

Trees being cut down on the Pony Field (Milton Woods)

The Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council wrote to Gavin Miles of the Cairngorms National Park Authority to find out what the position is regarding trees being cut down by the developer on the Pony Field in Aviemore. We asked if the Tree Preservation Order had been lifted or amended and, if so, which organisation did this and their grounds for doing so.

Gavin Miles replied:

Tullochs are completing the development of this site which originally got planning permission around 2008. The permission was implemented through the development of roads and affordable housing around 10 years ago, but the remainder of the site was not released by MacDonald Hotels until earlier this year.

The permission always incorporated part of the large TPO area. The development itself goes into one clearing within the TPO and runs along the boundary of the TPO area. As Tullochs have been looking at the detail of the drawings to get on site and worked through the RCC process for roads consent, they realised there was conflict with some trees at the edge of the TPO area and edge of the developed area. We discussed this with Tullochs and agreed to refinements that minimised the tree loss – In total 17 trees are now authorised to be removed within the TPO area, along with others outside the TPO area. The changes do not significantly change the character of the woodland. Our staff went to the site last week to check the tree felling and confirmed that felled trees are those that had been agreed. The current line of heras fencing on site does not yet reach the boundary of the area being developed.

Tullochs have requested a number of other non-material variations to some house designs, small adjustments in layout and the landscaping which we have approved. Tullochs also voluntarily incorporated some changes to the proposed landscaping that includes tree planting, seeding of grassland and wetland areas with appropriate native species seed mixes and the identification of an area where birch regeneration will be supported to provide habitat for the Kentish glory moth. The overall effect of those changes is an improvement on the detail originally approved.

I hope that's helpful. We are obviously monitoring the site carefully but Tullochs have been undertaking the development as they are permitted and have also employed an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) to supervise the development and make sure they don't harm any protected species during the project and manage the site as well as possible.

Kind regards
Gavin

Gavin Miles
Head of Strategic Planning
Cairngorms National Park Authority

You can view all the approved details for the development via the Planning Portal on the CNPA website with the reference 05/306/CP.