for the update, I'll speak to my colleagues and get back to you next week some point if that is ok?

Regards

XXXXXXXX

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 25 February 2020 13:35

To: Simon Jones <simon.jones@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Stuart Mearns <stuart.mearns@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Bob Cook <bob.cook@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXXXX <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: FW: Ardlui

Dear all,

Please see below email from SF regarding correspondence with the site agent. I'm broadly content with XXXXX outline proposal but will contact him for some clarification later this week.

Let me know if you have any queries

Thanks

XXXXXX

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 26 February 2020 07:27

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser @lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: RE: Ardlui

XXXXX

Yes that will be ok

XXXXX

Operations and Development Officer

Scottish Forestry

From: Alan Bell

Sent: 26 February 2020 09:45

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser @lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Simon Jones <Simon.Jones@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Stuart Mearns <stuart.mearns@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Bob Cook <bob.cook@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; XXXXX <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: RE: Ardlui

Trees and Woodland Adviser

Thanks for the update. XXXXX proposals sound about right to me too. Getting some planting done would be an important marker as well as useful for getting more oaks in.

Alan

Landscape and Ecology Manager

From: Simon Jones
Sent: 26 February 2020 10:39
To: Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>; Simon Jones <Simon.Jones@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: RE: Ardlui

Simon
Is/will the site be deer fenced? If not can SF ask for this?
Simon

From: Simon Jones
Sent: 26 February 2020 11:03
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser @lochlomond-trossachs.org
Cc: Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: RE: Ardlui

Trees and Woodland Adviser Ignore my last email, I can see from the original email that the owners plan to deer fence the area. I would ask that SF 'makes sure' that this happens.

Simon

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser
Sent: 28 February 2020 17:09
To: XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot' <XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ardlui

XXXXXX

I have been able to catch up with Alan and Simon Jones regarding this and the NPA are content with the general principle you have outline.

The NPA would welcome your proposal to supplement the coppice regrowth with additional planting of oak and other species which the site is lacking and agree with the importance of correct provenance.

I would agree there is no need for the felled timber to be removed from site, in fact is there any need for any "tidying up" of the site other than to enable the deer fence to be erected or is the brash lying over the cut stumps?

What sort of time scale are you able to issue the restocking notice, would it enable replanting to be required before this summer.

Give me a ring next week if you want to chat through any of this

Regards

XXXXXX

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Sent: 06 April 2020 14:37
To: XXXXXX <XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Ardlui Slte visit

Afternoon

I was just wondering if you have heard anything your end about being able to do a site visit ?

XXXXXXXX (and XXXXX) although currently a site visit to illegal felling site would feel like a holiday!

Hope all is well with you.

regards

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]
Sent: **06 April 2020 15:51**
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: RE: Ardlui Site visit

XXXXXX

We are still on travel restrictions but that might change this week

XXXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot <XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Sent: **30 March 2020 13:53**
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser
Cc: Alan Bell
Subject: RE: Ardlui Site visit

XXXXXX

No problem

XXXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot <XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Sent: **30 March 2020 13:42**
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser
Subject: RE: Ardlui Site visit

XXXXXX

We are confined to Barracks at present until we get a letter authorising us to travel. We need that in case stopped by the police, so sorry have to put a hold on things for a few more days

XXXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

-----Original Message-----

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Sent: **30 March 2020 13:39**

To: XXXXXX <XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXXX,

How's thing going with yourself.

I was wondering what your current guidance would mean in terms of getting to Ardlui?

If it is possible from your side let me know and hopefully the park will be happy for me to go. Alan understands the importance of getting the visit and mapping done but he would need to clear it with Simon J.

I have one of the tablets which I can link to our GIS team to get a shape file or map produced.

The only caveat is this is a short week for me XXXXXXXXX

Look forward to hearing from you

Take care

XXX

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot <XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>

Sent: **23 March 2020 10:10**

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Subject: RE: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXXXX

Everything is a movable feast at present, but yes, let's consider next week as an option

XXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Sent: **23 March 2020 09:47**

To: XXXXXX) <XXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX if you don't manage out this week I'll be able to meet you
next week some point XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
let me know how yo get on this week

Cheers

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot <XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Sent: **19 March 2020 10:06**
To: Trees and Woodland Adviser
Subject: RE: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXXXX

Thanks for letting me know and take care

XXXXX

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Sent: **19 March 2020 09:53**
To: XXXXXXXX <XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Subject: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXXX

XXX
XXXXXXXX so will not be able meet you on wednesday.

I think you will just have to use your handheld gps if you're wanting to to record the site in
the next couple of weeks.

Sorry

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Sent: **30 March 2020 13:52**
To: XXXXXXXX <XXXXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>
Cc: Alan Bell <alan.bell@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: Re: Ardlui Slte visit

XXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Would you be able have the letter explain that this visit is a joint one with the National Park
and also would yo be able to share the letter when you get it.
I would be able to notify the police within the park the purpose of the journey but understand
you need to get here before that is any use!

Let me know when you have the letter.

Regards

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: GIS Systems Officer

Sent: 11 May 2020 10:12

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: RE: quick chat about post collection processing of tarbet data

Sorry, wanted to make sure I had the photos downloaded too.

I have a safe copy of the tree felling data downloaded now.

Cheers,

XXXXXX

From: GIS Systems Officer

Sent: 11 May 2020 10:58

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Subject: RE: quick chat about post collection processing of tarbet data

..And added Hectares as an attribute (bottom of pop-up).

You'll also see more options in the edit widget (merge, cut, reshape). See [here](#) on how to use the widget.

This tool does support snapping (but won't snap to features on the basemap due to the nature of the data).

Cheers,

XXXXX

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 11 May 2020 12:58

To: GIS Systems Officer

Subject: Re: quick chat about post collection processing of tarbet data

great,

I'll let you know when I've finished the edits for Tarbet,

FYI it does not seem to enable you to split a polygon (well not in my hands!) so have

created two new polygons snapped to teh orginal one

With the data for Ardlui can you export it to a shape file and send it over to me

Many Thanks

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: GIS Systems Officer

Sent: 11 May 2020 14:00

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Subject: RE: quick chat about post collection processing of tarbet data

Attached Ardlui shp.

When you next need to do some splitting we can do a desktop share if you'd like?

Cheers,

XXXXXX

From: Trees and Woodland Adviser

Sent: 11 May 2020 17:28

To: XXXXXX<XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot>

Subject: Ardlui Illegal felled Site

Dear XXXXX,

Please find attached shape files for the above illegal felling site.

As discussed if the site was fenced the inclusion of the existing woodland would enable established of the natural regeneration outwith the felled areas.

Also on the dryer knolls there is a opportunity to established species such as hazel and oak while the bulk of the site would seem to be suitable for alder, willows, and downy birch.

The NPA would welcome the inclusion of such prescriptions in the restocking notice .

Regards

Trees and Woodland Adviser

From: XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot [mailto:XXXXXX@forestry.gov.scot]

Sent: 15 May 2020 08:04

To: Trees and Woodland Adviser <XXXXXXX@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Subject: Ardlui

Trees and Woodland Adviser

Please find attached a copy of the restock direction that I am issuing today for the land at Ardlui

Operations and Development Officer
Scottish Forestry