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Dear Ailsa

TREE FELLING IN ISLANDS THORNS INCLOSURE

Thank you for your letter of 23 January raising concerns about the felling work in Islands Thorns Inclosure.

The work taking place in this Inclosure is part of the cycle of woodland management that takes place throughout all Inclosures in the Forest. Each visit to the Inclosure delivers the next phase of a transition to a long term structure for the area as agreed in the Forest Design Plan.

I have enclosed for you copies of the current Forest Design Plan maps which show that the Inclosure is to be managed by regular thinning out of trees and to create a network of open space along the riparian zones. The tree felling you have observed is another phase of work (each phase occurs between 5 and 10 years apart) towards delivery of those objectives.

The tree felling work will not invalidate the findings of the EIA because there are no material changes to the structure and function of the woodland and streams as a result of the work.

With regard to the geological SSSI we are currently seeking advice from a geological specialist within Natural England to find management solutions which serve both the needs of the geological SSSI and the habitat restoration. This outcome will become part of the Environmental Statement for the site.



Yours sincerely,

Bruce Rothnie

Bruce Rothnie

Deputy Surveyor