

25 October 2020

Our ref: 20580

Your ref:



Ian Everard
Forestry Commission

Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

VIA EMAIL

Tel: 02080265449

Dear Ian

WCG Wallshield Consultation

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the above proposal. Your email was received on the on 20th October 2020.

I understand that Natural England are not a statutory consultee for this particular type of grant application, but we felt it was important to advise Forestry Commission that Natural England are not in a position to support this application.

The reasons for this were set out in detail in Natural England's EIA screening consultation response for the proposal dated 1st October 2020 but, in summary, it is Natural England's view that insufficient survey work was undertaken to be able to determine the likely impact of the proposal on the curlew population in an area which has had considerable state investment to support habitat management specifically for breeding waders. The area in question has also been highlighted as a 'hot area' for breeding curlew in the draft paper entitled 'Developing tools to recognise constraints and opportunities for breeding birds associated with forest expansion: North-east Cumbria Forest Investment Zone and the Great Northumberland Forest', which was produced by the BTO on behalf of the Forestry Commission, advocates detailed survey work in these areas.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Natural England looks forward to working with FC on new cases, in Northumberland we suggest detail bird, peat and NVC surveys will help target tree planting in guiding future applications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Cussen".

Robert Cussen
Northumberland Team