

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: RE: Eisd Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact
Date: 21 September 2020 17:24:00

Hi Graeme,

The procurement levels are in Annex 2 of the Funding Offer and for a project this size:
£50,000 and above - advertise and full procurement tendering exercise

The works were advertised on Public Contracts Scotland for 40 days and received initial interest from 10 parties but only 1 quote was submitted.

The applicant has met the grant conditions for the Biodiversity Challenge Fund,

Jimmy

From: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2020 12:19
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: Eisd Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact
Importance: High

Hi jimmy,

I will have a stab at dealing with-

Fencing difficulties

Collaboration/communication

EIA

DMP revision

Can you answer the bit about procurement rules?

We can work together to get a response out.

Thanks,

Graeme

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nativewoods.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk)> <[\[REDACTED\]@nativewoods.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk)>
Sent: 20 September 2020 10:42
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>;

[redacted]@msn.com; [redacted] <[redacted]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@outlook.com>

Subject: Eisd Brachaidh woodland scheme-[redacted] contact

Importance: High

Deer all,

EISG BRACHAIDH FENCING SCHEME- REQUEST TO DEFER OR WITHDRAW FUNDING

As you will be aware, there has been a considerable amount of information recently obtained under FOI by a local resident in Assynt, and this is now in the process of being more widely circulated.

I have spent some considerable time reading through this, and I am writing to all those Nature Scot personnel involved to ensure that they are hearing the alarm bells that are ringing loudly. The material suggests that at least some of you are. I am copying [redacted], the 2 X community councils, [redacted] of Woodland Trust and ADMG in to this. Some-one has to call this one in now.

In a practical sense, any major fencing scheme starting in November at the earliest cannot be completed with any confidence by March, never mind a scheme within the most remote and difficult terrain in Assynt, and against the context of the current pandemic, which is obviously now escalating quickly again. There are still many unknowns before we even get to that point.

The FOI material clarifies that only one tender was received for a £400,000 project, against all rules for public procurement, and specifically against the rules of this Biodiversity Challenge Fund which requires five tenders for sums over £50,000. More importantly, it is worth asking why nine out of ten expressions of interest decided not to tender for a £400,000 project. We have since received information from one interested, respected and experienced party saying that they decided not to pursue this contract because, amid other reasons, *"the terrain was very difficult, the project would be too hard to supervise and they were wary of the reputational damage to their company from what appeared to be a very controversial scheme"*

On the need or not for an Environmental Impact Assessment, I find it astonishing to believe that that is even being debated, and that there had been no consideration given to the need for this at the outset. The FOI suggests that the report I submitted in August contained the first mention of this. Any proper deliberation of the issues will deem that this is required, and any reasonable person could have foreseen this at the outset. The area, as you know, is covered by SSSI, SAC, SPA and NSA designations, as well as wildland status. How could an EIA not be required? There would be no oversight otherwise.

I note your own staff admit, even prior to recent adverse publicity, that this will be a controversial scheme.

I note there is an admission that the agricultural tenant does have a right to graze 561 sheep within the area, so what purpose will the fence achieve in this scenario? The browsing pressure may well increase, not decrease.

On the deer front, you describe the Sub area meeting on 18th July at which the proposal supposedly gained support. I have viewed the Zoom recording of this meeting which you already have the link to in full. What I see is a tense and very awkward discussion around a controversial proposal. I see no-one present who does not have an interest to declare in the project. Therefore, no decision or endorsement could have been made. No other DMG members are present.

There is a very misleading "line to take" that has been devised by your Communications officer, which says "the local DMG have decided to revise their deer plan and take account of revised site management and this should deal with any changes to local deer management".

This is not true. No such undertaking has been made, and it is quite wrong to imply, indeed state, that it has. I think there is a reluctance to believe that such a controversial scheme will go forwards. This "line to take" is designed to give re-assurance that the effects of this proposal can be mitigated, but no such plan exists, and no-one has been actioned to take this forward.

There is a statement within the FOI information that two of your key deer staff say that it is impossible for anyone to demonstrate that they have met expectations in relation to proper consultations on deer matters. This second hand comment may well not be correct in what it reports, but I can tell you as some-one who does woodland creation projects on a regular basis that it is very easy to write to deer groups as part of a scoping exercise and obtain feedback on whether they think they can adapt to and mitigate any such schemes. In this case, there has been no appropriate scoping, and you will have no feedback to the effect that this scheme can be mitigated and how. If anything, your feedback, particularly from the local community, will be quite the opposite, with both community councils locally writing to a range of politicians and others in a bid to get this project stopped or amended. There is no plan in place to deal with deer issues, other than vague reference to the principle of what should be done.

I further note, and this is a really important one, that the Woodland Trust say that they will carry out their deer cull in "one session", seemingly because that would be cheaper. (Email to Jimmy Hyslop dated 5th August from Woodland Trust). Nature Scot have apparently looked at this suggestion and given their consent to it, thereby effectively undermining the credibility of your entire organization. To be clear, this could be an internal cull of 2- 300 animals (according to WTS deer density claim in application) in one day, out of season, and within a key scenic area with a road running through it. There may be no market for the carcasses produced. Are you aware of this? If not, just run it through your prism of "How might that look?".

My overall impression of the FOI information is one of confusion and increasing panic, with no-one in control, especially in the last few weeks. The list of issues yet to be completed seems to get longer and longer. There are too many people in different places doing different things. The scheme is clearly identified as controversial and high risk, and the emphasis is more on public relations than practical considerations. It is clear to me that Nature Scot do not have the internal processes and structures to be dealing with large grant applications of this sort in the same way that Scottish Forestry do. To me, everyone on this email chain has been put in an unfair,

untenable and conflicted position in which they can only have their reputations destroyed.

Out of courtesy, and for your information, please be assured that all of this and more will be making its way in to a variety of Press outlets in the coming week, with the accompanying FOI information for verification and key comments clearly referenced so that they can be quickly located. The purpose of this is to bring pressure to bear to try and get this project on to a better timeline and analysed properly.

There is an alternative which you do seem to have discussed but dismissed, and that is to defer any payment to 2021/22, and give the people who know what they are doing the time to look at this properly. If it is not possible to do this, find a way. Bend your own rules if you have to. They are already getting bent in every way imaginable to try and push this scheme through.

My own view on all this has long been that this fence is not necessary. If this sort of money is available, then it could be used to transform deer management across all of Assynt, north and south, well beyond Eisd Brachaidh. The information you have received overstates the issues that need addressed in the interests of attaining grant funding. It is not a fair assessment of reality. To be fair to Woodland Trust, your Biodiversity Challenge Fund has encouraged them to take this approach, and nowhere within that scheme are the basic checks and balances that would allow the problems identified to be flagged up at an early stage prior to funding being awarded. That is an embarrassing failure of process.

I trust that some-one on this email chain can see the point being made here, and take the appropriate action before you damage your organization beyond repair. If you have concerns about this project, I suggest that you speak to your colleagues about it and not leave it to some-one else.

I have worded this email in the way that I have to ensure that this matter can be drawn to a conclusion quickly, and a space opened up to do this properly as soon as possible.

There is a much better, lower risk and cheaper way to do this, which a proper form of consultation would quickly highlight and inform.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] B Sc (Hons)

Native Woodland Advice

Tel: 01887 829 361

[REDACTED]

The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd

www.nativewoods.co.uk

Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2BS

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Tamara Lawton](#)
Cc: [Sinclair Coghill](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 21 September 2020 16:49:00

Hi Tamara,

According to the project timeline, the Woodland Trust was expecting to have a response from SF about whether an EIA was required and the SSSI consent. Have you received the relevant deer management plan yet and, if so, any idea when the consent will be issued?

Jimmy

From: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 September 2020 10:09
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy, [REDACTED] sent the info on 26th August. I am in the process of looking through the info for the HRA and the consent.

I asked for a deer management plan and whilst they have put the info on deer management within the text of the consent application, it isn't a plan per se, so I will be going back to them to ask for a separate document. However, I am aware they are also in the process of having to amend the DMG plan so trying not to make them do it twice. I therefore may need to wait until they have done that piece of work. I will see what they say and let you know.

Cheers,
Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2020 11:44
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Tamara,
Hope that you are well.

Looking at the timeline for the various stages in the run up to contractors starting, "[REDACTED] to submit finalised information for SSSI consent process" by 26 August. Did you receive all of the necessary information?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 mob: [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature
Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [FOI](#)
Cc: [Katherine Leys](#); [Graeme Taylor](#); [Tamara Lawton](#); [Sarah Hutcheon](#); [Rhoda Davidson](#)
Subject: RE: FOI - Eìsg Brachaidh
Date: 22 September 2020 10:36:00

Hi Sharon,
I have included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]' request and my amended response to both questions below,

Jimmy

From: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2020 08:15
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sarah Hutcheon <Sarah.Hutcheon@nature.scot>; Rhoda Davidson <Rhoda.Davidson@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - Eìsg Brachaidh

Jimmy

Although you have replied with the following, I need to make sure that we provide any and all information, relating to the information requested, to this requestor even though he/she may have already received information on an FOI request from another person, we are "applicant blind" so if we have information relating to this request we need to respond to him (as a new requestor) which means finding any information about that request and providing it. However, if we do not have that information we just need to say so and if you want to provide additional clarification on the information that we do or do not provide we can do so and this is where your comments with perhaps a little more detail might be just what we need but you should investigate/search for the information and let me/Sarah know, even if it seems we are repeating ourselves.

The original BCF application had the fence going around Loch Buine Mhoire and now it is going in to the Loch.

This leaves a big hole in the fence for deer to swim through.

I have seen no mention of this major change in any correspondence.

Please tell me when it was requested, when was it agreed, who did you consult and how?

1 The applicant has not mentioned that there is any proposed change to the line of the deer fence since the application stage, so there has been no need to consult anyone.

On 5/8/20 WT requested and on 6/8/20 you agreed to halve the budget for deer management.

Did you consult with anyone on this?

How could this be agreed without the Deer Management Plan which Tamara was still waiting for on 8/9/20?

2 On 5/8/20 Woodland Trust reported that, "it has been decided that deer control can be carried out in one session rather than two, which has decreased the cost of this element" and requested, "Would it therefore be possible to move funding from this line up to deer fencing?"

The applicant was confident that the same result could be obtained with a single session and, as the costs of the deer fencing had almost doubled from the estimate

provided at grant application stage, it seemed reasonable to re-assign this grant. I did not consult anyone as it was a grants matter relating to the work which can reasonably be completed by the end of March 2021.

I was unaware of proposed changes to the Deer Management Plan discussed at the Deer Management Group local sub-group meeting until shortly before the (then) SNH meeting on 18 August.

Sharon

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 15:52

To: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Sharon,

Please let me know what sort of further information you are looking for,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature

Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 13:13

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton

<Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sarah Hutcheon <Sarah.Hutcheon@nature.scot>

Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>; Chris Donald <Chris.Donald@nature.scot>;

Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; MEDIA <MEDIA@nature.scot>

Subject: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Importance: High

Sarah/Jimmy/Tamara

Cc Kath Leys/Chris Donald/Graeme Taylor

Ccc: Media Team – To note additional requests for information relating to Eisg Brachaidh

Sarah/Jimmy/Tamara – There are Two new, but separate requests, for information relating to Eisg Brachaidh, one is requesting information relating to the proposed fencing the other is requesting a copy of the Eisg Brachaidh Deer Management Plan, this is from a different requestor than the most recent response. Jimmy has provided a response to the information relating to the fencing although I would appreciate further information before we respond fully to that request. We will be required to respond to both requests by the

19 October 2020.

Kath/Chris/Graeme – Please be aware that two further requests for information on Eisg Brachaidh have now been received with a final date to respond of the 19 October 2020.

Sarah would normally be the FOI Case Officer for these requests but she is currently off at the moment so I will take them forward until her return.

Sharon

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 22 September 2020 11:12:00

Hi [REDACTED],

Any response from Scottish Forestry on whether an EIA is requested?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot) | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature*

Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Graeme Taylor](#); [Sinclair Coghill](#); [Holly Deary](#); [Francesca Osowska](#); [Eileen Stuart](#); [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Tamara Lawton](#); [Dominic Shann](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact- Audit Scotland
Date: 23 September 2020 15:23:47

Deer all,

Further to this email below, and after taking advice, I have been asked to inform you that we have reported this matter today to Audit Scotland.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] B Sc (Hons)

Native Woodland Advice

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd

www.nativewoods.co.uk

Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2BS

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk <[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2020 10:42
To: 'Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot' <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; 'Graeme Taylor' <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; 'Sinclair Coghill' <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; 'Holly Deary' <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; 'Francesca Osowska' <ceo@nature.scot>; 'Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot' <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; 'Katherine.Leys@nature.scot' <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>; 'Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot' <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; 'Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot' <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; 'Dominic.Shann@nature.scot' <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED]@msn.com' <[REDACTED]@msn.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact
Importance: High

Deer all,

EISG BRACHAIDH FENCING SCHEME- REQUEST TO DEFER OR WITHDRAW FUNDING

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do this, find a way. Bend your own rules if you have to. They are already getting bent in every way imaginable to try and push this scheme through.

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I trust that some-one on this email chain can see the point being made here, and take the appropriate action before you damage your organization beyond repair. If you have concerns about this project, I suggest that you speak to your colleagues about it and not leave it to some-one else.

I have worded this email in the way that I have to ensure that this matter can be drawn to a conclusion quickly, and a space opened up to do this properly as soon as possible.

There is a much better, lower risk and cheaper way to do this, which a proper form of consultation would quickly highlight and inform.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] B Sc (Hons)

Native Woodland Advice

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd

www.nativewoods.co.uk

Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2BS

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Audit Scotland
Date: 24 September 2020 17:21:00

Hi Kath,
On point 2,

“Response: An FOI request, by default, only reveals written material. A site visit with NatureScot staff was held with staff from Scottish Forestry who advised that, in their opinion, an EOI would not be required. It is stated in the terms and conditions of grant from NatureScot that it is the responsibility of the grant applicant to ensure that all statutory permissions and consents are obtained, and offers are made on that basis. By accepting the grant offer they sign a contract confirming that this is the case.”

Should we be clearer that, in this case, it is Scottish Forestry’s responsibility to consider whether an EIA is required?

In discussion with Area staff they mentioned a meeting last year between Woodland Trust and Scottish Forestry where WT staff were advised that, in SF’s opinion, an EOI would not be required. I don’t know whether this is the same meeting, but it demonstrates that the matter has been considered well in advance.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 mob: [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | Scotland’s Nature
Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Sent: 24 September 2020 16:23
To: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Audit Scotland

Hi Graeme and Jimmy,

We need to prepare a point by point rebuttal of the Audit Scotland referral for Francesca. I have put together the attached. Perhaps you could have a look at it and see if it is correct.

We also need to reply to his email of 20th September. It is getting difficult to keep a handle on who is doing what. We will have to reply if no one has been back in touch.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |



nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*
I promote our equality and diversity commitment. Pronouns: she/ her / hers

If you want to speak to me face to face you can video-call me via -



In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [MEDIA](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Katherine Leys](#); [MEDIA](#); [Jason Ormiston](#)
Cc: [Robbie Kernahan](#); [Sally Thomas](#); [Graeme Taylor](#); [Donald Fraser](#); [Stan Whitaker](#)
Subject: RE: Eisd Brachaidh: media line
Date: 24 September 2020 14:22:58

Thanks, Jimmy.

This is the version, approved by Sally, that I now plan to issue to media; and Greener comms for info:

"We expect that the Woodland Trust, which leads this project, will continue its local discussion as the scheme progresses, and comply with statutory requirements for a scheme of this type, prior to work commencing. The local Deer Management Group has discussed changing its deer management plan to take into account revised site management at Eisd Brachaidh."


"We have been involved in discussions on the future of this site including different fencing options for a number of years prior to this application. These works were advertised as per government requirements on Public Contracts Scotland and only one quote was submitted. That fencing work has not yet started."

"Sustainable deer management across Scotland is essential in helping address the climate emergency and biodiversity loss. We continue to work with partners such as Scottish Forestry, deer managers and environment groups, such as the Woodland Trust, to strengthen and develop approaches to manage deer, as well as encourage and protect woodland planting, across Scotland. That way, we can meet the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change."

Best,

Cat

Cat Synnot | Publicity Manager

NatureScot | Silvan House, 231 Costorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT | 0131 316 2606/ 

nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: 24 September 2020 14:11

To: Cat Synnot <Cat.Synnot@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; MEDIA <MEDIA@nature.scot>; Jason Ormiston <Jason.Ormiston@nature.scot>

Cc: Stan Phillips <Stan.Phillips@nature.scot>; Robbie Kernahan <Robbie.Kernahan@nature.scot>; Sally Thomas <Sally.Thomas@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Donald Fraser <Donald.Fraser@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: Eisd Brachaidh: media line

Hi Cat,

Woodland Trust is an organisation, so I suggest "which leads".

Have changed Forestry Scotland to Scottish Forestry, below.

Jimmy

From: Cat Synnot <Cat.Synnot@nature.scot>

Sent: 24 September 2020 14:06

To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; MEDIA <MEDIA@nature.scot>; Jason Ormiston <Jason.Ormiston@nature.scot>

Cc: Stan Phillips <Stan.Phillips@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Robbie Kernahan <Robbie.Kernahan@nature.scot>; Sally Thomas <Sally.Thomas@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Donald Fraser <Donald.Fraser@nature.scot>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh: media line

Hi everyone,

Kirstin has now gone on sick leave. I'll take over looking after this comment. Can we confirm you're all content with this version?

Donald, if you would like this to be shared with nature conservancy - once finalised - please can a member of your team pass it on, or send me contact details and I'll do this?

Thanks,

Cat

"We expect that the Woodland Trust, which leads this project, will continue its local discussion as the scheme progresses, and comply with statutory requirements for a scheme of this type, prior to work commencing. The local Deer Management Group has discussed changing its deer management plan to take into account revised site management at Eisg Brachaidh."

"We have been involved in discussions on the future of this site including different fencing options for a number of years prior to this application. These works were advertised as per government requirements on Public Contracts Scotland and only one quote was submitted. That fencing work has not yet started."

"Sustainable deer management across Scotland is essential in helping address the climate emergency and biodiversity loss. We continue to work with partners such as Scottish Forestry, deer managers and environment groups, such as the Woodland Trust, to strengthen and develop approaches to manage deer, as well as encourage and protect woodland planting, across Scotland. That way, we can meet the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change."

Cat Synnot | Publicity Manager

NatureScot | Silvan House, 231 Costorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT | 0131 316 2606/ [REDACTED]

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Tamara Lawton](#)
Cc: [Sinclair Coghill](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 25 September 2020 10:57:00

Hi Tamara,
Are you hearing anything at your end on progress on these?

My concern is that it will not all be in place for a start on 02 November,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 21 September 2020 16:50
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Cc: Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Tamara,
According to the project timeline, the Woodland Trust was expecting to have a response from SF about whether an EIA was required and the SSSI consent. Have you received the relevant deer management plan yet and, if so, any idea when the consent will be issued?

Jimmy

From: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 September 2020 10:09
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy, [REDACTED] sent the info on 26th August. I am in the process of looking through the info for the HRA and the consent.

I asked for a deer management plan and whilst they have put the info on deer management within the text of the consent application, it isn't a plan per se, so I will be going back to them to ask for a separate document. However, I am aware they are also in the process of having to amend the DMG plan so trying not to make them do it twice. I therefore may need to wait until they have done that piece of work. I will see what they say and let you know.

Cheers,
Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: 07 September 2020 11:44

To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>

Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Tamara,
Hope that you are well.

Looking at the timeline for the various stages in the run up to contractors starting, "██████ to submit finalised information for SSSI consent process" by 26 August. Did you receive all of the necessary information?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

0131 314 6769 ██████████ nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature

Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 25 September 2020 11:37:00

Hi all,
What progress on the various stages?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:24
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: RE: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy,

I've now had a timeline back from the project team. (Attached). I hope this helps.

Please do ask if there is anything else you need at this time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 20 August 2020 11:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I had a quick catch up with local colleagues this week and they mentioned that they did not yet have the necessary information to allow them to assess for the SSSI consent and undertake a Nature assessment. I realise that you will be very busy but I wonder if you could give me a quick, brief update on your timeline for the various stages through to the start of the work?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

| Date | Audience |
|---------------|--|
| 26-Aug | Scottish Forestry |
| 26-Aug | SNH |
| 1 to 6 Sep | Local residents |
| 14-Sep | All stakeholders |
| 30-Sep | EB SNH WTS |
| 14-18 Sep | WT |
| 20-Sep | SF/All |
| 20-Sep | SNH/all |
| 21-25 Sep Oct | WT / Eisg Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH |
| 28-Sep | WT / Eisg Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH |
| 15-Oct | EB SNH WTS |
| w/c 2 Nov | Contractor/EB/All |

| |
|---|
| Activity |
| ██████ to submit EIA determination request to SF |
| ██████ to submit finalised information for SSSI consent process |
| Community drop-in at village hall/s – opportunity to ask Qs about the project |
| Closing date for comments on plans - due to funding timescale and C-19 |
| ██████ to draw up monitoring plan |
| WT looks at feedback |
| EIA determination complete |
| SSSI consent received |
| Suggested changes to plans are discussed with EBE & SNH & SF (If substantial change) to EIA |
| Plans finalised |
| Carry out 'before' picture record, HIA at strategic points |
| Removal of old fencing and fencing work begins |

| |
|--|
| Update 25/09/2020 |
| Complete |
| Complete |
| Complete |
| Complete |
| Complete |
| In progress |
| Completed, npw finalising a format to comply with GDPR regs |
| Further info has been requested - the more we provide, the less the chances of an EIA being called for |
| Not yet |
| Not yet - a couple of small changes may be proposed but still under discussion |
| We will know by next week how long this is likely to be delayed |
| Ongoing |
| Likely to be delayed |

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 25 September 2020 13:05:07

Hi Jimmy,

Apologies for the delay in responding. Please find attached an updated timeline.

I also have an update on the EIA: Scottish Forestry have requested further information. [REDACTED] has discussed this with the woodland officer and we are working on collating that information and passing it over to SF – we need a few days to work out how long that will take, as we need outside contractor input. Elaine is waiting for them to get back to us. We should be able to update on projected timescale by Wednesday next week.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot]
Sent: 25 September 2020 11:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi all,
What progress on the various stages?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2020 17:24
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: RE: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy,

I've now had a timeline back from the project team. (Attached). I hope this helps.

Please do ask if there is anything else you need at this time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 20 August 2020 11:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],

I had a quick catch up with local colleagues this week and they mentioned that they did not yet have the necessary information to allow them to assess for the SSSI consent and undertake a Nature assessment. I realise that you will be very busy but I wonder if you could give me a quick, brief update on your timeline for the various stages through to the start of the work?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | @nature_scot | *Scotland's Nature*
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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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From: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [BCF](#)
Subject: FW: re-profiling BCF pot
Date: 29 September 2020 11:04:34
Importance: High

Hi Jimmy

See below.

Can you please surrender the £150k to next year please. If you share this email with Planning and Performance team they should be able to action fairly quickly.

Gillian

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:31
To: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Cc: Clive Mitchell <Clive.Mitchell@nature.scot>; Catriona Burns <Catriona.Burns@nature.scot>
Subject: re-profiling BCF pot
Importance: High

Hi Gillian cc Clive and Catriona,

Clive, Catriona and I have just had a discussion about the BCF budget. We focused on the £200k EB project. On the basis that there is so much to be done now before the project can start, I have proposed that we re-profile £150k of the c. £200k budget into next year. I think that is a realistic assessment of what might be achievable and still allows for any decisions we might want to make about the project viability itself to be made. Catriona and Clive understand that if a miracle occurs and more money is needed this FY, we will flag that up and given how things are going, it is very likely that more money will be available at that time. I hope that is all OK with you. Catriona is going to advise Allocations group that £150k will be coming very soon when you can do the budget transfer.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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From: [PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [Clive Mitchell](#)
Subject: RE: re-profiling BCF pot
Date: 29 September 2020 14:56:49

Hi Jimmy,

That's the £150k moved over to next year for you.

Kind Regards,

Jacqueline

Jacqueline Innes | Project Allocation and Planning Officer

NatureScot | Eastbank, East Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW16 3EX | 07505 008953

[nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2020 14:41
To: PLANNING_AND_PERFORMANCE <PLANNING_AND_PERFORMANCE@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: re-profiling BCF pot

Hi,
I do not have access to BP due to the Chrome issue. Could you please make this change to bid **501341 - BCF - 2020-2021 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project** ?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2020 11:05
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; BCF <BCF@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: re-profiling BCF pot
Importance: High

Hi Jimmy
See below.

Can you please surrender the £150k to next year please. If you share this email with Planning and Performance team they should be able to action fairly quickly.

Gillian

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2020 10:31
To: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Cc: Clive Mitchell <Clive.Mitchell@nature.scot>; Catriona Burns <Catriona.Burns@nature.scot>
Subject: re-profiling BCF pot
Importance: High

Hi Gillian cc Clive and Catriona,

Clive, Catriona and I have just had a discussion about the BCF budget. We focused on the £200k EB project. On the basis that there is so much to be done now before the project can start, I have proposed that we re-profile £150k of the c. £200k budget into next year. I think that is a realistic assessment of what might be achievable and still allows for any decisions we might want to make about the project viability itself to be made. Catriona and Clive understand that if a miracle occurs and more money is needed this FY, we will flag that up and given how things are going, it is very likely that more money will be available at that time. I hope that is all OK with you. Catriona is going to advise Allocations group that £150k will be coming very soon when you can do the budget transfer.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [Katherine Leys](#)
To: [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Donald Fraser](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Catriona Burns](#); [Clive Mitchell](#)
Subject: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust
Date: 01 October 2020 12:53:39

Hi Gillian, Donald and Graeme, cc Jimmy, (Catriona and Clive for potential budget implications)

Jimmy and I had a useful discussion with Woodland Trust this morning. Unfortunately Graeme had a problem with his audio so had to duck out. We discussed the items that still had to progress before any grant could begin – specifically the Deer Management Plan, the EIA decision and SSSI consent. The deer management plan has been redrafted and is now with the Area (Tamara and Sinclair). They are going to take it to a sub group meeting of the DMG before October 8th but accept that it is unlikely to reach agreement, possibly splitting the vote. However, in separate discussions they have received support from some of the neighbouring landowners for their plans and some commitments to engage with the deer management proposals. The deer management plan will form a major part of the SSSI consent so that is also in hand. The EIA decision is the unknown stumbling block. The WT are trying to supply as much information as possible to Scottish Forestry for the scoping request to inform the decision on whether an EIA is required or not. Their best guess for a timetable on the decision on whether an EIA is needed is December.

We also discussed the public consultation and community engagement issue at some length. WT are at the start of a bigger project in the Area that will operate on a decadal timescale so community engagement and support is essential and they are working hard to address the various issues that have been raised. Both organisations were agreed on the importance of addressing community concerns.

They came forward with a proposal to front load all the BCF spend this year on the purchase of fencing materials and initiation of fencing works. The materials themselves are in the order of £130k. However, the fencing contractor currently has a Covid related problem with housing his workers when on site now that contact between households is not permitted, so that would need to be resolved before any works can happen on the ground.

I put forward our position as agreed earlier – that the consents issue (EIA/ Deer Management Plan/ SSSI consent) needed resolved as per the terms of the grant before any works could begin and that we would want them to resolve the community concerns so tensions didn't escalate. I expressed our continued intention to work with them and our continued support for the project. They reiterated that they did not want to withdraw the project as it is a keystone for the future larger project and they had spent a large amount of staff time trying to prepare the project and then sort the issues. I outlined that we had a little flexibility in our spend but that we were more interested in the short term about satisfactorily resolving the issues rather than the detail on how much spend came from which year, and Jimmy reminded them that spending at least some of the money this year would be preferable to punting it all forward.

In the end we agreed that there were too many uncertainties on timescales to make a decision on how spend should be profiled and that given we had reiterated our continued support, the priority had to be on satisfactorily resolving the issues rather than on deciding on spend profiles. They have committed themselves to updating Jimmy weekly on progress towards resolving the

various consents issue. So, it may be that we don't have a timescale on this until near the end of the year. Given that we have already handed back the money internally I think that timescale is less of a concern than it might be, and there remains a possibility of helping any underspend with the quick win of spend on fencing materials if the issues are satisfactorily resolved on the right timescales. I did question whether enough fencing materials for a project of this sort and scale were available in Scotland for purchase, and there is a little doubt in my mind on that, but there are a lot of issues to be resolved before that comes into play.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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[REDACTED]

In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [Clive Mitchell](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Donald Fraser](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Catriona Burns](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust
Date: 01 October 2020 14:39:47

Kath



Many thanks for this update. As you suggest, I think that if all the relevant consents are in place and the fencing work were planned to start in say April (or earlier), we could justify purchase of the materials in say Feb/March – depending on the availability of funds (and materials). As we get nearer the time it might be useful to have everything ready for swift action as required. The purchase is likely to be highly scalable, which might be useful.

So many 'ifs'...

Yours

Clive

Dr Clive Mitchell | Outcome Manager: People and Nature

NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH2 3EW | t: 017380 458623 |  
[nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot) | @nature.scot | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

You can video call me at: 

Pronouns: he/him/his

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>
Sent: 01 October 2020 12:54
To: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Donald Fraser <Donald.Fraser@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Catriona Burns <Catriona.Burns@nature.scot>; Clive Mitchell <Clive.Mitchell@nature.scot>
Subject: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust

Hi Gillian, Donald and Graeme, cc Jimmy, (Catriona and Clive for potential budget implications)

Jimmy and I had a useful discussion with Woodland Trust this morning. Unfortunately Graeme had a problem with his audio so had to duck out. We discussed the items that still had to progress before any grant could begin – specifically the Deer Management Plan, the EIA decision and SSSI consent. The deer management plan has been redrafted and is now with the Area (Tamara and Sinclair). They are going to take it to a sub group meeting of the DMG before October 8th but accept that it is unlikely to reach agreement, possibly splitting the vote. However, in separate discussions they have received support from some of the neighbouring landowners for their plans and some commitments to engage with the deer management proposals. The deer management plan will form a major part of the SSSI consent so that is also in hand. The EIA decision is the unknown stumbling block. The WT are trying to supply as much

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From: [Donald Fraser](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Catriona Burns](#); [Clive Mitchell](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust
Date: 01 October 2020 15:37:44

Kath,

I had a meeting with [REDACTED] this afternoon, after which he raised this.

SG have correspondence on this which they are needing to reply to – but aren't well sighted, so I gave a very short brief. They are being asked to ensure that this project is deferred until next year – which is more or less the position, given we are looking for outstanding issues to be addressed.

I said we would share our lines and position with [REDACTED]'s team to help them respond.

Donald

Donald Fraser | Acting Head of Wildlife Management

NatureScot | Great Glen House | Inverness | IV3 8NW | 01463 725365 | [REDACTED]
[nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba
Life Size meeting Space: [REDACTED]

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From: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
To: [Clive Mitchell](#); [Katherine Leys](#); [Donald Fraser](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Catriona Burns](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust
Date: 01 October 2020 16:05:36

Thanks for the update Kath.

Sorry to cut across the proposed approach. We need to be confident that any revised timescales are realistic and achievable. We cannot be seen to purchase £130k of fencing materials in this FY if we know they won't be used until next FY. We should make clear to WT that they must not commit expenditure without our approval.

As Clive suggests this is scalable and we should consider only agreeing to purchase what is needed/is realistically achievable in this FY (unless there are economies of scale that can be demonstrated by bulk purchase/cost of transportation to site etc, or a commitment to starting work on 1 April for example).

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Gillian

From: Clive Mitchell <Clive.Mitchell@nature.scot>
Sent: 01 October 2020 14:40
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Donald Fraser <Donald.Fraser@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
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Yours

Clive

Dr Clive Mitchell | Outcome Manager: People and Nature

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Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Catriona Burns](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaid - discussion with Woodland Trust
Date: 02 October 2020 09:22:39

Hi Everyone,

Yes, and with weekly updates on progress coming to Jimmy I think we will be able to get that message across at the right time. Jimmy did explain that we could extend the contract duration if WT got to the point of being able to buy the materials at the year end (they will need to air lift materials in to the site so there are economies of scale there).

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From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>

Sent: 01 October 2020 16:06

To: Clive Mitchell <Clive.Mitchell@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Donald Fraser <Donald.Fraser@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - BCF - 2020-2021 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 02 October 2020 10:43:00

Hi [REDACTED],

Good to finally put a face to your name.

The fence line in the application documents and that in the briefing prepared for the community consultation event <https://coigach-assynt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EBRP-project-summary-FINAL.pdf> are different in two points. In the latter,

- the nobbly bit on the south bank of Loch Fionn, previously north of the fence line, has been included and
- the fence round the north end of Loch Buine Moire was not there. This seems to leave significant gap in the perimeter. Was this an error in mapping?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk
To: [Graeme Taylor](#); [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Sinclair Coghill](#); [Holly Deary](#); [Francesca Osowska](#); [Eileen Stuart](#); [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Tamara Lawton](#); [Dominic Shann](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact
Date: 07 October 2020 12:10:29

Graeme,

Thank you for this.

That, in theory, gives us what we were looking for.

[REDACTED]

From: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Sent: 07 October 2020 11:29
To: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact

Dear [REDACTED],

Commencement of the project was always dependent on the necessary permissions/ consents being obtained. NatureScot has discussed the outstanding requirements with the Woodland Trust and, as long as the requisite permissions/ consents and processes have been satisfactorily completed and the wider funding package is in place, would be willing to extend the period of the grant into 2021-22 to allow the works to be completed. We would be happy to consider revisions of this plan on the basis that these would meet the overall aims of the project including those relating to biodiversity.

Regards,

Graeme

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk
Sent: 02 October 2020 17:27
To: Graeme Taylor <[Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot](#)>; Jimmy Hyslop <[Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot](#)>; Sinclair Coghill <[Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot](#)>; Holly Deary <[Holly.Deary@nature.scot](#)>; Francesca Osowska <[ceo@nature.scot](#)>; Eileen Stuart <[Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot](#)>; Katherine Leys <[Katherine.Leys@nature.scot](#)>; Gillian Macdonald <[Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot](#)>; Tamara Lawton <[Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot](#)>; Dominic Shann <[Dominic.Shann@nature.scot](#)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>;
[REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
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Graeme,

Thank you for this. For clarification, are you able to defer grant in to 2021/22 if required, and is there any flexibility within the BCF scheme to take forward a variation of what has been proposed if consultation suggests that this would be more effective/ less damaging? The project outlined, on the timeline suggested, has risk written all over it, which is the point I have been trying to make, seemingly without success thus far.

There is a sub- area meeting scheduled for Wed 7th October.

[REDACTED]

From: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Sent: 02 October 2020 16:36
To: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>;
[REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact

Dear [REDACTED],

EISG BRACHAIDH FENCING SCHEME- REQUEST TO DEFER OR WITHDRAW FUNDING

Thanks for your email regarding the above issue.

We continue to be committed to delivering the aims of this worthwhile project in delivering improved nature across the site. The woodland feature on Inverpolly SSSI/SAC is in unfavourable condition and is declining and this is due to the lack of regeneration caused by overgrazing.

You have made some points arising from the FOI released earlier in the month and I will firstly answer the main points raised-

Open and honest discussion amongst staff on all matters is actively encouraged in NatureScot, especially when considering a project of this scale and the FOI material released reflects this. FOI material does only reflect written correspondence and not the numerous telephone conversations that have taken place during the project assessment process. Whilst we expect that the applicant (Woodland Trust) leads this project on the ground we still require to have active discussions between the services within NatureScot to ensure successful delivery of the

project. Any press statements we have been made have been created with the knowledge we had at the time, and we realise that we may have misinterpreted a discussion around the sub group deer management plan as agreement to revise.

I am aware that you have been in contact with Audit Scotland and confirm that we are happy to comply with any audit requirements which might arise from this. To be clear, we are content that we have met both the legal requirements on tendering set out in public procurement guidance but also the internal processes required by the BCF grant scheme.

On the Environmental Impact Assessment screening process- it is Scottish Forestry's Scotland's decision on whether the scheme will require an EIA. The Woodland Trust are in the process of providing as much information as they can to inform that decision. My understanding is that this the requirement for EIA had been discussed verbally at a site meeting in 2019 and the project had been progressed to BCF application on the basis of that discussion. We await the outcome of the screening process.

We are aware (and have been for some time) that there are a number of issues which will need resolved prior to work commencing on the ground. This includes (but may not be limited too) the EIA determination and delivery, deer management plan for Eisg Brachaidh, consultation with the DMG sub group and revision of their plan as required, SSSI consent and continued local consultation (either under EIA or a similar process). We have been in discussion with Woodland Trust regarding these outstanding issues and we agree that these need resolved, as per the terms of the grant (which requires all relevant permissions to be confirmed before any works can begin). Both organisations were agreed on the importance of addressing community concerns, and continued community consultation. The requirements as set out above mean that delivery of the grant is deferred until these issues are resolved. After that we will think about the practicality of delivering the required changes to deer management and completing the fencing. You raise the issue of the likely time taken to deliver the compensatory cull associated with the project. We will be expecting any deer control taking place as part of the revised deer management plans to take into account animal welfare and the current legislative arrangements.

We understand that the Woodland Trust will be presenting a revised deer management plan to the DMG subgroup before the 8th of October. We would hope that the sub group takes this opportunity to discuss this openly, NatureScot and ADMG will be in attendance and in support if required.

We would hope that the DMG sub group takes the opportunity lead on discussions on deer aspects of the Eisg Brachaidh scheme and all parties take time to collaborate on a revised DMP for the site as well as the sub group. It may be that if conflict remains after these initial discussions the group looks to its conflict resolution provisions in its constitution.

As an organisation we are keen to see the required changes taking place on the site to repair degraded nature and increase biodiversity. I hope that via the processes outlined above there is ample opportunity given for local community engagement both within the DMG framework and more widely.

Regards,

Graeme

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk <[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk>
Sent: 25 September 2020 14:10
To: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact

Graeme,

OK, thank you for this.

[REDACTED]

From: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Sent: 25 September 2020 13:57
To: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email and the detailed issues you have raised regarding the Eisg Brachaidh project and the associated BCF funding. As you will appreciate the issues raised cut across a number of teams within NatureScot and a number of other organisations and responses will take some time to collate.

I will endeavour to get a response to all of your queries back to you by next week.

Thanks for your understanding,

Regards,

Graeme

From: [REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk <[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk>

Sent: 20 September 2020 10:42

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@msn.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@msn.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@outlook.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@outlook.com)>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme-[REDACTED] contact

Importance: High

Deer all,

EISG BRACHAIDH FENCING SCHEME- REQUEST TO DEFER OR WITHDRAW FUNDING

As you will be aware, there has been a considerable amount of information recently obtained under FOI by a local resident in Assynt, and this is now in the process of being more widely circulated.

I have spent some considerable time reading through this, and I am writing to all those Nature Scot personnel involved to ensure that they are hearing the alarm bells that are ringing loudly. The material suggests that at least some of you are. I am copying [REDACTED], the 2 X community councils, [REDACTED] of Woodland Trust and ADMG in to this. Some-one has to call this one in now.

In a practical sense, any major fencing scheme starting in November at the earliest cannot be completed with any confidence by March, never mind a scheme within the most remote and difficult terrain in Assynt, and against the context of the current pandemic, which is obviously now escalating quickly again. There are still many unknowns before we even get to that point.

The FOI material clarifies that only one tender was received for a £400,000 project, against all rules for public procurement, and specifically against the rules of this Biodiversity Challenge Fund which requires five tenders for sums over £50,000. More importantly, it is worth asking why nine out of ten expressions of interest decided not to tender for a £400,000 project. We have since received information from one interested, respected and experienced party saying that they decided not to pursue this contract because, amid other reasons, "the terrain was very difficult, the project would be too hard to supervise and they were wary of the reputational damage to their company from what appeared to be a very controversial scheme"

On the need or not for an Environmental Impact Assessment, I find it astonishing to believe that that is even being debated, and that there had been no consideration given to the need for this at the outset. The FOI suggests that the report I submitted in August contained the first mention of this. Any proper deliberation of the issues will deem that this is required, and any reasonable person could have foreseen this at the outset. The area, as you know, is covered by SSSI, SAC, SPA and NSA designations, as well as wildland status. How could an EIA not be required? There would be no

oversight otherwise.

I note your own staff admit, even prior to recent adverse publicity, that this will be a controversial scheme.

I note there is an admission that the agricultural tenant does have a right to graze 561 sheep within the area, so what purpose will the fence achieve in this scenario? The browsing pressure may well increase, not decrease.

On the deer front, you describe the Sub area meeting on 18th July at which the proposal supposedly gained support. I have viewed the Zoom recording of this meeting which you already have the link to in full. What I see is a tense and very awkward discussion around a controversial proposal. I see no-one present who does not have an interest to declare in the project. Therefore, no decision or endorsement could have been made. No other DMG members are present.

There is a very misleading "line to take" that has been devised by your Communications officer, which says "the local DMG have decided to revise their deer plan and take account of revised site management and this should deal with any changes to local deer management".

This is not true. No such undertaking has been made, and it is quite wrong to imply, indeed state, that it has. I think there is a reluctance to believe that such a controversial scheme will go forwards. This "line to take" is designed to give re-assurance that the effects of this proposal can be mitigated, but no such plan exists, and no-one has been actioned to take this forward.

There is a statement within the FOI information that two of your key deer staff say that it is impossible for anyone to demonstrate that they have met expectations in relation to proper consultations on deer matters. This second hand comment may well not be correct in what it reports, but I can tell you as some-one who does woodland creation projects on a regular basis that it is very easy to write to deer groups as part of a scoping exercise and obtain feedback on whether they think they can adapt to and mitigate any such schemes. In this case, there has been no appropriate scoping, and you will have no feedback to the effect that this scheme can be mitigated and how. If anything, your feedback, particularly from the local community, will be quite the opposite, with both community councils locally writing to a range of politicians and others in a bid to get this project stopped or amended. There is no plan in place to deal with deer issues, other than vague reference to the principle of what should be done.

I further note, and this is a really important one, that the Woodland Trust say that they will carry out their deer cull in "one session", seemingly because that would be cheaper. (Email to Jimmy Hyslop dated 5th August from Woodland Trust). Nature Scot have apparently looked at this suggestion and given their consent to it, thereby effectively undermining the credibility of your entire organization. To be clear, this could be an internal cull of 2- 300 animals (according to WTS deer density claim in application) in one day, out of season, and within a key scenic area with a road running through it. There may be no market for the carcasses produced. Are you aware of this? If not, just run it through your prism of "How might that look?".

My overall impression of the FOI information is one of confusion and

increasing panic, with no-one in control, especially in the last few weeks. The list of issues yet to be completed seems to get longer and longer. There are too many people in different places doing different things. The scheme is clearly identified as controversial and high risk, and the emphasis is more on public relations than practical considerations. It is clear to me that Nature Scot do not have the internal processes and structures to be dealing with large grant applications of this sort in the same way that Scottish Forestry do. To me, everyone on this email chain has been put in an unfair, untenable and conflicted position in which they can only have their reputations destroyed.

Out of courtesy, and for your information, please be assured that all of this and more will be making its way in to a variety of Press outlets in the coming week, with the accompanying FOI information for verification and key comments clearly referenced so that they can be quickly located. The purpose of this is to bring pressure to bear to try and get this project on to a better timeline and analysed properly.

There is an alternative which you do seem to have discussed but dismissed, and that is to defer any payment to 2021/22, and give the people who know what they are doing the time to look at this properly. If it is not possible to do this, find a way. Bend your own rules if you have to. They are already getting bent in every way imaginable to try and push this scheme through.

My own view on all this has long been that this fence is not necessary. If this sort of money is available, then it could be used to transform deer management across all of Assynt, north and south, well beyond Eisd Brachaidh. The information you have received overstates the issues that need addressed in the interests of attaining grant funding. It is not a fair assessment of reality. To be fair to Woodland Trust, your Biodiversity Challenge Fund has encouraged them to take this approach, and nowhere within that scheme are the basic checks and balances that would allow the problems identified to be flagged up at an early stage prior to funding being awarded. That is an embarrassing failure of process.

I trust that some-one on this email chain can see the point being made here, and take the appropriate action before you damage your organization beyond repair. If you have concerns about this project, I suggest that you speak to your colleagues about it and not leave it to some-one else.

I have worded this email in the way that I have to ensure that this matter can be drawn to a conclusion quickly, and a space opened up to do this properly as soon as possible.

There is a much better, lower risk and cheaper way to do this, which a proper form of consultation would quickly highlight and inform.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] B Sc (Hons)

Native Woodland Advice

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd

www.nativewoods.co.uk

Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2BS

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

From: [Sinclair Coghill](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Cc: [Katherine Leys](#); [Tamara Lawton](#)
Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh
Date: 08 October 2020 14:40:21

Hi Jimmy

I am afraid I did not join the dots re changes to the grant, apologies for that. We know that the scheme is subject to local collaboration and discussion with the DMG. We should expect there will be changes to the detail through this phase and hopefully we will get an agreed scheme out the other side. FYI The DMG met yesterday and agreed to come back with comments re Eisg Brachaidh DMP by 4 November and a DMG meeting to follow on 18 November, all kicking the can down the road a bit further but they are talking and working through the issues

All the best

Sinclair

Sinclair Coghill | Area Officer, South Highland

NatureScot | Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW | DD: 01463 725333 | m:

[nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: 08 October 2020 14:11

To: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>

Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton
<Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Hi all,

I noticed the part of the response which reads

“The Woodland Trust proposed re-routing the fence to reduce the cost at a meeting in August. We advised that this might have implications for the ongoing effort required to maintain a low deer density within the enclosure, and that we expected them to discuss this with the deer management group subgroup.

I understand that fencing options were discussed at the meeting on 7 October.”

The Woodland Trust has not mentioned any proposed changes to the fence line to me and the only reference I have seen was in [REDACTED]’ query of 20 September. I have since queried this with the Woodland Trust but haven’t had a response yet.

If anyone becomes aware of any other proposed changes, I’d be grateful if someone would let me know. Better to hear it twice than not at all,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature
Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: Stan Whitaker <Stan.Whitaker@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 October 2020 13:16
To: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>;
Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Sinclair

Thanks for your advice on [REDACTED]' questions about the deer management plan and proposed fencing at Eisg Brachaidh.

Please could you edit the attached response as you see fit and then send it to Graeme for sign-off.

Kind regards

Stan

Stan Whitaker | Wildlife Management and INNS Team
NatureScot | Sivan House | 231 Corstorphine Road | Edinburgh | EH12 7AT | t: 07786 126555
nature.scot – Connecting People and Nature in Scotland - [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 22 September 2020 10:36
To: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>;
Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sarah Hutcheon
<Sarah.Hutcheon@nature.scot>; Rhoda Davidson <Rhoda.Davidson@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Sharon,
I have included [REDACTED]' request and my amended response to both questions below,

Jimmy

From: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>
Sent: 22 September 2020 08:15
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor

<Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sarah Hutcheon <Sarah.Hutcheon@nature.scot>; Rhoda Davidson <Rhoda.Davidson@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Jimmy

Although you have replied with the following, I need to make sure that we provide any and all information, relating to the information requested, to this requestor even though he/she may have already received information on an FOI request from another person, we are "applicant blind" so if we have information relating to this request we need to respond to him (as a new requestor) which means finding any information about that request and providing it. However, if we do not have that information we just need to say so and if you want to provide additional clarification on the information that we do or do not provide we can do so and this is where your comments with perhaps a little more detail might be just what we need but you should investigate/search for the information and let me/Sarah know, even if it seems we are repeating ourselves.

The original BCF application had the fence going around Loch Buine Mhoire and now it is going in to the Loch.

This leaves a big hole in the fence for deer to swim through.

I have seen no mention of this major change in any correspondence.

Please tell me when it was requested, when was it agreed, who did you consult and how?

1 The applicant has not mentioned that there is any proposed change to the line of the deer fence since the application stage, so there has been no need to consult anyone.

On 5/8/20 WT requested and on 6/8/20 you agreed to halve the budget for deer management.

Did you consult with anyone on this?

How could this be agreed without the Deer Management Plan which Tamara was still waiting for on 8/9/20?

2 On 5/8/20 Woodland Trust reported that, "it has been decided that deer control can be carried out in one session rather than two, which has decreased the cost of this element" and requested, "Would it therefore be possible to move funding from this line up to deer fencing?"

The applicant was confident that the same result could be obtained with a single session and, as the costs of the deer fencing had almost doubled from the estimate provided at grant application stage, it seemed reasonable to re-assign this grant. I did not consult anyone as it was a grants matter relating to the work which can reasonably be completed by the end of March 2021.

I was unaware of proposed changes to the Deer Management Plan discussed at the Deer Management Group local sub-group meeting until shortly before the (then) SNH meeting on 18 August.

Sharon

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 15:52

To: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Sharon,

Please let me know what sort of further information you are looking for,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature
Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: FOI <FOI@nature.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 13:13

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton
<Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sarah Hutcheon <Sarah.Hutcheon@nature.scot>

Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Chris Donald <Chris.Donald@nature.scot>;
Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; MEDIA <MEDIA@nature.scot>

Subject: FOI - Eisg Brachaidh

Importance: High

Sarah/Jimmy/Tamara

Cc Kath Leys/Chris Donald/Graeme Taylor

Ccc: Media Team – To note additional requests for information relating to Eisg Brachaidh

Sarah/Jimmy/Tamara – There are Two new, but separate requests, for information relating to Eisg Brachaidh, one is requesting information relating to the proposed fencing the other is requesting a copy of the Eisg Brachaidh Deer Management Plan, this is from a different requestor than the most recent response. Jimmy has provided a response to the information relating to the fencing although I would appreciate further information before we respond fully to that request. We will be required to respond to both requests by the 19 October 2020.

Kath/Chris/Graeme – Please be aware that two further requests for information on Eisg Brachaidh have now been received with a final date to respond of the 19 October 2020.

Sarah would normally be the FOI Case Officer for these requests but she is currently off at the moment so I will take them forward until her return.

Sharon

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020
Date: 09 October 2020 16:44:18
Attachments: image001.gif
image002.gif
image003.gif
image004.gif
image005.gif
Eisg Brachaidh Engagement Log - 091020.xlsx
Eisg Brachaidh Engagement Summary.docx
Project Milestones Update 091020.xlsx
Importance: High

Dear Jimmy

I hope that this email finds you well.

I have attached our project milestones sheet, with comments on progress highlighted in red. I have also attached our comms log and engagement summary document as requested.

In terms of updates, these are the key recent activities and points of interest:

- 1.) A deer management group meeting was held on 7th October, where Eisg Brachaidh was discussed. The key actions from this meeting were:
 - All DMG subgroup members - to provide constructive feedback by 4 November to [REDACTED] on the EB DMP with respect to how the current plan can be improved with respect to deer i) within EB, ii) on neighbouring estates around EB, iii) implications for the subgroup DMP
 - [REDACTED] to address feedback and report back to the subgroup before the next subgroup meeting to be held at 1pm on Wednesday 18th November. The updated deer management plan will be discussed.
 - The meeting on the 18th November will also report on the progress of a possible alternative option based on a number of small exclosures and deer management outwith (proposed by the tenant). Very unlikely it will be judged as viable on both biodiversity and finance.
 - More detailed consideration of an alternative option by the subgroup will not happen until such time as it can be demonstrated to be a realistic and viable alternative.
- 2.) We are firming up the deer mitigation proposals with Assynt Foundation and Inver and Kirkaig fisheries.
- 3.) The Deer Management Plan needs to be finalised in order to get SSSI consent and must also be submitted as part of the EIA determination. We are currently aiming for EIA determination information resubmission in December for a decision in January.
- 4.) We have appointed a consultant to carry out Mammal and Bird surveys, which will need to be complete before the EIA determination is circulated to consultees

– this is expected to take about 8 weeks.

- 5.) We hope to appoint a consultant to carry out the landscape analysis and another for an archaeological walkover in the next week, which should also be completed within the same timescale.

I hope that this provides enough information, but if you do require anything else or have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes



Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG
01738 635 544

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



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tions and engagement activities for the initial 12 months of the project. It is subject to change and will be reviewed regularly.

| Key Date / Milestone | Audience | Comms & Engagement Activity | Channel |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| June & July 20 | Tamara Lawton & Sinclair Cohill - SNH local officers | Informal discussions with SNH re procedures / protocols for delivering work | Direct - email & phone |
| 01/06/2020 | ██████████, Tenant, Inverpolly Estate | EBE to inform tenant of proposal and discuss fencing options | Via ██████████, EBE |
| 01/07/2020 | ██████████ - Scottish Forestry - Woodland Officer | WT to discuss project with SF and clarify approach and requirements for EIA | Direct - email & phone |
| 17/07/2020 | WSDMG South Assynt Sub Group including neighbouring estates (Assynt & Vestey) | DMG meeting. EBE to present proposal and invite comments. (Minutes of the meeting not published at time of writing 28 Aug 20.) | ██████████ (EBE) sits on the DMG |
| 15/08/2020 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community | Share article announcing Eisd Brachaidh Revival Project plans and funding with local community and local media. Request Qs / comments. Record comments and Qs raised by all stakeholders in Engagement Log. | Ullapool News; Assynt Newsletter; CALLP social media; Assynt Community Council; Coigach Community Council; SPAR Lochinver |
| 16/08/2020 | Inverkirkaig residents | Hand deliver article to the door of Inverkirkaig residents | ██████████ (CALLP) will hand deliver |
| 31/08/2020 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community; DMG Secretary | If more info is requested, share summary plans (incl map and FAQs) with community via CALLP website / social media. Include DMG secretary (DMG meet every 4 months only), SNH & everyone who has asked Qs to date. Invite to community 'drop in' session/s (possibly Achiltibuie & Lochinver if demand requires). Request community feedback by 14 Sep. | CALLP web / social media - ██████████ (needs image for social media); email to ██████████ (DMG secretary), SNH & individuals noted on Engagement Log |
| 07/09/2020 | Local residents | Community drop-in session in Village Hall/s (covid permitting) | face to face - ██████████ (WTS) to organise local venue |
| 11/09/2020 | Local residents who attended drop in session | Reminder to submit comments on plan by 14 Sep | Direct - email |
| 14/09/2020 | All stakeholders | Closing date for comments on plan. Be clear that ongoing dialogue is welcome. If community see anything they are concerned about they should report to Elaine who will forward to neighbouring estates. | Direct |
| 15/09/2020 | WT | Examine Engagement Log and carefully consider plan adjustments | |
| 16- 18 Sep 20 | Eisd Brachaidh Estate / Wayne Family Trust; Tamara Lawton & Sinclair Cohill (SNH); ██████████ (SF) | Discuss any suggested changes to plan with EBE & SNH (plus SF if substantial change) | Direct - email & phone |
| 18/09/2020 | Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH | Plans finalised | Direct - email |
| 21/09/2020 | ██████████ (CALLP) | Present outcome of engagement exercise and final project plans to NHLF | Via CALLP |
| w/c 28 Sep 20 | Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / WTS | NHLF confirm funding status | Via CALLP |
| w/c 5 Oct 20 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community; DMG; regional media | Share final plan with DMG & wider community via CALLP website / social media; news release to confirm project is issued to regional media | Ullapool News; Assynt Newsletter; CALLP social media; Assynt Community Council; Coigach Community Council; SPAR noticeboard Lochinver regional media |
| w/c 2 Nov 20 | Contractor | Removal of old fencing and repair and replacement of existing fencing begins | Direct - email & phone |
| w/c 2 Nov 20 | EB Keeper / Contractor | Deer control inside the fence begins - this will continue through to March 2021. Control will be over 2 seasons. | Direct - email; regular quarterly monitoring updates, more frequently if monitoring reveals issues |
| w/c 18 Jan 21 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community / DMG | 1st (quarterly) project update shared with community via CALLP social and DMG | CALLP social & direct |
| Feb /March 2021 | CALLP staff & wider community | Enrichment planting begins. Volunteers invited to get involved 3 weeks prior to activity starting. Advertise on CALLP social media. | CALLP web / social media |
| 31/03/2021 | Contractor | Fencing complete | |
| 01/04/2021 | WTS | Deer Monitoring programme begins. Site visit reports (HIA & deer tracking) produced every 6 weeks. Open dialogue with neighbouring estates ongoing. Any deer issues will be reported and actions to mitigate planned. | Vestey Estate; Assynt Estate |
| w/c 19 Apr 21 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community / DMG | 2nd (quarterly) project update shared with community via CALLP social and DMG | CALLP social & direct |
| Jul-21 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community / DMG | 3rd (quarterly) project update (incl outcome of initial monitoring) shared with community via CALLP social and DMG | CALLP social & direct |
| Aug-21 | ██████████ TBC | Training course for HIA for volunteers. | Assynt Field Club TBC |
| Oct-21 | Wider Assynt & Coigach community / DMG | 4th (quarterly) project update shared with community via CALLP social and DMG; review comms & engagement activity and plan for next 12 months - is quarterly reporting meeting needs? | EBE / SNH / CALLP / NHLF / WTS |

Eisg Brachaidh Engagement Summary

Eisg Brachaidh Estate informed Inverpolly Estate of the plans in early June 2020.

A short summary document designed to explain the project to local residents was issued in mid August 2020. This was sent to the two local community newsletters, the community councils and displayed on local notice boards and social media channels. Copies were put through letterboxes in Inverkirkaig. Responses were sought by September 1st.

The document provoked some reactions on two main themes: More time was needed for people to respond; and more information was required.

As a result a longer summary document with map was circulated. The date for responses was extended to September 14th and a community drop-in day was arranged to give local people the opportunity to discuss issues with project staff, ask questions and give feedback.

The Scottish Land Commission requested information on the project and community engagement. It was content that proper process had been followed.

The community drop in day was on September 7th.

A reminder was circulated that responses should be made by September 14th

Responses from residents both via correspondence and at the drop-in day were on three main themes: Perceived lack of consultation; problems with deer in villages; and visual impact of proposed fence.

There has been discussion with Scottish Forestry on requirement for EIA. We are putting together further information.

There have been ongoing discussions with Scottish Canoe Association, Ramblers Scotland, Mountaineering Scotland and Highland Council's Outdoor Access Manager. All points have been addressed with no major concerns outstanding. Mountaineering Scotland are interested in the outcome of the visual analysis work re the landscape impact of the proposals.

Lengthy correspondence has been ongoing with [REDACTED] who we understand acts on behalf of Inverpolly Estate.

There has been ongoing discussions with Deer Management Groups including meetings in July, 23rd September and 7th October. We are seeking consensus.

For further detail please see the Communications Log.

| Date | Audience | Activity | Update 25/09/2020 |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| 26-Aug | Scottish Forestry | ██████ to submit EIA determination request to SF | Complete |
| 26-Aug | SNH | ██████ to submit finalised information for SSSI consent process | Complete |
| 1 to 6 Sep | Local residents | Community drop-in at village hall/s – opportunity to ask Qs about the project | Complete |
| 14-Sep | All stakeholders | Closing date for comments on plans - due to funding timescale and C-19 | Complete |
| 30-Sep | EB SNH WTS | ██████ to draw up monitoring plan | In progress |
| 14-18 Sep | WT | WT looks at feedback | Completed, npw finalising a format to comply with GDPR regs |
| 20-Sep | SF/All | EIA determination complete | Further info has been requested - the more we provide, the less the chances of an EIA being called for. ██████ finished the new mapping going to add regen zones and locations of proposed enrichment planting. ██████ investigating landscape architects. Wildlife survey work to firm up previous surveys about to start |
| 20-Sep | SNH/all | SSSI consent received | Not yet |
| 21-25 Sep Oct | WT / Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH | Suggested changes to plans are discussed with EBE & SNH & SF (If substantial change) to EIA | Not yet - a couple of small changes may be proposed but still under discussion. Awaiting feedback from DMG group members as requested at Wednesday's meeting |
| 28-Sep | WT / Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH | Plans finalised | We will know by next week how long this is likely to be delayed |
| 15-Oct | EB SNH WTS | Carry out 'before' picture record, HIA at strategic points | Ongoing |
| w/c 2 Nov | Contractor/EB/All | Removal of old fencing and fencing work begins | Likely to be delayed |
| 18-Nov | Deer Management Group | go through the DMG process to get consensus... | DMG meeting on Wednesday - notes included in covering email |

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Tamara Lawton](#); [Graeme Taylor](#); [Sinclair Coghill](#)
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020
Date: 09 October 2020 17:24:00

Hi Kath and Gillian,
My reading of the first weekly update from the Woodland Trust is that the very earliest that any work could start would be some point in January.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 09 October 2020 16:55
To: Jimmy Hyslop <jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

Hi Jimmy

I will leave [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to comment on the timeline, but I do know that at the moment it is difficult to predict.

I will get an update to you next Friday, as I am on leave the following week.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 09 October 2020 16:51
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

Hi [REDACTED]r,
Many thanks for this. So the very earliest that any work could start would be some point in January but possibly later?

I am on leave next Thursday/Friday. Can you please update again for Monday 19th?

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 09 October 2020 16:44

To: Jimmy Hyslop <jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

Importance: High

Dear Jimmy

I hope that this email finds you well.

I have attached our project milestones sheet, with comments on progress highlighted in red. I have also attached our comms log and engagement summary document as requested.

In terms of updates, these are the key recent activities and points of interest:

- 1.) A deer management group meeting was held on 7th October, where Eisg Brachaidh was discussed. The key actions from this meeting were:
 - All DMG subgroup members - to provide constructive feedback by 4 November to [REDACTED] on the EB DMP with respect to how the current plan can be improved with respect to deer i) within EB, ii) on neighbouring estates around EB, iii) implications for the subgroup DMP
 - [REDACTED] to address feedback and report back to the subgroup before the next subgroup meeting to be held at 1pm on Wednesday 18th November. The updated deer management plan will be discussed.
 - The meeting on the 18th November will also report on the progress of a possible alternative option based on a number of small exclosures and deer management outwith (proposed by the tenant). Very unlikely it will be judged as viable on both biodiversity and finance.
 - More detailed consideration of an alternative option by the subgroup will not happen until such time as it can be demonstrated to be a realistic and viable alternative.
- 2.) We are firming up the deer mitigation proposals with Assynt Foundation and Inver and Kirkaig fisheries.
- 3.) The Deer Management Plan needs to be finalised in order to get SSSI consent and must also be submitted as part of the EIA determination. We are currently aiming for EIA determination information resubmission in December for a decision in January.
- 4.) We have appointed a consultant to carry out Mammal and Bird surveys, which

will need to be complete before the EIA determination is circulated to consultees – this is expected to take about 8 weeks.

- 5.) We hope to appoint a consultant to carry out the landscape analysis and another for an archaeological walkover in the next week, which should also be completed within the same timescale.

I hope that this provides enough information, but if you do require anything else or have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes



Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: 

Email: @woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG
01738 635 544

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



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THE WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND
KEMPTON WAY
GRANTHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE
UK
NG31 6LL

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Address : As opposite
E-mail :
Tel. : 1476-581111
Primary Contact:
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*****REVISION*****

Purchase Order Number NS78845-1

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Please quote this number on all invoices and other correspondence relating to this order

Invoices to be submitted to Scottish Natural Heritage within 60 days of completion of work/services or delivery of goods

Payment will not be made unless this number is quoted on invoices

E-mail is our preferred mode of communication.

This is a revised Purchase Order – please refer to your records or contact us for the confirmation of changes

Revised Date : 12-OCT-2020

Delivery / Contact

Donald (Jimmy) Hyslop

NatureScot
NatureScot, Caspian House, 2 Mariner Court
8 South Avenue
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank
G81 2NR

Email : jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot

Invoice To

Transactions@nature.scot

Transaction Services
Scottish Natural Heritage, acting under its operating name NatureScot
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness, IV3 8NW

Tel:01463 725150

Order Lines ***(Original) Revised**

| Line | Description/Notes | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|------|-------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | Item No | Qty | UOM | Need By | Unit Price | VAT Code | Net Value |
| 1 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 1 | | | | | | |
| | : | 25000 | EACH | 31-JAN-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 25,000.00 |
| 2 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 23340.67 | EACH | 26-MAR-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 23,340.67 |
| 3 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 100000 | EACH | 29-OCT-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 100,000.00 |
| 4 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 50000 | EACH | 25-MAR-2022 | 1.00 | OS | 50,000.00 |
| Total Net Order Value(GBP) | | | | | | | 198,340.67 |

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020
Date: 13 October 2020 12:42:00

Hi Gillian,
I judge that the budgetary position is still the same as a few weeks ago when Kath asked to have £150k moved into 2021-22 on BP, so I have mde no further change there. I have completed a Highlight Report for the most recent update and brought the figures on Fusion into line with BP,

Jimmy

From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Sent: 13 October 2020 12:39
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

Thanks Jimmy – I'll leave you to make the necessary updates to BP forecast.

Gillian

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 09 October 2020 17:24
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

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Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 | nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Sent: 09 October 2020 16:55
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
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I will get an update to you next Friday, as I am on leave the following week.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]

Sent: 09 October 2020 16:51

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

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Jimmy

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 09 October 2020 16:44

To: Jimmy Hyslop <jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]

<[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]

<[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]

<[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 091020

Importance: High

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- 4.) We have appointed a consultant to carry out Mammal and Bird surveys, which will need to be complete before the EIA determination is circulated to consultees – this is expected to take about 8 weeks.
- 5.) We hope to appoint a consultant to carry out the landscape analysis and another for an archaeological walkover in the next week, which should also be completed within the same timescale.

I hope that this provides enough information, but if you do require anything else or have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED][t@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG

01738 635 544

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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From: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [Eileen Stuart](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Subject: RE: BCF Eisg brachaidh
Date: 15 October 2020 13:02:40

Hi Kath

That's helpful in setting context for moving forwards and aligns with my view/preference.

Helpful to understand that they may be able to apply for BCF3 but need to be clear there is no guarantee of success.

Gillian

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2020 13:00
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Eisg brachaidh

Hi Jimmy cc Gillian, Graeme and Eileen,

Eileen and I just had an update session and discussed this project amongst other things. Eileen is keen that we do not let the project timetable flex any more on this and suggests that we undertake a project review mid-December where we consider the practicalities of delivering any of the project this financial year – with the possibility of withdrawing the offer being one option. We discussed that we had already offered our continued support in order to deliver the biodiversity benefits proposed (despite them being patently under-prepared for delivering the project on the agreed timescales), but she is keen that the support isn't totally open-ended. We had a discussion with SG yesterday and got their agreement for BCF3 to cover similar areas as BCF2 so we would be able to offer some reassurance that if we finally were to reject it under BCF2 it could be accommodated within BCF3 and we could find some way of offering them further certainty.

Sorry, I'm about to go off on leave so no opportunity to discuss how we will handle the messaging on this, but I'll be back on Monday 29th. I just thought I should let you know³ where we were on this.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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[REDACTED]

In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 161020
Date: 16 October 2020 14:55:58
Importance: High

Hi Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

There has been some progress with the Eisg Brachaidh project this week, as below:

We are firming up details of the bird and mammal survey work, quotes and landscape work requirements for the EIA determination

[REDACTED] is completing the mapping required to support the survey work

We have appointed an independent consultant to draw together the requirements for the Scottish Forestry determination report

We have a project team meeting scheduled for 21st October to discuss progress against milestones

Last week, you asked about the potential start date of the project. This is difficult to predict, as it is largely dependent on Covid-19 developments and winter weather. We hope to have the necessary permissions secured by the end of the year and the start date will be dependent on conditions at the point when these are in place. Early February would probably be a realistic timeframe. We will, however, need to pay for materials before starting work so would anticipate drawing down grant monies in January 2021.

Please do let me know if you have any questions or queries.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Katherine Leys](#)
Cc: [Eileen Stuart](#); [Graeme Taylor](#)
Subject: RE: BCF Eisg brachaidh
Date: 20 October 2020 15:09:00

Hi all,

We got ourselves in a real mix up with [REDACTED] between rounds 1 and 2 with the suggested approach. The on/off approach suggested generates additional activity for the funding officer and the applicant but generates no additional outputs except uncertainty. If the project is back in the mix, it may not rank highly enough to be funded in BCF3. I would suggest that either we fund it or we don't.

As reported on 9th October, the Woodland Trust is aiming for EIA determination information re-submission to Scottish Forestry in December for a decision in January.

Jimmy

From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2020 13:03
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: BCF Eisg brachaidh

Hi Kath

That's helpful in setting context for moving forwards and aligns with my view/preference.

Helpful to understand that they may be able to apply for BCF3 but need to be clear there is no guarantee of success.

Gillian

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2020 13:00
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Eisg brachaidh

Hi Jimmy cc Gillian, Graeme and Eileen,

Eileen and I just had an update session and discussed this project amongst other things. Eileen is keen that we do not let the project timetable flex any more on this and suggests that we undertake a project review mid-December where we consider the practicalities of delivering any of the project this financial year – with the possibility of withdrawing the offer being one option. We discussed that we had already offered our continued support in order to deliver the biodiversity benefits proposed (despite them being patently under-prepared for delivering the project on the agreed timescales), but she is keen that the support isn't totally open-ended. We had a discussion with SG yesterday and got their agreement for BCF3 to cover similar areas as BCF2 so we would be able to offer some reassurance that if we finally were to reject it under

BCF2 it could be accommodated within BCF3 and we could find some way of offering them further certainty.

Sorry, I'm about to go off on leave so no opportunity to discuss how we will handle the messaging on this, but I'll be back on Monday 29th. I just thought I should let you know³ where we were on this.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

[REDACTED]

nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

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[REDACTED]

In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020
Date: 22 October 2020 09:37:20
Attachments: Project Milestones Update 211020.xlsx

Hi Jimmy,

Please find attached our updated milestones sheet dated 21/10/2020.

As [REDACTED] mentioned in her email last week, we currently anticipate the start date being sometime in February, with materials being paid for in January. It is possible that we will have spent the entire funding amount of £198k by 31st March, however there is also the possibility that some of this may fall into later months.

For clarification, am I right in thinking that in the former scenario, it would be acceptable for us to draw down the entire grant in March, against the initial work, on the understanding that the project would then complete in winter 2021? And in the second scenario, would you prefer us to draw down the proportion of the grant that has been spent by March, with the remainder claimed in April, or would the remainder be lost?

Apologies if I've misunderstood completely!

Kind regards

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| Date | Audience | Activity | Update 21/10/20 |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| 26-Aug | Scottish Forestry | ██████ to submit EIA determination request to SF | Complete |
| 26-Aug | SNH | ██████ to submit finalised information for SSSI consent process | Complete |
| 1 to 6 Sep | Local residents | Community drop-in at village hall/s – opportunity to ask Qs about the project | Complete...sending out update email outlining progress and revised timings |
| 14-Sep | All stakeholders | Closing date for comments on plans - due to funding timescale and C-19 | Complete...sending out update email outlining progress and revised timings |
| 30-Sep | EB SNH WTS | ██████ to draw up monitoring plan | In progress |
| 14-18 Sep | WT | WT looks at feedback | Complete |
| 20-Sep | SF/All | EIA determination complete | Further mammal/bird surveys required by SF together with a limited visual impact assessment. The visual impact assessment has been tendered with one response and awarded to Munro Landscape. The mammal/bird survey work has been awarded on the basis of best value to Highland Ornithology who know the site well having completed previous surveys 5 years ago. We have requested survey work to be completed in mid December to allow for timely SF submission. |
| 20-Sep | SNH/all | SSSI consent received | All required information presented to Ullapool office. Awaiting consultation process to run through the DMG |
| 21-25 Sep Oct | WT / Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH | Suggested changes to plans are discussed with EBE & SNH & SF (If substantial change) to EIA | Awaiting feedback on EB deer management plan at DMG group meeting on 4th November. |
| 28-Sep | WT / Eisd Brachaidh Estate (EBE) / SNH | Plans finalised | Awaiting feedback on EB deer management plan at DMG group meeting on 4th November. Alternative proposals from Inverpolly will be produced but unlikely to be sustainable on biodiversity and financial grounds. |
| 15-Oct | EB SNH WTS | Carry out 'before' picture record, HIA at strategic points | Ongoing |
| 04-Nov | Deer Management Group | go through the DMG process to get consensus... | DMG meet to discuss feedback on the EB deer management plan and try and get consensus |
| Dec-20 | SF/All | Get EIA determination from SF | |
| Dec-20 | SNH/all | Get SSSI consent from NatureScot | |
| Dec-20 | All stakeholders | Let fencing contract | |
| Feb-21 | All stakeholders | Works start | |

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020
Date: 22 October 2020 10:27:00

Hi [REDACTED],
Many thanks for this.

I think that I have to query the feasibility of submitting information to SF in mid-December and having a decision from SF in December. This knocks out the other timing on letting the contract, though a February start on site may still be feasible.

In a best case scenario weather-wise, how many weeks does the contractor estimate that the work will take?

What happens with the rest of the grant after March? I guess that to some extent that depends on how quickly SF gets back to the Trust, what the long term weather forecast is and the likelihood of completing a significant part of the fencing before the end of March.

Our funding is tied to the project delivery and we pay in instalments in arrears. If the materials had been purchased and % of the fencing had been erected by the end of March, say a total of £210k of costs, we would pay the agreed percentage of grant on that, £120k.

If it was clear that, say, 50% of the fencing would be delivered by March and the remainder would be going in much later in 2021, we would only pay grant towards the materials for the first phase in 2020-21.

Any questions, just ask,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 | [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 22 October 2020 09:37
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi Jimmy,

Please find attached our updated milestones sheet dated 21/10/2020.

As [REDACTED] mentioned in her email last week, we currently anticipate the start date being

sometime in February, with materials being paid for in January. It is possible that we will have spent the entire funding amount of £198k by 31st March, however there is also the possibility that some of this may fall into later months.

For clarification, am I right in thinking that in the former scenario, it would be acceptable for us to draw down the entire grant in March, against the initial work, on the understanding that the project would then complete in winter 2021? And in the second scenario, would you prefer us to draw down the proportion of the grant that has been spent by March, with the remainder claimed in April, or would the remainder be lost?

Apologies if I've misunderstood completely!

Kind regards



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From: [Katherine Leys](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BCF funding
Date: 26 October 2020 16:47:00
Attachments: image001.gif
image002.gif
image003.gif
image004.gif
image005.gif

Hi [REDACTED],

I don't think these are incompatible. We remain flexible but unfortunately you are not in a position to confirm any revised project timescales, so at the moment, your agreed funding offer stands, and Jimmy as your Funding Officer is outlining what is needed for compliance with your existing offer, which is for completion within this FY. We don't pay ahead of need so any items bought this year would need to be installed this year. If we are able to agree a revised project timescale for delivery over two years then we could look at phasing the funding as part of a revised offer.

I would make one further remark about your email text though, which is an important clarification. The message we were putting forward was that there was, and remains, the possibility of flexibility from NatureScot regarding the funding being split between the two years. We are still trying to be flexible but we don't have a revised project plan from you and I must let you know that our Senior Leadership Team are very concerned about the timescales for this project, given that BCF projects were meant to be 'shovel ready' for delivery within this FY, and are requesting that we review the situation in December.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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From: [REDACTED] <PeterLowe@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 22 October 2020 16:12

To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>

Subject: BCF funding

Hello Katherine

I'm just getting in touch to see if you are available for a call early next week. There seems to be some confusion arising from various responses we are getting from NatureScot at the moment regarding the BCF grant for Eisg Brachaidh. We took away from the meeting that we had flexibility regarding the funding being split between the

two years although you weren't sure of the mechanism of how that would work just yet. Maybe we have got crossed wires somewhere? Graeme Taylor is answering queries in the same vein however Jimmy Hyslop is indicating that we will get grant paid only on the work we manage to complete by the end of march? Maybe this is just referring to the 2020/21 element, I don't know.

Tuesday would work best for us as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are just back from leave and [REDACTED] works part time Tuesday to Thursday.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust, South Inch Business Centre, Perth, Perthshire, PH2 8BW
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Subject: Eisd Brachaidh Update - 301020
Date: 30 October 2020 15:22:18
Importance: High

Hi Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

Here is a brief update on progress this week:

All contracts have now been let for work associated with the EIA requirements

[REDACTED] attended a community council meeting on Thursday 29th October to speak to all members about the project and had the opportunity to update and talk through the project plans and progress to date

[REDACTED] is meeting the deer stalker on the Inver and Kirkaig Fisheries estate on Tuesday 3rd November to talk about the project

[REDACTED] met with Assynt Foundation earlier this week and they are fully supportive of the project, as is SWT

A deer management group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4th November to discuss and feedback on the Deer Management plan following the end of the consultation period

Last week, you queried how many weeks the contractor estimates the work will take in a best case weather scenario. They are proposing 15 squad weeks, with 3 squads working alongside one another (so 5 weeks work). Prior to that there is likely to be a 2-4 week lead time for materials to be ordered (they are provisionally ordered but can't be confirmed until the fencer has a contract), delivered and bundled for the helicopter and then flown onto the hill.

[REDACTED] will be putting together a revised project timeline over the next few days, and we also have a project team meeting next week. I will include an updated milestones sheet and timeline with our update next week.

I hope this is okay for now – please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything else or have any queries.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#)
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 301020
Date: 30 October 2020 16:07:00
Importance: High

Hi,
I have translated this and earlier updates into a timeline

WT has commissioned the necessary works to provide appropriate studies and information to be completed by mid-December.

This will allow for re-submission of the screening material to Scottish Forestry. WT has not feedback on the likely timescale for this but let's assume it submits before Christmas and SF takes a month.

If SF notifies that the applicant does not require a full EIA by late January and the SSSI consent is issued, there is a further 2-4 weeks to have the materials ordered and delivered, which takes us to mid to late February.

Then 3 squads will spend 5 weeks installing the fencing which takes us to the end of March. This is dependent on no interruptions for weather.

If a full EIA is requested by Scottish Forestry then the installation would start in 2021-22.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 | [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 30 October 2020 15:22
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 301020
Importance: High

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██████ will be putting together a revised project timeline over the next few days, and we also have a project team meeting next week. I will include an updated milestones sheet and timeline with our update next week.

I hope this is okay for now – please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything else or have any queries.

Best wishes

██████

████████████████████
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: ██████████

Email: ██████████ [@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:██████████@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG

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From: [Katherine Leys](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 301020
Date: 03 November 2020 10:57:34

Hi Jimmy and Gillian,

██████████ from WTS phoned me this morning to ask what information would be required for the review we planned for December. I advised that we were not looking for additional material to that they are sending Jimmy regularly, but that we would expect to see a timeline for project delivery that included all the constraints (bird breeding, deer closed season etc.) and a realistic assessment of what can be achieved if permissions are granted on the timescales they are expecting.

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

██████████

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████████████████████

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From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 30 October 2020 16:08
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 301020
Importance: High

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Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Sent: 30 October 2020 15:22

To: Jimmy Hyslop <jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 301020

Importance: High

Hi Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

Here is a brief update on progress this week:

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A deer management group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4th November to discuss and feedback on the Deer Management plan following the end of the consultation period

Last week, you queried how many weeks the contractor estimates the work will take in a best case weather scenario. They are proposing 15 squad weeks, with 3 squads working alongside one another (so 5 weeks work). Prior to that there is likely to be a 2-4 week lead time for materials to be ordered (they are provisionally ordered but can't be confirmed until the fencer has a contract), delivered and bundled for the helicopter and then flown onto the hill.

[REDACTED] will be putting together a revised project timeline over the next few days, and we also have a project team meeting next week. I will include an updated milestones sheet and timeline with our update next week.

I hope this is okay for now – please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything else or have any queries.

Best wishes



Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [Redacted]

Email: [\[Redacted\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot)
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 05/11/2020
Date: 09 November 2020 09:26:08

Hi Jimmy

Hope you had a lovely weekend.

The current information we have is that once Scottish Forestry have all of the information, there will be a 28 day consultation period. This means that it is likely that we won't have an EIA determination until the end of January at the earliest, and it is more likely to be February.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 05 November 2020 15:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 05/11/2020

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks. I think that structured information is very useful particularly when so much depends on getting some things done before others can start. Has Scottish Forestry given any indication about how long it might take to respond after WT provides all of the information?

Remember to get whoever owns the road to complete the BCF landowner form.

Jimmy

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

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2020 15:48
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 05/11/2020

Dear Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

I have a few points to update on this week, as below:

- * The bird and mammal survey is due to start ASAP. It is likely that this will be ongoing into early 2021 due to short daylight hours and potential Covid-19 restrictions around travel.
- * Landscape analysis is due to start ASAP and we anticipate this to be completed by the end of November.
- * It is looking increasingly likely that we will not get an EIA determination until January/February 2021. This is due to seasonal issues such as weather and short daylight hours as well as Covid-19 related challenges, meaning that surveys could take longer to complete than anticipated.
- * [REDACTED] attended the Assynt Community Council monthly meeting last week to update on the project. She will now attend each meeting and has requested a standing slot on the agenda.
- * The deadline for the Deer Management Plan consultation was yesterday. Two positive responses were received. One letter was received indicating that small enclosures would not be practical and suggesting cohesive deer management across all of the estates as an alternative approach. Responses and next steps will be discussed at the next Deer Management Group meeting on the 17th/18th November.
- * Work is underway to get permissions for the cattle grid in place, although this work will not be undertaken

until 2021.

* [REDACTED] is sending an update to NLHF this week, and will ask for information regarding match funding from the CALLP project.

Also, following discussions with Katherine Leys this week, we are preparing a revised timeline and budget for the project, as well as an assessment of risk/sensitivities. This will be submitted to NatureScot ahead of the board meeting on the 9th December, so that it can inform discussions at that meeting. When this is completed I will send it on to you, but in the meantime I don't think the previous milestones table is particularly helpful.

I hope this information is useful - please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries/questions.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk<[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot)
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisg Brachaidh - 13/11/2020
Date: 13 November 2020 11:32:54

Hi Jimmy

All well here - the sun is shining and it's almost the weekend so life is good :)

Yes - that's the plan with the EIA at the moment.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 13 November 2020 11:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisg Brachaidh - 13/11/2020

Hi Jennifer,
All well here, hope you are well this fine Friday.

So still looking to submit the necessary information to Scottish Forestry in January for an EIA opinion?

Jimmy

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

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2020 11:28
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Project Update - Eisg Brachaidh - 13/11/2020

Hi Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

Here is the latest update from the Eisg Brachaidh team:

- The visual impact assessment work has now started and other survey work is ongoing.
- [REDACTED] attended the wider deer management group meeting on Wednesday and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been in discussion with local NatureScot staff regarding the deer management plan and revision work needed.
- There is a deer management subgroup meeting next week, where the deer management plan will be discussed and we will seek to finalise the plan. The group will be given the opportunity to consider an alternative option that would involve no deer fence and increased co-ordinated deer management across neighbouring estates.
- Feedback on the community consultation went to NLHF this week, and CALL had their quarterly meeting with them. We haven't had any feedback from the meeting yet. There is a CALL Steering Delivery Committee meeting on Tuesday next week and we hope to get feedback at that.

We are also continuing work to put together a revised timeline and cost plan, as I mentioned last week. We have a project team meeting next Thursday where this will be discussed. Once any changes have been made and it has been agreed and finalised, I will forward this on to you.

I hope this information is useful. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything more from me or have any questions.

Best wishes

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#)
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 13/11/2020
Date: 13 November 2020 11:50:00

Hi,

Some of the studies WT has commissioned will not be ready until January, so re-submission of the screening material to Scottish Forestry will be in January, rather than December. Scottish Forestry has a 28 day turnabout time so a decision could take until early February.

If SF notifies that the applicant does not require a full EIA by early February and the SSSI consent is then issued quickly, there is a further 2-4 weeks to have the materials ordered and delivered, which takes us to the end of February.

Then 3 squads will spend 5 weeks installing the fencing which takes us to early April. This is dependent on no interruptions for weather.

If a full EIA is requested by Scottish Forestry then the installation could only start in 2021-22.

Jimmy

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

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2020 11:33
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 13/11/2020

Hi Jimmy

All well here - the sun is shining and it's almost the weekend so life is good :)

Yes - that's the plan with the EIA at the moment.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 13 November 2020 11:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 13/11/2020

Hi [REDACTED]

All well here, hope you are well this fine Friday.

So still looking to submit the necessary information to Scottish Forestry in January for an EIA opinion?

Jimmy

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

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2020 11:28
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Project Update - Eisd Brachaidh - 13/11/2020

Hi Jimmy

I hope this email finds you well.

Here is the latest update from the Eisg Brachaidh team:

- The visual impact assessment work has now started and other survey work is ongoing. [REDACTED] attended the wider deer management group meeting on Wednesday and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been in discussion with local NatureScot staff regarding the deer management plan and revision work needed.
- There is a deer management subgroup meeting next week, where the deer management plan will be discussed and we will seek to finalise the plan. The group will be given the opportunity to consider an alternative option that would involve no deer fence and increased co-ordinated deer management across neighbouring estates.
- Feedback on the community consultation went to NLHF this week, and CALL had their quarterly meeting with them. We haven't had any feedback from the meeting yet. There is a CALL Steering Delivery Committee meeting on Tuesday next week and we hope to get feedback at that.

We are also continuing work to put together a revised timeline and cost plan, as I mentioned last week. We have a project team meeting next Thursday where this will be discussed. Once any changes have been made and it has been agreed and finalised, I will forward this on to you.

I hope this information is useful. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything more from me or have any questions.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BCF Project Update - Eisg Brachaidh - 20/11/20
Date: 20 November 2020 15:58:00

Hi [REDACTED],
It's damp and grey here too.

Thanks for this report on progress towards resolving the various consents' issues. Look forward to seeing the timeline next week.

Have a good weekend,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop I Funding Officer
NatureScot I Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR I 0131 314 6769
mob: [REDACTED] nature.scot | @nature_scot | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 20 November 2020 15:11
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: BCF Project Update - Eisg Brachaidh - 20/11/20

Hi Jimmy

I hope that this email finds you well. All okay here, if rather grey and damp!

Here is our update for this week:

* [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended the Deer Management Group meeting last week (18th November). Notes from the meeting:

* Inverpolly had produced a counter proposal to our fencing proposal accepting that the multiple enclosure model wouldn't work but proposing a wider Coigach and Assynt deer reduction model. Whilst on the face of it this may have some appeal, the practical realities of the idea were fairly unsurmountable. The Inverpolly proposal suggested reducing deer density down to 3.5 animals per sq. kilometre whereas to achieve the habitat improvements for the SSSI on Eisg Brachaidh and allow the establishment of a functioning woodland ecosystem would require nearer 1.5 animals per sq. kilometre, especially to get regeneration of a diverse multi structure woodland with re-establishment of all the more deer palatable elements. We do not feel that it is sustainable to ask the neighbouring properties to bear the brunt of such a significant level of reduction over a long time period and especially given they have such different objectives. Cooperation to this end is unlikely to be achieved given the long history of past experience.

* Both sets of proposals along with the draft deer management plan were presented and given a thorough airing at the DMG on the 18 November. Given two opposing points of view, a move to have a vote on the issue was blocked as it was felt this fell outside the remit of the DMG to pass a veto or otherwise on a members land management proposals. This was felt to be a dangerous precedent locally and for further afield.

* It was agreed/suggested by the Chair that the deer management plan for Eisg Brachaidh be amended, as was planned following a previous meeting with NatureScot, to show that we have taken genuine concerns into account in the mitigation procedures. It was pointed out that deer are very unpredictable and the actual effects of a fence are not possible to know upfront. However, a range of mitigation measures like neighbour cooperation with Inver and Kirkaig Fisheries over deer control, monitoring and access, an increase in the Assynt Foundation cull on adjacent ground, a community email drop box for raising deer concerns, and the fenceline around Lochinver which [REDACTED] is pursuing with Inver and Kirkaig Fisheries should account for most of the possible scenarios and ease community concerns. Assynt Foundation and SWT are supportive of the proposal and Assynt Foundation are happy to commit to the proposed mitigation if needed on their land. We are discussing the proposed mitigation if needed with both Assynt Foundation and Inver and Kirkaig Fisheries. This should hopefully now give an end point to the DMG consultation process.

- * Actions from the meeting were for Eise Brachaidh to collate all of the tabled issues and to formulate mitigation and response plans accordingly, and for the DMG to review the issues and solutions.
- * [REDACTED] is attending a community council meeting next week.
- * [REDACTED] is going to arrange to meet with Inver and Kirkaig Fisheries to discuss the project.
- * We are putting together an update on progress for the local community, which will be circulated at the beginning of next week. This will be given to the community councils and placed on local shops and business premises, as well as published in the Assynt News. I will provide a copy of this with my next update.
- * We are still working on the GANTT chart and revised timeline, and I should be able to share a draft of this with you next week.
- * Surveys for the SSSI consent and EIA determination are still progressing well.

I hope this provides the information you need - please do let me know if you have any questions or need anything more.

Have a lovely weekend

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk<[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: This weeks update including Gantt Chart
Date: 04 December 2020 17:26:08

Hi,

I apologise I hadn't realised that [REDACTED] was off today when I sent this to the team earlier. But please find attached Gantt Chart and Timeline as previously discussed.

Please let me know if there are any queries on this.

Kind Regards,

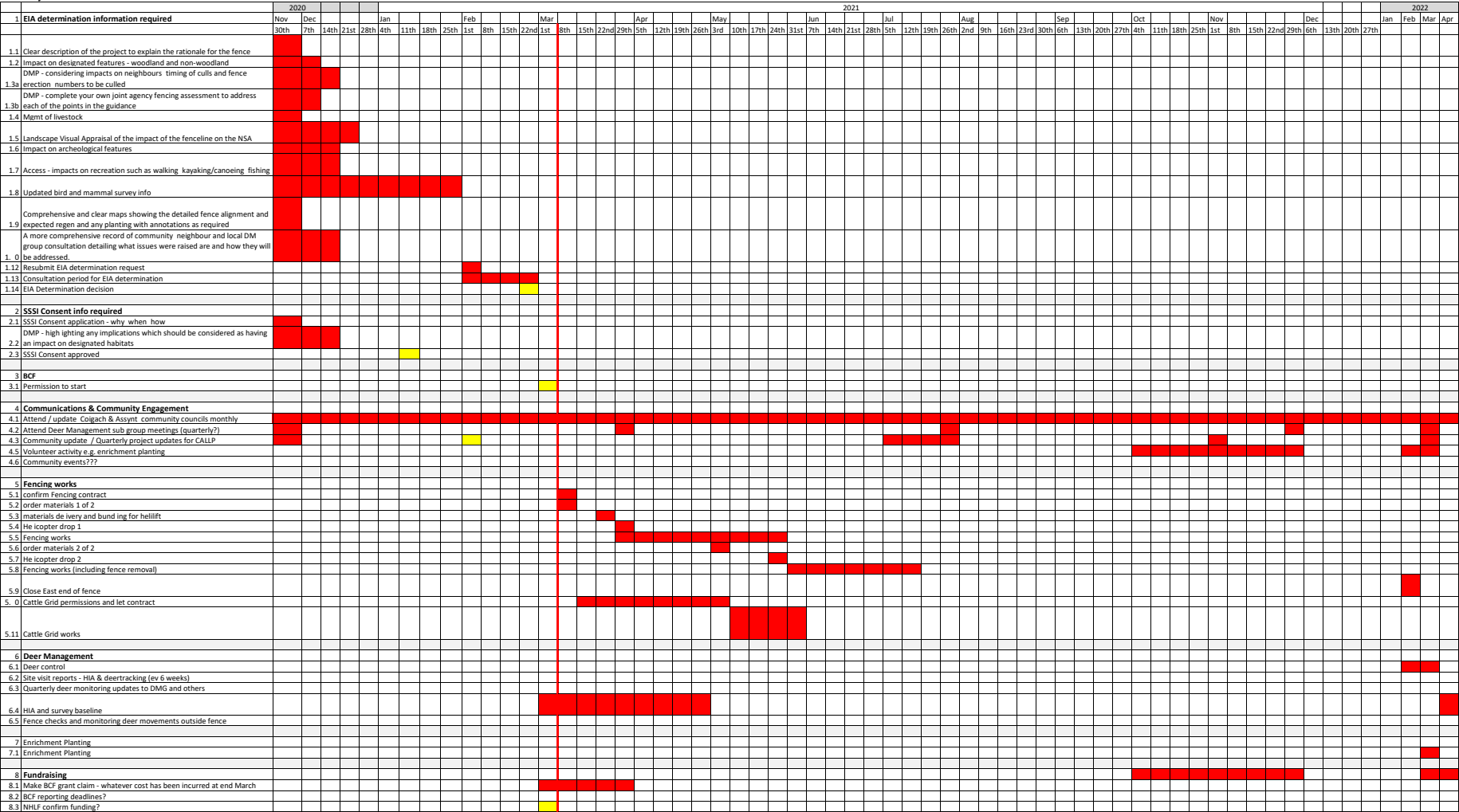
[REDACTED]

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Eisg Brachaidh Restoration Project
Project Timeline Chart

m lestones



Risk Factors

COVID Bad weather...field visits required.
Contractors are in level 4

COVID Bad weather...field visits required

COVID restrictions Bad weather...field
visits required

SF decide they want an EIA

Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing

COVID restrictions dependent.
ditto
ditto
ditto
Weather dependent on when deer
move down from the hill

COVID restrictions dependent on where
the succesful bidder is based. If local going
to be a limited effect.

ongoing HIA
survey

ongoing

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline
Date: 08 December 2020 14:47:00

So that's forecasting on the basis of the applicant's timeline. I'll leave it as it is.

Jimmy

From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 14:46
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Thanks for clarifying Jimmy.

Can you forecast on the basis of most next year and some this year. Does that suggest there is still £50k in this FY? If so, probably ok.

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 14:35
To: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi Gillian,

I am still working on the basis of a grant offer for a project which is due to complete by 31 March 2021. I will change that to March 2022.

Kath asked to move £150k into 2021-22 a couple of months ago. Do you want me to forecast on the basis of what the applicant says or on my analysis of what is likely?

Jimmy

From: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 14:24
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi Jimmy – I think we would want to see spend wherever possible. I'll discuss this with Clive, Kath and Catriona at our next budget meeting. Meantime, can you please forecast potential.

Thanks
gillian

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 10:28

To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi Kath,

Having had a closer look at the timeline, I see that there are two tranches of fencing works:

- WT is planning to have the contractor order some materials in March so that it can be delivered **w/c 29 March**, helicoptered in and works starting immediately, allowing for a claim for 2020-21.
- Second tranche starting **w/c 31 May** though I note the comment from [REDACTED] in the cell, "*many be an issue to get accommodation before September*".

With the delivery of materials w/c 29 March the slightest slippage in the timeline potentially jeopardises our financial planning near year end. For example, bad weather further delays the surveys, SF takes the full 28 days or NatureScot Area waits until SF provides the EIA determination before issuing SSSI consent.

I would recommend that, if we are still supporting this, we move the rest of the grant funding to 2021-22 so that we agree that WT can order the materials at the end of March, materials can be delivered in April, works can start then and it is all clearly being delivered and claimed for in 2021-22. This takes unnecessary pressure off WT and ourselves.

Jimmy

From: Jimmy Hyslop

Sent: 07 December 2020 10:16

To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>

Cc: Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>

Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi all,

The Woodland Trust has pulled together a timeline for the project. Broadly it is anticipating ordering and receiving some of the materials at the tail end of this financial year with a second order being delivered in May, prior to work potentially starting at the very end of May.

If you can see any issues with the timeline, particularly with regard to activity with which NatureScot is involved, please feed them back by Wednesday lunchtime. Many thanks,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

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From: [Tamara Lawton](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [Katherine Leys](#); [Graeme Taylor](#); [Sinclair Coghill](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline
Date: 08 December 2020 17:42:29

Hi Jimmy, still waiting on the final fence lines map and deer management plan to complete the HRA. I think their deadline of 11th January isn't entirely unreasonable but will depend on getting me the info in the next week or so. It will also depend on advisor availability, so a more realistic date would be by the end of January.

Cheers, Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 10:10
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi all,
Would you be likely to issue the SSSI consent before SF provides the EIA determination?

Jimmy


From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 07 December 2020 10:16
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

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If you can see any issues with the timeline, particularly with regard to activity with which NatureScot is involved, please feed them back by Wednesday lunchtime. Many thanks,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

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From: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [Chris Donald](#); [Graham Neville](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - 2020-2021 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 09 December 2020 17:24:49

Seems a reasonable approach.

Gillian

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2020 16:29
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Chris Donald <Chris.Donald@nature.scot>; Graham Neville <Graham.Neville@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>
Subject: 501341 - BCF - 2020-2021 - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project


Hi Jimmy, cc Chris, Graham and Gillian,

Graham, Chris and I just met and discussed what to do about the Eisg Brachaidh BCF grant. This was a strategic discussion rather than considering the detail on likelihood of spend this FY. So, we agreed the following:

- We are content to continue to support the project, even if all spend falls into next FY. The reasoning here is that the biodiversity benefits that we sought to create initially are still there to be obtained through implementing the scheme, and whilst there has been local controversy, those elements will hopefully decline over time.
- However, that support cannot be open ended. If the project fails to get EIA approval then obviously they won't have all the necessary permissions so we withdraw funding. Similarly, if the EIA process delays matters such that the appropriate window for deer control next year is lost and the project does not have a realistic chance of being delivered next FY, then we do not give permission for it to begin. Whilst WTS have been very open with us we do need to be mindful that they came to us without having done the necessary preparatory work for the project, so our support has to be, at least in some part, conditional on us continuing to have confidence in their ability to manage and deliver the project.
- If we do extend the project timescales then our spend has to be completed by 31st March 2022 as we cannot afford to keep carrying over this commitment.

I hope that all makes sense. Do you want to give them that message or do you want me to do that?

Thanks
Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

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In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 11 December 2020 15:04:00

Hi all,

Thanks again for the Gantt chart last week. Bit of a dreich day down here but that's December for you.

As you know Kath was discussing the project with others this week. The outcome is that, recognising that the biodiversity benefits will still be realised by implementing the scheme, NatureScot is content to continue to support the project. Therefore we are extending the end date for our grant support to 31 March 2022. The project must be delivered by then and we will not consider any further extension.

Our support is conditional on us having confidence in WTS's ability to manage and deliver the project by 31st March 2022. For example,

- If the project fails to get EIA approval then WTS will not have the necessary permissions to meet the grant conditions and we would not give permission for it to begin.
- If the EIA process delays matters such that the appropriate window for deer control next year is lost and the project does not have a realistic chance of being delivered in its entirety next FY, then we would not give permission for it to begin.

Given the timeline you provided, we are projecting likely grant claims of £48k for expenditure to 31 March 2021, with the remainder of the grant being paid for 2021-22. We will support, even if slippage means that all spend falls into next financial year. However we would expect a timely update on any changes to the scale of what can be delivered, particularly in 2020-21 as we head towards the end of the financial year. Please keep the weekly updates coming.

I hope that this helps with your planning. Any questions, just ask,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 11 December 2020 16:08:42
Importance: High

Dear Jimmy

This is indeed fantastic news, and thanks so much for all your help in securing this extension to the grant.

My update this week is quite short, but hopefully of use.

- A project update was circulated around the local communities last week, but there has been no feedback as yet
- [REDACTED] has been in touch with the Scottish Land Commission to keep them up to date with progress
- We will be submitting a report to NLHF by the 30th December detailing our engagement activity with local community and stakeholders
- [REDACTED] was on site last week to look at the eastern end near the loch to check for suitability for fencing – it is good ground and not a nesting site so there shouldn't be any problems. This information is required for the SSSI determination.
- The archaeology survey is starting on Monday. [REDACTED] has been on site to mark out the fenceline to help define the boundaries of the survey.
- We have requested an update from the landscape visualisation consultant
- The deer management plan is now finalised and we have submitted monitoring plan

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries/questions.

Best wishes and have a good weekend

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 December 2020 15:28
To: Jimmy Hyslop; [REDACTED]
Cc: Katherine Leys
Subject: Re: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Thank you very much for your update Jimmy. A welcome bit of news on a very wet dreich day.

We will continue to provide weekly reports as we progress to keep you up to speed as things progress. Have a good weekend.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 15:04
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@coigach-assynt.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@coigach-assynt.org)>, [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk> [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

CC: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>

Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - EIS Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi all,

Thanks again for the Gantt chart last week. Bit of a dreich day down here but that's December for you.

As you know Kath was discussing the project with others this week. The outcome is that, recognising that the biodiversity benefits will still be realised by implementing the scheme, NatureScot is content to continue to support the project. Therefore we are extending the end date for our grant support to 31 March 2022. The project must be delivered by then and we will not consider any further extension.

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I hope that this helps with your planning. Any questions, just ask,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

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mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-sgrìobhaidh.

Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 21 December 2020 15:47:14

Hi Jimmy,

I'm afraid there is an issue with the Woodland Trusts systems, so [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are now out of office until the new year.

The archaeology survey is completed and we'll have the written report by the first week in January.

The landscape architect managed to get up last week too and has been working on finalising the visuals, again I hope to have the report in early January.

Due to the issue with WT systems the SSSI consent request didn't get into Tamara, but will be submitted once [REDACTED] is back to work in the new year.

Sorry that there isn't more to update.

I hope that you have a good Christmas and look forward to catching up again the New Year.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2020 14:34
To: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@coigach-assynt.org>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi [REDACTED],
A last update before the Christmas holidays?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
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From: [REDACTED]
To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot); Jimmy Hyslop
Subject: Eisgh Bracaidh FWPMs
Date: 22 December 2020 10:45:22

Dear [REDACTED]

I write in response to your update to the community regarding your proposals for Eisgh Brachaidh.

Whilst nothing I say will divert you and your partners from this blinkered view of the solutions to the "problems" at Eisgh Brachaidh say it I must.

To suggest that [REDACTED] 3rd option of increasing the deer cull across the landscape has no funding for the next 20-30 years is disingenuous in the extreme. Deer management in the area has reduced the density to 5/sqK without funding and is a result of the ongoing estate management that local deer groups have done and will continue to do at no cost to the tax payer unlike the grandiose schemes that you preside over. There is no obvious funding for the fence over that period.

The water courses each side of Eisgh Brachaidh, the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] are important for freshwater pearl mussels. These filter feeders are *very* susceptible to trace elements in the water. There are 3 factors in your project that could endanger this most precarious of species.

1 The 12 miles of fence will involve 926 metric tons of galvanised wire being put into a wet acidic environment, most of it alongside water. That is 55 metric tons of Zinc. Zinc is very toxic to fish but especially FWPMs. Trace metals bind to organic particles and these when washed into the river will be taken in by filter feeders.

2 The Tanalith used in preserving the wooden posts is a copper compound. Tests show that these leach out into the environment, rapidly at first but continuously thereafter for the life of the post. Again these copper compounds will bind to organic particles in the peat and be washed into rivers. Tracking and erosion on the outside (and often inside) of deer fencing caused by deer walking along the fence will mobilise the contaminated peat and allow it to wash into the water courses where it will be consumed by the mussels.

3 The proposal includes some additional planting of trees and other species. If these are fertilised on planting the eutrophication of the catchment will be lethal to FWPMs which are very sensitive to nitrate and phosphate levels.

Can you categorically state that the placement of such large quantities of toxic materials in an acidic and sensitive environment will have NO effect on the invertebrate community of the catchment. Environmental history is littered with cases of damage and species loss caused by well intentioned but ill advised activities. The precautionary principle should apply. A salmon farming company recently pulled plans to build a fish farm off Eisgh Brachaidh precisely because they couldn't guarantee there would be no effect on the pearl mussels in the [REDACTED].

It would be a tragic irony if in your unwarranted attempts to cultivate common species of trees you decimated or wiped out a truly fragile community of another species. Be assured that if the pearl mussels disappear from the area the blame will be levelled at you.

There are so many reasons why the defiling of the landscape with a monstrous fence should not go ahead but I truly believe that poisoning the landscape with so much man made material is very relevant.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: scotland@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED] @forestry.gov.scot; [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Subject: Re: Eisgh Bracaidh FWPMs
Date: 23 December 2020 08:43:15

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my previous email I have revisited the calculations re the fencing weight and discovered I made an error. The figure was based on the weight of 50m of wire and I omitted to divide the total length by 50 so the weight of wire is out by a factor of 50 ie it should be 18 metric tons of wire which represents 1.1 tonnes of Zinc.

Although the total weight is not as mind boggling the effect is still the same, the 3 catchments will be lined by a continuous source of Zn and Cu and the deer tracking around the fence will mobilise the metal contaminated peat. The fence will be on a steep slope especially [REDACTED] and wash off is certain.

yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

On Tue, 22 Dec 2020 at 10:45, [REDACTED] [@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com) wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I write in response to your update to the community regarding your proposals for Eisgh Brachaidh.

Whilst nothing I say will divert you and your partners from this blinkered view of the solutions to the "problems" at Eisgh Brachaidh say it I must.

To suggest that [REDACTED] 3rd option of increasing the deer cull across the landscape has no funding for the next 20-30 years is disingenuous in the extreme. Deer management in the area has reduced the density to 5/ sqK without funding and is a result of the ongoing estate management that local deer groups have done and will continue to do at no cost to the tax payer unlike the grandiose schemes that you preside over. There is no obvious funding for the fence over that period.

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It would be a tragic irony if in your unwarranted attempts to cultivate common species of trees you decimated or wiped out a truly fragile community of another species. Be assured that if the pearl mussels disappear from the area the blame will be levelled at you.

There are so many reasons why the defiling of the landscape with a monstrous fence should not go ahead but I truly believe that poisoning the landscape with so much man made material is very relevant.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature.

From: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 06 January 2021 09:35:39


Thanks Jimmy.

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 05 January 2021 16:52
To: Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: 501341 BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Gillian,
There is still £48.3k for this grant in 2020-21. I fully expect all of that to slip into 2021-22 shortly.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 11 January 2021 14:59:00

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy New Year to you all.

I hope that your systems are getting back to normal.

Could you please give me a quick update on progress and likely timelines since [REDACTED] updated me on 21 December.

Our position has eased on having some activity and spend in 2022-21, so if there is a likelihood that the start date for ordering materials will move to April, please let me know so that I can make early financial provision for this.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 15 January 2021 16:15:00

Thanks [REDACTED] and hope that you have a good weekend,

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:08
To: Jimmy Hyslop <jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@coigach-assynt.org>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Re: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy

I hope that you are well and had a lovely Christmas break - although that seems so long ago already!

As you know, we have been having some issues with our IT systems but we are slowly getting back online.

I have asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for an update, but haven't heard back from either of them as yet. As soon as I have some information for you I will send it through.

Apologies for this delay - I didn't want you to think that we were not responding to you.

Best wishes and happy New Year!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk<mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

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[Woodland Trust Scotland]<<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>>
Stand up for trees<<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>>

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 11 January 2021 14:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi [REDACTED],

Happy New Year to you all.

I hope that your systems are getting back to normal.

Could you please give me a quick update on progress and likely timelines since [REDACTED] updated me on 21 December.

Our position has eased on having some activity and spend in 2022-21, so if there is a likelihood that the start date for ordering materials will move to April, please let me know so that I can make early financial provision for this.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop I Funding Officer

NatureScot I Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR I 0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot<<https://www.nature.scot/>> | @nature_scot<https://twitter.com/@nature_scot> | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Tamara Lawton](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline
Date: 21 January 2021 09:32:00
Attachments: 501341 - 113 - Timeline - Gantt chart - FINAL.obr

Hi Tamara.
Happy New Year to you.

The Gantt chart has SSSI consent confirmed by end of the week commencing 11 January. Was it issued last week? If not, any indication when? Are you still waiting for information?

Jimmy

From: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 17:42
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi Jimmy, still waiting on the final fence lines map and deer management plan to complete the HRA. I think their deadline of 11th January isn't entirely unreasonable but will depend on getting me the info in the next week or so. It will also depend on advisor availability, so a more realistic date would be by the end of January.

Cheers, Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2020 10:10
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi all,
Would you be likely to issue the SSSI consent before SF provides the EIA determination?

Jimmy

From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 07 December 2020 10:16
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>

Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eìsg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi all,

The Woodland Trust has pulled together a timeline for the project. Broadly it is anticipating ordering and receiving the some of the materials at the tail end of this financial year with a second order being delivered in May, prior to work potentially starting at the very end of May.

If you can see any issues with the timeline, particularly with regard to activity with which NatureScot is involved, please feed them back by Wednesday lunchtime. Many thanks,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot) | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

rebirds. Mass a gun d' their with an post-decline use la

measachd eòl bh fìs dhan mairidhear sìos a m'no reach
sg'fhathach.

Tha sibhl an sìre sìrean adhbharan gunachadh 's dìche gun tìd
tìd a chumail air pàirt deula n a' fighinn a s'each agus a' d'ol a
mach bhà Nàruachd.

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Registered Office: Kempton Way, Gantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.

From: [Tamara Lawton](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline
Date: 21 January 2021 15:42:16

Thanks Jimmy, I did tell [REDACTED] that the consent would wait for the outcome of the screening and she was okay with that. I think the IT problem is certainly a thing as we are still waiting for an updated deer plan but it seems [REDACTED] was especially having issues. I think the other hindrance is the Covid restrictions – getting people out on the ground for surveying has been particularly hit.

Keep calm eh? ☺

Cheers,
Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 January 2021 15:38
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Thanks Tamara,
NatureScot is no longer wedded to the idea that some activity must take place in this financial year but I need a clearer view from WT on the various timescales. WT's IT problems and p/t furloughs have hampered communications over the last month. I have asked them to update the Gantt chart and hope to have something from them by middle of next week.

Does WT know that consent will be considered after the EIA screening?

Jimmy

From: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 January 2021 15:32
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

Hi Jimmy, happy 2021 to you also.

I had a meeting with [REDACTED] from WTS last week and we discussed this. My understanding now is that essentially we will have to wait until the EIA screening is completed – I believe they are hoping to submit all the required info to Scottish Forestry by the end of January. We are still waiting for an updated fence line as this is still subject to a slight change (and negotiation with the tenant apparently) but this should also be agreed by the end of Jan.

I don't have a specific date when it will be issued but we should know more once SF have done their bit.

Cheers,

Tamara

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 January 2021 09:32
To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

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Cc: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline

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Jimmy

From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 07 December 2020 10:16

To: Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Cc: Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - timeline


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If you can see any issues with the timeline, particularly with regard to activity with which NatureScot is involved, please feed them back by Wednesday lunchtime. Many thanks,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update 260121
Date: 26 January 2021 14:25:00

Hi [REDACTED]

Excellent and many thanks. In terms of timings, I caught up with Tamara Lawton who said that she had let [REDACTED] know that Naturescot will be looking at the SSSI consent after the outcome of the EIA screening determination is known.

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 26 January 2021 14:04
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update 260121
Importance: High

Dear Jimmy

I hope you are well and thanks for your patience. Apologies for the delay since our last update just before New Year – this is due to the ongoing IT issues that we are experiencing and key staff currently being on furlough.

In terms of progress, here is the latest news:

- * The archaeology report has been completed and received.
 - * The landscape report is almost complete, pending a site visit by [REDACTED] to feed into the visual assessment of one section of the fence line. [REDACTED] has been unable to get on to the site due to weather and ground conditions but plans to do this as soon as she is able.
 - * The bird and mammal survey should be completed by the end of January.
 - * The team is putting together a consultation update report to submit to NHLF. There was no feedback to the community update sent out on December 2020. A communications log and update will also be sent to Scottish Forestry as part of the EIA determination paperwork. If you would like to receive a copy of this, please let me know and I will arrange this for you.
 - * [REDACTED] is focusing on getting the EIA determination and SSSI consent submitted/in place. Our absolute deadline for the submission is the 8th February 2021. With the 28 day evaluation period we would expect a decision w/c 15th March at the latest.
 - * [REDACTED] is going to arrange to meet Cameron at Inverkirkaig Fisheries in early February to discuss the proposal and mitigating measures.
 - * We have arranged for the tender for the cattle grid to be drawn up.
 - * [REDACTED] is in regular contact with the fencing contractor, but it has not been possible to set a start date for the work due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.
- I hope that this provides an overview of the work ongoing to keep the Eisg Brachaidh project moving. [REDACTED] is in the process of updating the GANTT chart and we will send this through to you tomorrow with a revised spend profile, which will help to answer your questions re. grant drawdown.

Thanks for your help – please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Best wishes

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [Redacted]

Email:

[Redacted] [@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@woodlandtrust.org.uk) <[mailto:\[Redacted\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

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<<https://www.youtube.com/user/woodlandtrust/>>

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Registered Office: Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Woodland Trust IT Update
Date: 26 January 2021 15:17:09
Importance: High

Dear Jimmy

I am sorry to inform you that the Trust has been the victim of a sophisticated high-level cyber incident. As soon as we became aware of the incident, we engaged a group of external specialists who launched an investigation and also took immediate action in order to mitigate the impact.

We reported the incident to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the Charity Commission as well as the Police Cybercrime Unit.

We are continuing with our analysis and, at this stage, investigations have found no evidence that our data has been compromised.

Unfortunately this incident, as you will have seen, has had some impact on project delivery timescales and our claiming and reporting to you. [REDACTED] will be in touch separately to confirm the timing for our Biodiversity Challenge Fund claim for Loch Arkaig, and I will endeavour to keep you up to date with progress at Eisg Brachaidh.

I wanted to reassure you that we take the security of our system extremely seriously and are doing everything we can to resolve the issue. We apologise for the inconvenience this has caused and are grateful for your patience and understanding at this time. Your continued support for the work we are doing to help fight the nature and climate crises is even more important in these troubled times.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk<mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

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<<https://twitter.com/WoodlandTrust/>>[Yt]

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[Woodland Trust Scotland]<<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>>

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milestones

Risk Factors

COVID Bad weather..field visits required.
Contractors are in level 4

COVID Bad weather...field visits required

COVID restrictions Bad weather...field visits required

SF decide they want an EIA

Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing

COVID restrictions dependent. As per SG update of 24/11 of the covid situation. Given current regulations and squads coming from Level 3 and accommodation needs sharing mobile we fare units etc a start before april is looking more unlkely. ditto

ditto
ditto
ditto. Weather dependent on when deer
move down from the hi l

COVID restrictions dependent on where the successful bidder is based. If local going to be a limited effect.

ongoing HIV
survey

ongoing

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Updated GANTT Chart
Date: 27 January 2021 15:36:32
Importance: High

Hi Jimmy

Hope you are well.

As promised, here is the revised GANTT chart for the Eisg Brachaidh project. It has been updated to reflect the impact of Covid19 and current project timescales.

To answer your query about the timing of the fencing invoice, we think that it is more realistic to assume that it will now be submitted in the next financial year as current Covid19 restrictions mean that it would be logistically difficult for the fencing teams to start work before then. I hope this helps you to make the right provisions for drawdown to match our expected spend profile.

Thanks for all your help - please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or need any further information.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk<mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

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THE WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND
KEMPTON WAY
GRANTHAM
LINCOLNSHIRE
UK
NG31 6LL

Purchasing Information we have about you:
Address : As opposite
E-mail :
Tel. : 1476-581111
Primary Contact:
Please help us keep our records up to date

*****REVISION*****

Purchase Order Number NS78845-2

Please quote this number on all invoices and other correspondence relating to this order
Invoices to be submitted to NatureScot within 60 days of completion of work/services or delivery of goods

Payment will not be made unless this number is quoted on invoices
E-mail is our preferred mode of communication.

This is a revised Purchase Order – please refer to your records or contact us for the confirmation of changes
Revised Date : 27-JAN-2021

Delivery / Contact

Donald (Jimmy) Hyslop

NatureScot
NatureScot, Caspian House, 2 Mariner Court
8 South Avenue
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank
G81 2NR

Email : jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot

Invoice To

Transactions@nature.scot

Transaction Services
NatureScot
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness, IV3 8NW

Tel:01463 725150

Order Lines ***(Original)-Revised**

| Line | Description/Notes | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|------|-------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | Item No | Qty | UOM | Need By | Unit Price | VAT Code | Net Value |
| 1 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 1 | | | | | | |
| | : | 25000 | EACH | 30-JUN-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 25,000.00 |
| 2 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 23340.67 | EACH | 30-JUN-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 23,340.67 |
| 3 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 100000 | EACH | 29-OCT-2021 | 1.00 | OS | 100,000.00 |
| 4 | 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project - claim 2 | | | | | | |
| | : | 50000 | EACH | 25-MAR-2022 | 1.00 | OS | 50,000.00 |
| Total Net Order Value(GBP) | | | | | | | 198,340.67 |

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Eisd Brachaidh Update - 19/02/2021
Date: 19 February 2021 15:41:00

Hi Jimmy

Thanks - it has been a slow recovery but we are getting there.

It's great to hear that the grant is safe, but sad to hear we will be losing you from the project. Thanks for all your help over the past year or so - it has been much appreciated and your support has been invaluable through some pretty challenging circumstances.

Thanks and enjoy the weekend when it comes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG
01738 635 544
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



Stand up for trees

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL
0330 333 3300
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk





Stand Up For Trees

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 3:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 19/02/2021

Thanks [REDACTED],

Glad that you have recovered from the effects of the attach. Sounds good and the NatureScot funding is all sitting there comfortably, ready for a start in 2021-22.

I am a half time Funding Officer and will be reverting to my job in Central Scotland full time from April. When I know who the new Funding Officer is I'll let you know.

Have a good weekend,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | @nature_scot | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 19 February 2021 15:28
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Update - 19/02/2021

Hi Jimmy

I hope that you are well.

Here is our latest update on progress with the Eisg Brachaidh project, following our team meeting this week:

- Since the cyber-attack in December last year, we have had issues with accessing and sharing files but this is now mostly resolved. We are working to have either re-written or to have recovered all files by early next week. The aim is for them to be

finalised by end of next week for submission to Scottish Forestry.

- [REDACTED] has been out to check and survey several fenceline sections to ensure that they are correct for the EIA determination submission. This work was delayed due to adverse weather conditions and Covid-19 restrictions. These surveys are now completed and the fencelines have been digitised. The finalised fenceline plans have been sent to the landscape architect, and we are now awaiting receipt of the final visuals.
- We are aiming to submit the EIA determination to Scottish Forestry by the end of next week (26th February).

I hope that this update is helpful – please do get in touch if you have any questions or need more information.

Best wishes and have a lovely weekend

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG
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www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



[Stand up for trees](#)

[REDACTED]

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NatureScot.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 04 March 2021 14:17:14

Hi Jimmy

Hope all is well Everything is fine here thanks.

I have had an update through from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Unfortunately, we have had a delay with the landscape architect so have not yet submitted the EIA determination. We are expecting to receive the final drawings next week and can submit to Scottish Forestry once we have them.

Time has also been spent tweaking the fence line due to concerns that too much land is out with the deer fence. [REDACTED] has been working on this to ensure that the fence line position works for the environmental concerns of the project whilst meeting legal requirements.

We have a project meeting on Monday, so I will send a full update following that to keep you in the loop.

I hope this is enough for now - please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG
01738 635 544
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



Stand up for trees

Development Officer - Scotland

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL

0330 333 3300

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



Stand Up For Trees

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:19 AM

To: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Projec

Hi all,

How's yourselves this fine, foggy morning?

Did the Trust manage to deliver all of the studies, etc. to Scottish Forestry last week?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |

0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature*

Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

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Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a-mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-sgrìobhaidh.

Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-

mach bho NatureScot.

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<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 16 March 2021 08:40:41

Hi Jimmy,

We got the landscape report yesterday, just a few minor changes for spelling etc, so hopefully will get the final report today.

There are a lot of files to send over, I'm going to try and send them today, but due to my wifi speed it may need to upload tonight, so SF should get the resubmission today or first thing tomorrow. They know its coming in.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Woodland Manager - Coigach & Assynt Living Landscapes Partnership (CALLP)
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL
0330 333 3300
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



Stand Up For Trees

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 15 March 2021 17:16
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Subject: RE: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi [REDACTED]
How are things going?

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Sent: 04 March 2021 14:17
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Subject: Re: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisd Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project

Hi Jimmy

Hope all is well Everything is fine here thanks.

I have had an update through from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Unfortunately, we have had a delay with the

landscape architect so have not yet submitted the EIA determination. We are expecting to receive the final drawings next week and can submit to Scottish Forestry once we have them.

Time has also been spent tweaking the fence line due to concerns that too much land is out with the deer fence. [REDACTED] has been working on this to ensure that the fence line position works for the environmental concerns of the project whilst meeting legal requirements.

We have a project meeting on Monday, so I will send a full update following that to keep you in the loop.

I hope this is enough for now - please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh
Date: 23 March 2021 12:09:00

Grand, many thanks [REDACTED] We can catch up after the 28 days.

Had a wee thought which I had noted down and just come across again. I am guessing that road into which the grid will be installed is owned by the Highland Council so, at some point, THC will need to complete a landowner declaration form for that.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 23 March 2021 11:46
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Jimmy

I hope that this email finds you well.

I just wanted to let you know that the EIA determination documentation was submitted in full last Friday (19th March).

Unless we hear that we need to submit any addition information, the 28 day consultation process will begin shortly.

I will keep you up to date with any developments, but I think it will be fairly quiet from now until we hear back from Scottish Forestry.

If you need anything more from me, just let me know.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project
Date: 30 April 2021 09:27:00

Hi [REDACTED],

And, talking of Eisg Brachaidh, how did things go with Scottish Forestry? Any other progress over the last five weeks to report?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature*
Agency | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#)
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh and EIA
Date: 04 May 2021 16:31:00

Hi Kath,

Looking at <https://forestry.gov.scot/publicregistereia> for Highlands and Islands, it would appear that the project is now on the public register until 6th June and in for a full EIA.

I am now dealing with the final end of year grant payment on my caseload. Caroline and I are returning to our substantive roles. I will be handing over my few remaining grants as soon as Gillian has recruited the new f/t Funding Officer probably in the next five weeks. In the meantime, normal service is being maintained,

Jimmy

From: Jimmy Hyslop
Sent: 04 May 2021 15:35
To: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; Katherine Leys <katherine.leys@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh

Hi [REDACTED],

Around both next Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm. In the meantime, what was the result from Scottish Forestry?

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 04 May 2021 15:30
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Both, hope all's well with yourselves. It's been a while since we had a catch up and I wondered if you were around next Tuesday ?Wednesday/Thursday afternoon 2.00 onwards for a catch up on progress and developments with the Eisg Brachaidh project?

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL
0330 333 3300
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



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From: [Katherine Leys](#)
To: [Chris Donald](#)
Cc: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh
Date: 05 May 2021 09:03:26

Hi Chris, cc Jimmy

Not sure if you have heard this from other sources locally, but Woodland Trust have asked to meet us next week to discuss the Eisg Brachaid project. Scottish Forestry have requested a targeted EIA. So, there will undoubtedly be further delays. Bearing in mind that more than a year has now passed since the panel decision, it is possible that things have changed (improved?!) on the ground so I just wanted to check in with you and see if your team continue to be supportive of this project. We have deferred the entire project to this financial year so hopefully the EIA won't delay things too much, but there is the possibility that they will seek further delay or change so it would be good to confirm your position in advance of the meeting. Thanks

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

[nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

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In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 04 May 2021 17:52

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@coigach-assynt.org>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh

Hello Jimmy

We were disappointed to hear that Scottish Forestry have called a "focussed" EIA. We are just planning our way forward with this hence our request for a catch up to brief you and get your thoughts and input.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, South Inch Business Centre, Perth, Perthshire, PH2 8BW
01738 635 544
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



[Stand up for trees](#)

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL
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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Gillian Macdonald](#)
Subject: 501341 - BCF - Woodland Trust - Eisg Brachaidh
Date: 06 May 2021 12:38:00

Hi Gillian,

I have asked the Woodland Trust for a revised Gantt chart ahead of our meeting next week. My feeling is that, assuming the EIA is successful, the project is still potentially deliverable before 31 March 2022.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 | [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>
Sent: 05 May 2021 09:03
To: Chris Donald <Chris.Donald@nature.scot>
Cc: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: FW: Eisg Brachaidh

Hi Chris, cc Jimmy

Not sure if you have heard this from other sources locally, but Woodland Trust have asked to meet us next week to discuss the Eisg Brachaid project. Scottish Forestry have requested a targeted EIA. So, there will undoubtedly be further delays. Bearing in mind that more than a year has now passed since the panel decision, it is possible that things have changed (improved?!) on the ground so I just wanted to check in with you and see if your team continue to be supportive of this project. We have deferred the entire project to this financial year so hopefully the EIA won't delay things too much, but there is the possibility that they will seek further delay or change so it would be good to confirm your position in advance of the meeting. Thanks

Kath

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

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From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 04 May 2021 17:52

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Ley@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@coigach-assynt.org>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh

Hello Jimmy

We were disappointed to hear that Scottish Forestry have called a "focussed" EIA. We are just planning our way forward with this hence our request for a catch up to brief you and get your thoughts and input.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, South Inch Business Centre, Perth, Perthshire, PH2 8BW
01738 635 544

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[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL
0330 333 3300

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From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Katherine Leys](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eìsg Brachaidh
Date: 06 May 2021 12:39:00

Hi [REDACTED],

Ahead of our meeting next week, could you please provide an updated Gantt chart which assumes a successful outcome to the EIA?

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | @nature_scot | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED] @woodlandtrust.org.uk
Sent: 04 May 2021 17:52
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leys@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] @coigach-assynt.org; [REDACTED] <@woodlandtrust.org.uk>; [REDACTED] @woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Eìsg Brachaidh

Hello Jimmy

We were disappointed to hear that Scottish Forestry have called a "focussed" EIA. We are just planning our way forward with this hence our request for a catch up to brief you and get your thoughts and input.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Mobile: [REDACTED]
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01738 635 544
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk



[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#); [Katherine Leys](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EB Gantt chart
Date: 11 May 2021 14:32:36

Hello Jimmy

Here is the updated project timeline as requested.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Outreach Adviser

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust, South Inch Business Centre, Shore Road, Perth, PH2 8BW

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milestones

Risk Factors

COVID, Bad weather..field visits required.
Contractors are in level 4

COVID, Bad weather...field visits required
COVID restrictions, Bad weather...field visits required

COVID restrictions dependent.
ditto

ditto
ditto
ditto. Weather dependent on when deer
move down from the hill

COVID restrictions dependent on where the succesful bidder is based. If local going to be a limited effect.

ongoing HIA
survey

ongoing

From: [Katherine Leys](#)
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh Gantt chart
Date: 12 May 2021 13:11:30

Hi Jimmy,

Ok. I've texted Chris Donald as he hadn't replied with the Area view. He has just responded saying nothing has changed from their point of view.

K

Dr Katherine Leys | Head of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NatureScot | Elmwood Campus | Carslogie Road | Cupar | Fife | KY15 4JB | t: 01738 458809 |

[nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

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If you want to speak to me face to face you can video-call me via -

In accordance with government instructions, I am working from home. I can be contacted by all the usual methods, except in person as the office is currently closed.

From: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Sent: 12 May 2021 13:03
To: Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>
Subject: Eisg Brachaidh Gantt chart

Hi Kath,

The previous Gantt chart had a burst of BCF work in April/May/June and completing by 23rd July then nothing happening until February when the fence is closed off and deer culling over February/March. There was a lot of down time.

The updated one has BCF activity kicking off at the end of September, the fence closed off in January and deer culling over from August to the end of March. Everything is do-able before the end of March, weather permitting,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR | 0131 314 6769 | [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [@woodlandtrust.org.uk](#)
Sent: 11 May 2021 14:31

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Leyes@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]
<[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]
<[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

Subject: EB Gantt chart

Hello Jimmy

Here is the updated project timeline as requested.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [Jimmy Hyslop](#)
To: [Graeme Taylor](#); [Lynne Clark](#); [Sinclair Coghill](#)
Cc: [Holly Deary](#); [Francesca Osowska](#); [Eileen Stuart](#); [Katherine Leys](#); [Gillian Macdonald](#); [Dominic Shann](#)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact
Date: 21 September 2020 11:10:00

Hi Graeme,

For information.

No consultation was mentioned in the application. The fencing was originally due to be started in June and 9/10 complete by now with the final section delivered after deer control in February. The revised post-Covid plan is to have the fencing starting at the beginning of November and completed by March.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the Woodland Trust spoke to me on Thursday about extending the consultation period, citing the fact that they had both been furloughed, which has delayed the process. The effect of this would be that the works would be only partly completed by the end of March. The remaining fencing would then be installed next winter.

I said that, while they could do that, there was no flexibility to extend the grant by a full year. BCF was for shovel ready projects which could be delivered within the year.

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] [nature.scot](#) | [@nature_scot](#) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>
Sent: 21 September 2020 10:24
To: Lynne Clark <Lynne.Clark@nature.scot>; Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>
Cc: Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact

Hi Lynne,

As before Kath and I can put something together as the email contains content on both the scheme itself and the fencing/deer implications.

Regards,

Graeme

From: Lynne Clark <Lynne.Clark@nature.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 09:07

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>

Cc: Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact

Morning Jimmy, Graeme, Sinclair

I'm aware this is a long running issue but as Eileen has received the email and is now on A/L for the next three weeks, I just wanted to check who is the lead for this?

Thanks,

Lynne Clark | Director Support Officer – People and Nature

NatureScot | Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW | 01463 725256 | Cisco 7005256

nature.scot | @nature_scot | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nativewoods.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk)> <[\[REDACTED\]@nativewoods.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@nativewoods.co.uk)>

Sent: 20 September 2020 10:42

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; Graeme Taylor <Graeme.Taylor@nature.scot>; Sinclair Coghill <Sinclair.Coghill@nature.scot>; Holly Deary <Holly.Deary@nature.scot>; Francesca Osowska <ceo@nature.scot>; Eileen Stuart <Eileen.Stuart@nature.scot>; Katherine Leys <Katherine.Lays@nature.scot>; Gillian Macdonald <Gillian.Macdonald@nature.scot>; Tamara Lawton <Tamara.Lawton@nature.scot>; Dominic Shann <Dominic.Shann@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <info@inverpolly.com>; [REDACTED] <assyntcc@gmail.com>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@msn.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@msn.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@outlook.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@outlook.com)>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh woodland scheme- [REDACTED] contact

Importance: High

Deer all,

EISG BRACHAIDH FENCING SCHEME- REQUEST TO DEFER OR WITHDRAW FUNDING

As you will be aware, there has been a considerable amount of information recently obtained under FOI by a local resident in Assynt, and this is now in the process of being more widely circulated.

I have spent some considerable time reading through this, and I am writing to all those Nature Scot personnel involved to ensure that they are hearing the alarm bells that are ringing loudly. The material suggests that at least some of you are. I am copying [REDACTED], the 2 X community councils, [REDACTED] of Woodland Trust and ADMG in to this. Some-one has to call

this one in now.

In a practical sense, any major fencing scheme starting in November at the earliest cannot be completed with any confidence by March, never mind a scheme within the most remote and difficult terrain in Assynt, and against the context of the current pandemic, which is obviously now escalating quickly again. There are still many unknowns before we even get to that point.

The FOI material clarifies that only one tender was received for a £400,000 project, against all rules for public procurement, and specifically against the rules of this Biodiversity Challenge Fund which requires five tenders for sums over £50,000. More importantly, it is worth asking why nine out of ten expressions of interest decided not to tender for a £400,000 project. We have since received information from one interested, respected and experienced party saying that they decided not to pursue this contract because, amid other reasons, "*the terrain was very difficult, the project would be too hard to supervise and they were wary of the reputational damage to their company from what appeared to be a very controversial scheme*"

On the need or not for an Environmental Impact Assessment, I find it astonishing to believe that that is even being debated, and that there had been no consideration given to the need for this at the outset. The FOI suggests that the report I submitted in August contained the first mention of this. Any proper deliberation of the issues will deem that this is required, and any reasonable person could have foreseen this at the outset. The area, as you know, is covered by SSSI, SAC, SPA and NSA designations, as well as wildland status. How could an EIA not be required? There would be no oversight otherwise.

I note your own staff admit, even prior to recent adverse publicity, that this will be a controversial scheme.

I note there is an admission that the agricultural tenant does have a right to graze 561 sheep within the area, so what purpose will the fence achieve in this scenario? The browsing pressure may well increase, not decrease.

On the deer front, you describe the Sub area meeting on 18th July at which the proposal supposedly gained support. I have viewed the Zoom recording of this meeting which you already have the link to in full. What I see is a tense and very awkward discussion around a controversial proposal. I see no-one present who does not have an interest to declare in the project. Therefore, no decision or endorsement could have been made. No other DMG members are present.

There is a very misleading "line to take" that has been devised by your Communications officer, which says "the local DMG have decided to revise their deer plan and take account of revised site management and this should deal with any changes to local deer management".

This is not true. No such undertaking has been made, and it is quite wrong to imply, indeed state, that it has. I think there is a reluctance to believe that such a controversial scheme will go forwards. This "line to take" is designed to give re-assurance that the effects of this proposal can be mitigated, but no such plan exists, and no-one has been actioned to take this forward.

There is a statement within the FOI information that two of your key deer

staff say that it is impossible for anyone to demonstrate that they have met expectations in relation to proper consultations on deer matters. This second hand comment may well not be correct in what it reports, but I can tell you as some-one who does woodland creation projects on a regular basis that it is very easy to write to deer groups as part of a scoping exercise and obtain feedback on whether they think they can adapt to and mitigate any such schemes. In this case, there has been no appropriate scoping, and you will have no feedback to the effect that this scheme can be mitigated and how. If anything, your feedback, particularly from the local community, will be quite the opposite, with both community councils locally writing to a range of politicians and others in a bid to get this project stopped or amended. There is no plan in place to deal with deer issues, other than vague reference to the principle of what should be done.

I further note, and this is a really important one, that the Woodland Trust say that they will carry out their deer cull in "one session", seemingly because that would be cheaper. (Email to Jimmy Hyslop dated 5th August from Woodland Trust). Nature Scot have apparently looked at this suggestion and given their consent to it, thereby effectively undermining the credibility of your entire organization. To be clear, this could be an internal cull of 2- 300 animals (according to WTS deer density claim in application) in one day, out of season, and within a key scenic area with a road running through it. There may be no market for the carcasses produced. Are you aware of this? If not, just run it through your prism of "How might that look?".

My overall impression of the FOI information is one of confusion and increasing panic, with no-one in control, especially in the last few weeks. The list of issues yet to be completed seems to get longer and longer. There are too many people in different places doing different things. The scheme is clearly identified as controversial and high risk, and the emphasis is more on public relations than practical considerations. It is clear to me that Nature Scot do not have the internal processes and structures to be dealing with large grant applications of this sort in the same way that Scottish Forestry do. To me, everyone on this email chain has been put in an unfair, untenable and conflicted position in which they can only have their reputations destroyed.

Out of courtesy, and for your information, please be assured that all of this and more will be making its way in to a variety of Press outlets in the coming week, with the accompanying FOI information for verification and key comments clearly referenced so that they can be quickly located. The purpose of this is to bring pressure to bear to try and get this project on to a better timeline and analysed properly.

There is an alternative which you do seem to have discussed but dismissed, and that is to defer any payment to 2021/22, and give the people who know what they are doing the time to look at this properly. If it is not possible to do this, find a way. Bend your own rules if you have to. They are already getting bent in every way imaginable to try and push this scheme through.

My own view on all this has long been that this fence is not necessary. If this sort of money is available, then it could be used to transform deer management across all of Assynt, north and south, well beyond Eisdale Brachaidh. The information you have received overstates the issues that need addressing in the interests of attaining grant funding. It is not a fair

assessment of reality. To be fair to Woodland Trust, your Biodiversity Challenge Fund has encouraged them to take this approach, and nowhere within that scheme are the basic checks and balances that would allow the problems identified to be flagged up at an early stage prior to funding being awarded. That is an embarrassing failure of process.

I trust that some-one on this email chain can see the point being made here, and take the appropriate action before you damage your organization beyond repair. If you have concerns about this project, I suggest that you speak to your colleagues about it and not leave it to some-one else.

I have worded this email in the way that I have to ensure that this matter can be drawn to a conclusion quickly, and a space opened up to do this properly as soon as possible.

There is a much better, lower risk and cheaper way to do this, which a proper form of consultation would quickly highlight and inform.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] B Sc (Hons)

Native Woodland Advice

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd

www.nativewoods.co.uk

Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2BS

To: [REDACTED], Inverpolly

By email: info@inverpolly.com

Date: 16 October 2020

Our ref: SIR160569 /A3318726

Dear [REDACTED]

Information Request – Deer management plan and proposed fencing at Eisg Brachaidh

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 21 September 2020. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs').

Your Request

Email sent at 20:22 on 20 September 2020

"I see you were waiting some time for a Deer Management Plan for EB.

I presume you received one before the BCF contract went out but it was not included in the FOI.

It must have been crucial to the decision to agree to reduce the budget for deer management to cover one session only.

Please would you send me a copy of the DMP for EB."

Email sent at 21:03 on 20 September 2020

"The original BCF application had the fence going around Loch Buine Mhoire and now it is going in to the Loch.

This leaves a big hole in the fence for deer to swim through.

I have seen no mention of this major change in any correspondence.

Please tell me when it was requested, when was it agreed, who did you consult and how?

On 5/8/20 WT requested and on 6/8/20 you agreed to halve the budget for deer management.

Did you consult with anyone on this?

How could this be agreed without the Deer Management Plan which Tamara was still waiting for on 8/9/20?"

Our Response

Deer Management Plan

The application provided sufficient detail for us to assess the feasibility of the deer management proposal. We have been involved in discussions on the future of this site including different fencing options for a number of years prior to this application. We expect the Woodland Trust to continue to lead this local discussion as the scheme progresses.

We received a copy of the revised deer management plan for Eisg Brachaidh on 25 September 2020, after the date of your request. I understand that the Woodland Trust has now shared the revised plan with you and that it was discussed at the deer management group subgroup meeting on 7 October 2020.

Proposed fence line

The Woodland Trust proposed re-routing the fence to reduce the cost at a meeting in August. We advised that this might have implications for the ongoing effort required to maintain a low deer density within the enclosure, and that we expected them to discuss this with the deer management group subgroup. I understand that fencing options were discussed at the meeting on 7 October.

Budget for deer management

The Woodland Trust proposed carrying out deer control within the fenced area over one season rather than two, to reduce the cost of this element of the proposal. We agreed that this change was acceptable from a grants perspective. However, we expected the Woodland Trust to include this change in local discussion about the proposal and we understand that discussion is ongoing.

How We Handled Your Request

We believe you have asked for environmental information as defined in the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs'), so we are dealing with your request under those regulations. To be able to use the EIRs, we must apply an exemption under section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ('FOISA'). The Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance recommends that public authorities apply this exemption to environmental information and handle request under the EIRs.

If you would like to find out more about the access to information legislation, there is a guidance booklet available on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=5487&SID=5024>.

Review and Appeal

I hope this information meets your requirements, but if you are dissatisfied with how we have responded to your information request, please write to us within 40 working days explaining your concerns. You can contact us at Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW or email us at foi@nature.scot. We will carry out a review of our response and contact you with our findings within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Online appeal service: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Telephone: 01334 464610

Yours sincerely,

Stan

Stan Whitaker
Wildlife Management and INNS Manager
stan.whitaker@nature.scot

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jimmy Hyslop](mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot)
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020
Date: 22 October 2020 14:02:32

Hi Jimmy,

Haha, yes it is like the sort of problem I used to try not to fall asleep to at school!

Perfect, I think I've got a grip on it now. Many thanks for patiently guiding me through!

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 22 October 2020 13:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Takes me back to arithmetic O grade,

If £70k of materials are being used in 2020-21 and £110k of contract work undertaken, total eligible costs would be £180k which @57% would mean a payment of £102k,

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 22 October 2020 13:50
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi Jimmy,

Wonderful, that's much clearer than I was making it!

Just one other thing - you mentioned that if the materials were not to be used until late 2021, then not all of that cost would be eligible – so if say £100k of the £210k was materials, £30k of which was not going to be used until winter 2021, then this £30k would not be eligible, is that right?

I think we're nearly there!

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 22 October 2020 13:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi [REDACTED]
I have used percentages twice in relation to different things, once relating to the amount

of the project completed and the send time in relation to grant payable.

Our percentage of grant payable is roughly 57% (100% X £200k grant /£350k costs). If WT's total costs by end March were £210k, at which point 30% of the fencing was complete, then the grant payable would be £120k.

Is that better?

Jimmy

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 22 October 2020 13:29

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi Jimmy,

Oh, I see! Apologies, that was me getting the wrong end of the stick.

Right, so if I've got this right, then the amount of grant we will be eligible for will be:
Total cost incurred by end March, X the percentage of fencing completed by end March.

So for example if our total costs by end March were £200k, at which point 30% of the fencing was complete, then the grant payable would be £60k?

Thanks again

[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]

Sent: 22 October 2020 13:23

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Should have said "a percentage",

Just being lazy,

J

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 22 October 2020 13:19

To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi Jimmy,

Thanks for getting back to me.

I will get clarification on the point you raised about the SF decision and the contractor timing, and get back to you.

Regarding the grant, I think there was a figure missing in your email (I've highlighted in yellow) – could you please let me know what it was, so I can be sure I've got my

calculations correct?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: Jimmy Hyslop [<mailto:Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>]
Sent: 22 October 2020 10:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi [REDACTED]
Many thanks for this.

I think that I have to query the feasibility of submitting information to SF in mid-December and having a decision from SF in December. This knocks out the other timing on letting the contract, though a February start on site may still be feasible.

In a best case scenario weather-wise, how many weeks does the contractor estimate that the work will take?

What happens with the rest of the grant after March? I guess that to some extent that depends on how quickly SF gets back to the Trust, what the long term weather forecast is and the likelihood of completing a significant part of the fencing before the end of March.

Our funding is tied to the project delivery and we pay in instalments in arrears. If the materials had been purchased and % of the fencing had been erected by the end of March, say a total of £210k of costs, we would pay the agreed percentage of grant on that, £120k.

If it was clear that, say, 50% of the fencing would be delivered by March and the remainder would be going in much later in 2021, we would only pay grant towards the materials for the first phase in 2020-21.

Any questions, just ask,

Jimmy

Jimmy Hyslop | Funding Officer

NatureScot | Caspian House, Mariner Court, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR |
0131 314 6769 [REDACTED] nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>
Sent: 22 October 2020 09:37
To: Jimmy Hyslop <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@woodlandtrust.org.uk)>

Subject: Eisg Brachaidh update - 21/10/2020

Hi Jimmy,

Please find attached our updated milestones sheet dated 21/10/2020.

As [REDACTED] mentioned in her email last week, we currently anticipate the start date being sometime in February, with materials being paid for in January. It is possible that we will have spent the entire funding amount of £198k by 31st March, however there is also the possibility that some of this may fall into later months.

For clarification, am I right in thinking that in the former scenario, it would be acceptable for us to draw down the entire grant in March, against the initial work, on the understanding that the project would then complete in winter 2021? And in the second scenario, would you prefer us to draw down the proportion of the grant that has been spent by March, with the remainder claimed in April, or would the remainder be lost?

Apologies if I've misunderstood completely!

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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Registered Office: Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.

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data and content in accordance with our policies and English law. Thank you.