

Mon 12/07/2021 11:12
To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk
I approve the minute of 24th June 2021



Chair of Assynt Foundation

Thu 22/07/2021 11:45
To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Hi there, just to confirm that I am content that the issues I raised in the meeting are recorded properly in the minute and the issues log.

Kind regards,



 | Area Officer, South Highland
NatureScot

Tue 20/07/2021 13:18
To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Deer all,

I would just like to confirm that the issues I brought up are all mentioned in the text and minutes, although I would like to mention some of the WTS commentary on them which I think is misleading, below.

In addition, I note that Ramblers Scotland are suggested as a consultee, but there appears to be no record of correspondence with them. Mountaineering Scotland have restricted their comments to the mountains only, but I would have thought that the Ramblers would be more appropriate for access takers within the general area affected.

Also, interesting that John Muir Trust have not taken a view, given their interest in wild land and their policy of not using fencing in preference to deer management.

VC Comments

1. Under Hi1, there was no discussion on EB enclosures in 2018. I did have detail on all other properties and what they were planning for the C- SA deer plan. Certainly, no suggestion of a fence like this. Recent correspondence obtained confirms project team were advising that the project be kept confidential in early 2020. Hence, no consultation before funding was awarded. This has been the experience for all those not closely involved with project development.
2. Under Dm3, I would re- emphasize need for a deer plan done at the Coigach- South Assynt level, and that this should be done BEFORE any consent is given, and evaluated at that point. The DMP is not an after thought, and must welcome feedback from neighbours who may either be impacted, or on whom obligations will be placed.

3. Under Dm5, I am happy to show WTS project team and/ or Scottish Forestry some examples of good woodland regeneration in North Assynt without the need for fences.
4. Under Wc3, comment that birch regen elsewhere is only present in areas of high visitor presence is not correct. The correlation is very definitely with areas of cattle tramping and grazing.
5. Under Ag2, the comment says "cattle only on ground in summer". If Inverpolly were looking to expand the regeneration using cattle to scarify the ground on EB, then it is likely that the more effective time period would extend in to autumn and early winter. I.e. The time of year when trampling etc is more effective, but this would create a problem along fences which would then be in the way of traditional/ habitual cattle movements.
6. Under Ag3, the tenant has a legal right to graze livestock on EB. Any plan has to take account of that. Nature Scot cannot simply deny legal rights.
7. Finally, under Dm8, an economic assessment needs to be done as part of this evaluation process, not after consent is given. It is part of the evaluation process, and which will require consultation with neighbours. The Nature Scot/ ADMG assessment process asks that "Where significant changes in management are being planned, an assessment of the economic impacts should be carried out". Nature Scot have a template for this. It is convoluted and complicated, but is the only economic assessment guide that I have seen yet.

Regards,



Fri 23/07/2021 12:03
 To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk
 Dear WTS

Ag 1. This refers to points below and the fact that legally the tenancy might not be effected but practically it will as what was one area will be divided by a fence and therefore require more management.

1. Our cattle are used to wandering free over the hill. They will track the fence and start doing damage rather than improving the habitat. The fence into Loch Buine Moire will be a hazard when cattle try to walk/swim around the end of the fence. The rocky shore can damage their legs and swimming is dangerous for young calves mixed in with cows. We will have to spend a lot of time and mileage checking the cows are not stuck at the grid.

Ag 2. reassess WTS response. Cattle will always track fence and perhaps spend too much time in Loch an Sal instead of moving through towards Eisg Brachaidh. Acknowledge welfare issues of fence in to loch.

2. These comments are in response to WTS implying SNH will stop us increasing cattle and sheep numbers.
3. Vi 7. WTS have not mapped the access route for the South side. Where will this go?
5. Hi5. Hi 6. There is considerable regeneration to the North and South of the fence which is going to suffer increased impacts.
6. Dm 9 -12. WTS indicated reduction cull would only happen "in season". What dates will the cull be limited to? The normal hind season?(out of season for stags). The fence

will be kept back an average of 15m from the Loch sides. What is the minimum distance?

What evidence has WTS looked at to suggest this is far enough for deer to feel free to travel what is quit a long way around either the Fionn Loch or Sionascaig? WTS have said themselves that some deer will travel around the ends of the fence in Loch Buine Moire to be shot inside the fence therefore it is a deer trap. A revised sub group DMP is need to show the effects of this proposal on neighbours and what would be required of them to mitigate the huge impact a fence of this size will have.

7. I also mentioned the 4 options for EB as in my email to [REDACTED] 8/12/20.

WTS have reduced these to 6 words. There are other options which need to be considered.

8. Bi2 Bi3. Current bird survey not very good if it did not find Green Shank. Where will carrion for eagles come from when WTS have killed all the deer?

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]