

Reply to CMS representation on the Forest Resource Plan for Cwm Einion and Upper Rheidol Forest.

Received on 23rd July 2019 from Mike Indeka, Forest Resource Planner in the Evidence, Policy, and Permitting Directorate within Natural Resources Wales.

Thank you very much for response to the Cwm Einion and Upper Rheidol Forest Resource Plan Consultation.

I have attached 'appendix 5' which helps to describe the 'Standard Forest Management' and all the other categories more clearly, and hopefully dispel misconceptions that we are hiding behind a 'vener of more ecologically sensitive woodland'. Yes we will still be growing commercial timber, but managing it differently and increasing the diversity of habitats along the way. I have also enclosed 'Section 7' of a more extensive external document which helps to describe how the maps intend to meet the objectives. I think this will help to see that there is a link and purpose to the maps and proposals. Long term there will be a large increase in native, successional and riparian woodland as well as open habitats. Approximately 500 hectares over the long term and approximately 300 hectares in the next 10 years.

As for turbine development in the area, as you rightly point out there is currently no developer with an option for turbine development, but I have to highlight that this could be a possibility in the future as the whole of the forest plan area is part of Strategic Search Area D, TAN 8 which is still Welsh Government Policy. This is also highlighted in a recent document 'the role and purpose of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate' (see attached). All I can say is that if plans were ever to be developed they would have to meet stringent environmental guidelines and any proposals would have to be measured against the environmental and other benefits the current forest resource plan provides.

I hope that this answers some of the issues raised.

The Trustees will keep a watching brief on further developments.

Peter Foulkes, Acting Chairman.

PS. From the 2nd paragraph of the above reply, just to refresh your memory, for "Strategic Search Area D" read Nant y Moch.