

Donald McPhillimy Associates
Design, Management, Advice & Training
on
Woodlands, Footpaths, Communities & Local Jobs

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Dear Planning Officer,

I have recently been assisting Ian and Fiona Swann with the South of Scotland Tree Planting Grant for their property near West Linton, on behalf of Borders Forest Trust and Tweed Forum. This has included a site visit and advice on tree planting and management.

The Swanns are proposing to fell two semi-mature trees- a young spruce in order to avoid shading of solar panels, especially in the winter when the sun is low. Also a lime in order to improve access to the building plot which otherwise would be very tight, if not impossible to access with delivery lorries.

As a professional woodland consultant with many years' experience, I don't see a problem with the felling of these two trees. The spruce is not a native species and will grow much larger in the situation it is in. Domestic renewables in the form of photo-voltaics will benefit all of us and it is government policy that they should be encouraged.

It is unfortunate that the lime will have to be felled to give access but there are another 3 limes of the same age and quality on the other side of the drive. There will be almost zero impact on the visual quality of the site.

The owners are proposing to plant a significant number of trees and shrubs on the rest of their property. As these grow up, they will more than compensate for the two trees needing to be felled. The overall quality of the immediate landscape will improve very quickly.

I strongly recommend that the two trees are felled as a sensible preparation of the site.

Best wishes,

Donald McPhillimy

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