

Our Ref: S13/21  
Your Ref: 06/1119/PP  
11 December 2006

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Mr G. Russell  
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TRANSPORT									
<b>RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL</b>									
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT									
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Conservator  
Keith Wishart

Dear Mr Russell

**CONSULTATION ON THE ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COMPRISING REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION EARTHWORKS AT ROYAL ORDNANCE SITE, BISHOPTON**  
PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 06/1119/PP

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the planning application for engineering operations comprising remediation and reclamation earthworks at Royal Ordnance Site, Bishopton. Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) comments will concentrate on any impacts of the development on existing woodland and any proposed mitigation measures. FCS would like to refer the council to its response on the application for outline planning permission 06/0602/PP, that outlined the principles its supports for the treatment of woodlands on the site.

**Comments:**

- Forestry Commission Scotland under the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended), has a duty to protect Scotland's forests and requires a felling licence when woodland is felled except where exemptions apply e.g. granting of planning permission. Therefore, **FCS strongly recommends** that no felling take place prior to a felling licence being issued or the granting of planning permission;
2. A constraints check for the site has been undertaken and there are no outstanding contract obligations for any woodlands that were previously grant-aid by the Forestry Commission Scotland;
  3. FCS supports the retention as far as practicable the existing woodland on the site, particularly areas of mature, Semi-natural and/or Ancient woodland due to their ecological, cultural and historic importance. However, if woodland were cleared due to essential remediation works, we would recommend, that as far as possible, an equivalent area of woodland is established to minimise the

net loss of woodland on the site and retain its “essentially wooded” landscape character. These new areas of woodland could be consolidated to create woods that enhance the landscape setting of the future development and function as viable woodland habitat;

4. We strongly recommend that all proposals for the establishment of woodland under the proposed mitigation measures for the development meet the **sustainable woodland management standards stated in the UK Forestry Standard (2004)**. In addition all woodland operations should be carried out using best practice techniques illustrated in Forestry Commission Guidelines, Guidance Notes and Forestry Practice Guides and Notes (refer to: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications>); and
5. The management and establishment of woodland and other habitats should contribute where possible towards the protection, enhancement and expansion of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network - outlined in the Alteration to the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan (2005).

Please contact me if you would like to discuss these comments further.

Yours sincerely



**Keith Wishart**  
**Conservator**