

Mr. Neil Riddle
Acting Regional Director
Forestry Commission
East Midlands Region
Edwinstowe
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG21 9JL

13th September 2011

Our ref: G:/nbrcenqu/Toton2.doc
c.c. Mr Tristram Galletly

Dear Mr. Riddle

Ref: Forestry Act 1967 – Restocking Notice RN 15/10-11 Toton Sidings in Nottinghamshire

I am writing as an employee of Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre. We administer the Local Wildlife Site (SINC) system for Nottinghamshire. On the 25th of August this year staff from the Record Centre including Dave Wood the Botanical Society of the British Isles Recorder for Nottinghamshire visited the above site. No native species noted on the site before the clearance had been lost. The Local Wildlife Site criteria is based on native species. Local Wildlife site Status has been maintained.

We noted ample natural regeneration in all the areas which were formerly wooded. Abundant Silver Birch and lesser numbers of Downy Birch, Aspen, Goat Willow, Common Oak and Hazel were recorded. From our observations of other sites we are convinced that within a couple more growing seasons the woodland will be re-established to everyone's satisfaction.

We support your decision not to replant on this site. We believe this would be a waste of resources and actually reduce the speed of reestablishment at this stage. Some practices associated with replanting may reduce the species diversity of the site in the short-term or permanently. Open areas on the site add to the structural and species diversity for birds and invertebrates as well as plants and were present before the clearance.

We commend the action of the Forestry Commission over this incident. Please contact me on [REDACTED] if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Peter Acton
Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre