

[REDACTED]

9th November 2018

Dear Wendy,

**Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd.
Muirdrochwood Acquisition Project**

I quote from the Consultation document Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29:

“Since 2003, 200 community woodland groups have been established, collectively managing around 100,000 ha of forests and woodlands and other land. Part of the reason for the growth in community woodland groups is a recognition that Scotland's forests and woodlands

- can play an important role in galvanising and empowering communities:
- can provide opportunities for the development of community-based enterprises and,
- through ownership and participation in management, can foster community cohesion and help people feel they have control over the decisions that shape their lives and the environment in which they live.”

I believe that the acquisition of this block of commercial forestry would be of great benefit to the local community as it would achieve the three objectives set out above.

In addition, as stated in their proposal, the proposed acquisition, “supported by the local community, provides an opportunity to help regenerate an area impacted by an ageing and decreasing population. Largely due to land management changes and reduction in job opportunities, the community is keen to see a reverse of this trend and encourage younger families and entrepreneurs to guarantee a great place for people of all ages to live and prosper”.

Consequently, as an individual, I fully support the proposed acquisition.

Yours sincerely,

David Hawker
(Vice-county Recorder for the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland)

[REDACTED]