

[From Tillhill to Parish Council Clerk]

Thanks for your prompt response. I answer your questions below –

1. The main protected species on site are birds and red squirrels and the measures we adopt are detailed below –
 - a) We adhere to forestry best practice where we survey the felling area for nests and drays prior to starting. Those identified are marked with a buffer zone. Harvesting will not encroach on the buffer zone.
 - b) In addition the operators are given a toolbox talk to instruct them on the importance of protected species, identification of nests and drays and reporting procedures.
2. The red squirrel breeding season covers February to August. Harvesting involves heavy machinery and we normally avoid winter harvesting for the following reasons –
 - a) Soft wet steep ground presents a health and safety hazard for harvesting machinery. Machines and loose grip can cause a fall or over turn causing injury.
 - b) Winter harvesting causes far more ground damage making crop establishment more difficult.
 - c) There is a greater risk of increased diffuse pollution in winter which is a criminal offence.
 - d) There is greater damage to internal and external infrastructure in winter.
 - e) Snow in winter prevents work on site.

We propose however harvesting between August and October to minimise the main red squirrel breeding period.
3. Our legal and only access to the woodland is across the track adjacent to Dandra Garth House. We have reviewed this route and believe we can access with specialist machines. We have met Mr Lumber and have agreed to investigate any other options if they are feasible and practical.
4. The harvesting, to take place between 2016 to 2020, will be in one year and amount to an estimated 190 loads of timber over 3 months (August to October) being an average of 16 loads per week.
5. According to Mr Lumber the water supply to Dandra Garth House is located in the field to the east of the house which we suspect emanates from a spring or Blea Gill gully. We will adhere to forestry best practice to protect water courses and minimise diffuse pollution
6. There are no issues that require planning consent.

I hope this answers your questions but if you need further clarification please contact me.

Regards

George

George Hay | Senior Forest Manager | Cumbria and Lancashire Area

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UPM – The Biofore Company

[From Parish Council Clerk to Tillhill]

Good Morning,

At the PC meeting on Thursday, the Councillors were unsure on which aspects they were to comment. No official reply can be given due to the lack of notice but they would like a few questions answered and will be discussed fully at the next meeting on 4th December.

1. What procedures will be in place so that protected species are not disturbed.
2. What plans are there for felling to fit in with the red squirrel breeding season.
3. How are you to access the site.
4. How many lorry trips are envisioned.
5. How will the water supply to Dandra Garth be protected.
6. Are there any issues that will need planning consent.

We look forward to your full and honest replies,

Regards,

Philip Johns

Garsdale Parish Clerk