

In relation to National Forest inquiry dated 26 October 2023.

Trees have always been shown in a linear design as per the planning process which the National Forest Company have always been supportive of through out.

The reason for linear arrangement are as follows.

The trees are shown in a linear arrangement to facilitate underground drainage, underground utilities, an underground treatment plant and a large pond which is to be constructed. Please see drawing number ST 011 (new farm drainage layout) which is to show the routes of the drainage. This is a discharged condition.

We have also included an illustration of suggestive layout where utilities services may pass underground. Please see plan attached for electric, water, retained access (future garages/storage subject to planning)

Consultants have highlighted no trees should be planted near key underground services which could cause implied or actual damage, nuisance or danger to persons, property, and structures.

During the construction phase of the new farm, it is not possible to have a parkland setting due to impeding construction works.

The trees are being moved because the family wish them to be as they were planted in memory of their father and husband.

It is anticipated that the tree translocation will happen between October 2023 to March 2024.the optimum time.

The trees will be mechanical lifted and removed with entire undamaged root ball attached They will be carefully translocated to the new site and planted in pre-excavated holes as per soft landscape plan L 0001.

During the translocation process organic matter will be added in the excavated holes, mycorrhizal fungi bio fertiliser will also be added. The trees will have mulch applied on the surface to suppress weed growth, retain moisture, deter grass, and to increase mycorrhizal activity by 15 times over grass. Most importantly as the mulch composts down, the organic matter feeds the soil web.

If the soil at the re planting site differs the edges of the root ball may need benching with topsoil. Voids may appear around the edge of the root ball which will be backfilled with clean topsoil. Any trees that die within one year of planting will be replaced with similar type and size.

3.4. biodiversity management plan reads It is also the intention that, if possible, some of the existing semi-mature trees (in other words a common sense approach) relates to trees which are suitable for translocation. Some trees like T6-wound on stem would not recommend for removal T10, T11 which are in close proximity to the pond will be more difficult to translocate and which may impair health and safety policies of the machine operators or any other unforeseen problems.

We feel this is a positive contribution to the NFC. The new farm site falls within undulating medium sized agricultural fields defined by field hedgerows and a number of mature trees and tree groups are located along the boundaries and the ridge beyond which are all being retained.

We are also helping to deliver with Mountpark on the Bardon 3 site screening and a community park land with some 10,000 trees. This is over and above the requirements of the NFC.

It must also be remembered that this is a discharged condition of domestic curtilage that the trees fall within and will be used for the enjoyment of the two families.

I hope this answers your queries if not please get back to me.

J Lawrence-Baines