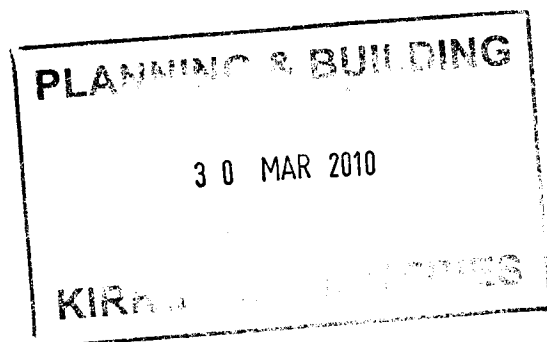


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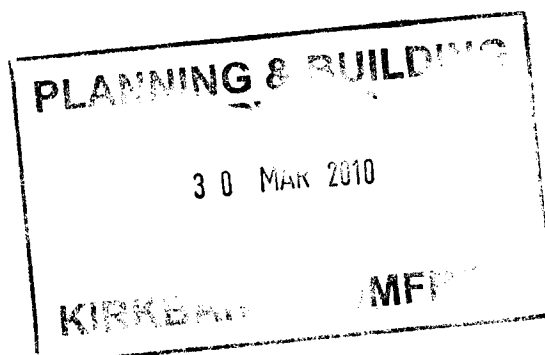


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Mr Jim Colchester
Woodlands Business Manager
Buccleuch Woodlands
Drumlanrig Mains
THORNHILL
Dumfriesshire
DG3 4AG



29 March 2010

Our ref: CNS/DC/N/56685
Your ref: BWL/EXT/Queensberry Beeches

Dear Jim

Access Road to Proposed Housing Developing opposite Queensberry Brae, Thornhill

Thank you for our recent meeting and for your letter of 12 March 2010 outlining your proposed mitigation in light of the above development.

I can confirm that the preferred SNH option is for an alternative access route to be used. If, however, no alternative route can be found and the roadway results in a permanent loss of the area of Inventory Woodland then we consider that your proposed mitigation would be an appropriate measure to mitigate these impacts.

If we can be of any further assistance in this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely


Stuart Graham
Area Officer
West Dumfriesshire
Stuart.Graham@snh.gov.uk

cc. Dumfries & Galloway Council (enc copy of Buccleuch Woodlands letter dated 12/3/2010)

COPY

Scottish Natural Heritage,
Carmont House,
The Crichton,
Bankend Road,
Dumfries,
DG1 4ZF.

Date: 12/03/10
Your ref: CNS/DC/N/56685
Our ref: BWL/EXT/Queensberry Beeches



PL/ **BUCCLEUCH**
WOODLANDS

30 MAR 2010

KIRK.

FRIES

RE: Access road to proposed housing development opposite Queensberry Brae,
Thornhill,

Dear Stuart,

Further to our meeting on Tuesday 9th March 2010 I now enclose the proposed mitigation measures. These mitigation measures would be binding on the applicant if access was taken through the woodland belt as described in the tree survey report.

We discussed the issue that if the proposed access road could not be routed elsewhere due to factors beyond either parties control then the following mitigation would lessen the impact of the proposed access development to acceptable levels. The preferred option would remain not to lose any Ancient Woodland site to development. The proposed mitigation plan is split into two parts;

- 1/ Recreational infrastructure improvement.
- 2/ Re-inforcement of the remaining Ancient woodland sites that make up the woodland belts around Thornhill. This would help prevent further degradation of the habitat in these woodlands.

1/ Recreational infrastructure improvement.

The footpath (A on map) running through the belt from Boatbrae to Queensberry brae is well used by the local inhabitants of Thornhill. However at several points the surfacing has degraded and becomes very muddy after heavy rain. The path will be drained and reinforced with local stone where appropriate to enable this path to become an all weather route. A bench will also be provided mid way along the path where views can be taken towards Tynron Doon (B on map).

The belt of woodland that runs from Boatbrae towards Gill Road used to have a footpath running through it. This path (C on map) will be cleared and reinstated using natural surfacing befitting an Ancient Woodland site. It's route will be altered slightly to take in the new proposed woodland (see below). This would provide a natural link to the housing development behind Nithbank roads depot and a circular walk. Some drainage would be required at the northern end.

2/ Ecological mitigation.

The development will mean the loss of approximately 0.4ha of Ancient Woodland site, albeit a rather degraded example. The proposal is to reinforce the remainder of this belt with native species, mainly sessile oak, ash and hazel. This is within the affected areas.

Also an additional 0.7 ha of new native woodland will be planted adjacent to the belt to the north of Boatbrae to reinforce this very narrow belt of Ancient

Woodland site (D on map). The main frame tree species used will be of local origin and a flexible attitude taken to regeneration of further species. The woodland will be planted to mimic W10 type woodland. It is likely that colonisation of the new area will be fairly rapid by the ancient woodland floral and faunal associations due to the majority of the area being within leaf fall of the existing woodland.

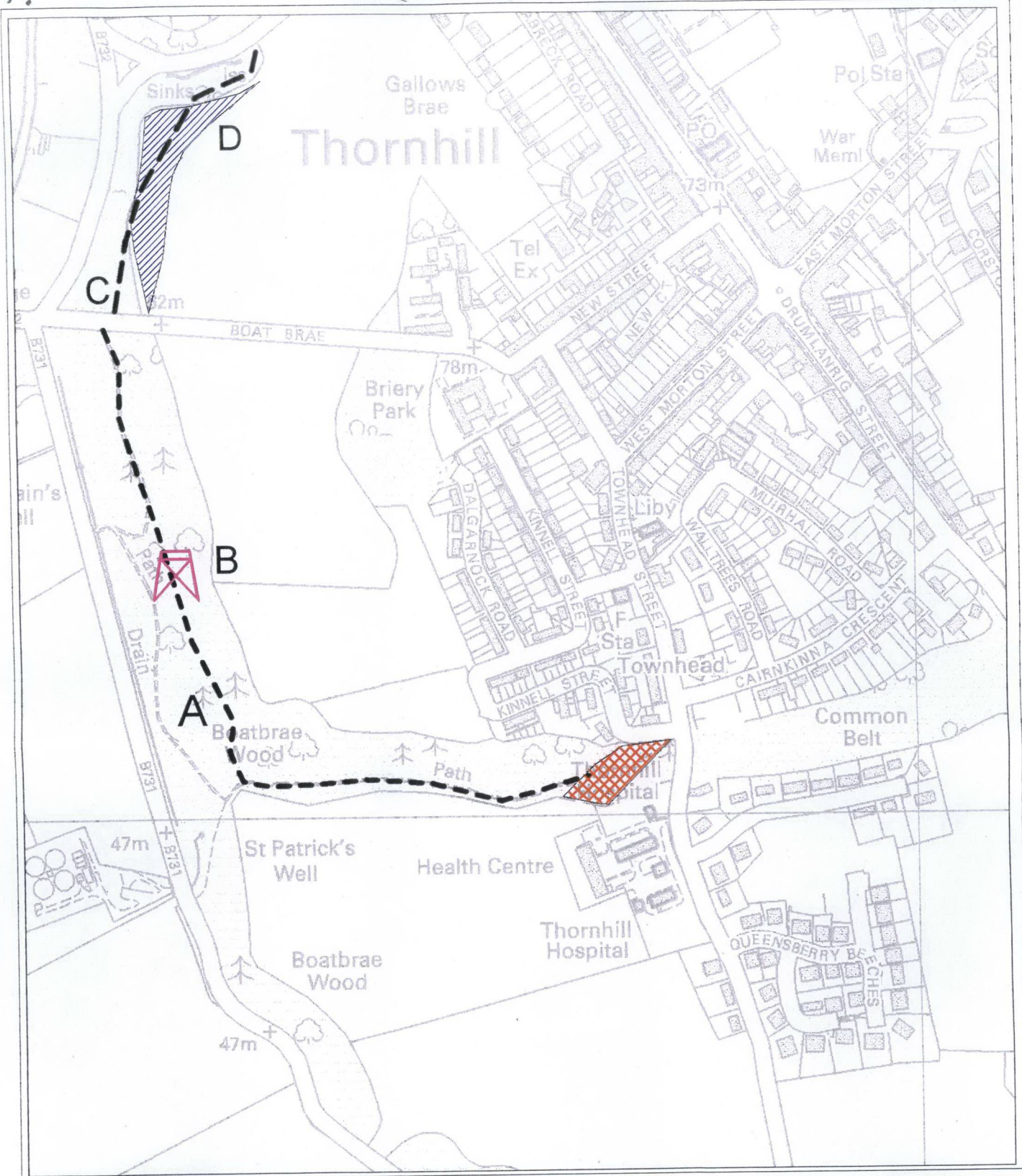
If you agree that the above would provide sufficient mitigation should the road not be able to be routed outwith the ancient woodland site identified could you please indicate your agreement to this.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Colchester,
Woodlands Business Manager.

Queensberry Beeches



Area of Ancient Woodland site affected by access road



Proposed new native planting as mitigation

--- Footpath to be upgraded



BUCCLEUCH WOODLANDS LTD
The Estate Office
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Scale :

1:5000

12 Mar 2010

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OS Sheets :

Sheet No. AL 40706

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