

Proposed purchase of Eshiels Woodland by Peebles Community Trust

Dear Peebles Community Trust

Tweedgreen is a community organisation committed to a sustainable Tweeddale. It was formed in 2009 and is a company limited by guarantee.

Tweedgreen wishes to express its full and enthusiastic support for the initiative of Peebles Community Trust (PCT) in their CATS proposal for purchasing Eshiels Woodland.

There are 3 reasons for this:

1. It is clear to us that, should the community not purchase this wonderful riparian woodland, it will go on to the open market and could be sold to anyone. The community will then lose control over what happens to this wood. This could have dire consequences if the future owner is unsympathetic to sustainability and biodiversity issues.
2. We understand that this woodland will be managed in a productive way producing amounts of woodfuel into the distant future, both from felling of non-native softwoods and also through a coppicing pilot. *Tweedgreen* is committed to helping local people move away from fossil fuel dependency to heat their homes and towards local sustainable woodfuel.
3. We understand that the wood is the only site in Scotland for the Currant Shoot Borer moth. We understand it is on the Scottish Biodiversity List and has been categorised as a high priority species.

For the 3 reasons above, it is essential that this wood remains in public ownership.

Tweedgreen is delighted that the PCT has taken the initiative to purchase the woodland.

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Yours sincerely,

Lesley Morrison

Vice- chair Tweedgreen

A company limited by guarantee.