

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Mr David Jackson
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Our Ref: SUB/0278/2021
Date: 16 April 2021

Dear Mr Jackson

Woodland at Craigall Rocks.

It has come to my attention that areas of woodland have been removed at Craigall Rocks. I know that your officials will be aware of ongoing public concerns about this.

The lands in question do not fall within any area designated under my Department's natural heritage legislation, however I note that the area has been recognized for its local importance in the Northern Area Plan 2016.

We all have a duty, in exercising our functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

I would encourage the Council to consider whether any of the tree groups or woodland within Craigall Rocks or in its vicinity merit designation under a Tree Preservation Order. Furthermore the Council could give consideration to modifications to planning permissions in this area in an attempt to conserve these trees. Consideration of such measures may be beneficial for the retention of these areas of local biodiversity value.

As these are provisions supported under the Planning Act (NI) 2011 I am copying this letter to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon MLA.

Yours sincerely

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EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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