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| **By email to: gavinparkerpolmmod@gmail.com**  Mr Gavin Parker  Chair Tweedsmuir Community Council | Longmore House  Salisbury Place  Edinburgh  EH9 1SH  Deirdre.Cameron@hes.scot  T: 0131 668 8896  Our case ID: 300053582  25 August 2021 |

Dear Mr Parker

Tweedsmuir, Scottish Borders - Enquiry regarding HES criteria concerning response to applications for forestry planting.

Thank you for your letter of 13 August requesting advice on Historic Environment Scotland’s role in forest planning.

Our remit within the forestry planning process extends to offering information and advice on matters that would impact on cultural heritage assets of national importance

* Scheduled monuments and their settings
* Category A listed buildings and their settings
* Inventory gardens and designed landscapes
* Inventory battlefields
* World Heritage Sites
* Historic Marine Protected Areas

All other heritage assets – B and C listed buildings, undesignated archaeological or historic sites – fall within the remit of the Local Authority.

Where forestry proposals would have an unavoidable physical impact on a scheduled monument, such as felling mature trees within a monument, we have a regulatory role and we control activity through the scheduled monument consent process.

We are a statutory consultee for forestry applications submitted to Scottish Forestry, including planting proposals, felling licence applications and forest plans. Scottish Forestry do not consult us on all cases submitted to them, only those where they have identified a potential impact on a designated asset of national importance. Our role is to advise them whether the proposals will have an impact on any designated heritage assets and if we consider the proposals comply with the requirements and guidelines outlined in the UK Forestry Standard. For applications where there are concerns or problems, we recommend alternative options to ensure compliance with regulations, guidance and/or policy. The final decision on granting a consent or licence for forestry works lies with Scottish Forestry.

Historic Environment Scotland also offers free pre-application advice to foresters considering new planting or management works. We find this can be a particularly effective way of ensuring that woodland proposals address cultural heritage interests.

I appreciate this is a bit of a “whistle-stop tour” of our main roles in the forestry planning process, so if you have any further questions or comments please do not hesitate to ask. The following links to our website may also be helpful.

[Historic Environment Scotland’s Role in Planning | Hist Env Scotland](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/our-role-in-planning/) - although this is about the development planning process a lot of the issues and practices mentioned are equally applicable to forestry planning.

[Working With Other Public Bodies | Historic Environment Scotland](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/working-with-other-public-bodies/) - this page has a link to a working agreement between HES and the Forestry Commission. Although it has been superseded by the creation of Scottish Forestry from the Forestry Commission, the basic principles will remain the same.

[Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting | HES | History](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549) - impacts on setting are the main issue we address in our comments on forestry works. This document explains what setting is and how we assess impacts on it.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Cameron

**Historic Environment Scotland**