

**PE1812/P**

Woodland Trust submission of 22 January 2021

I think the full set of recommendations from the committee papers initially prepared for the 13th January would go a long way if Scottish Government was to consider and address them.

The only point I'd suggest, if there was a chance to make any changes at this stage, is to add the words 'increased' and 'in particular for ancient woodland' in this recommendation 'The support for the inclusion of increased protection of all woodland, in particular ancient woodland, in the forthcoming NPF4 from the John Muir Trust and Heads of Planning Scotland.' This is certainly the Woodland Trust Scotland recommendation and as I understand it, the recommendations of others who support the petition (HOPS, John Muir Trust).

The recommendation in relation to Nature Scot and the Native Woodland Survey is good - from the Woodland Trust perspective, we think that better data is needed about ancient woodland extent and condition, to provide this detail to planners, developers and those who need this. The issue is that Nature Scot, as a statutory agency, doesn't seem to have the resource to fully provide this kind of data, whether it is the Native Woodland Survey use being promoted better or whether it is updating the Ancient Woodland Inventory itself.