



**St Helena
Government**

Annex: 3

REPORT ON PROPOSED EXCISION OF LAND FROM NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE

1. Environmental Impact of Loss of Forest Land

What are the environmental consequences of the loss of the land for forestry purposes?

a. Thompsons Wood Parcels

From an environmental perspective the loss of this 5.01 acres of land for forestry purposes from the National Forest Estate (Estate) are minimal. The existing moderate tree cover present on some parts of the land could be maintained and enhanced through a well-designed planting scheme that increases carbon sequestration and compliments the area. It is possible that seabirds use this area for nesting, however the proposed Camp Site development seeks to incorporate the existing natural features with those to be added, so loss of habitat should not be an issue. The land itself is relatively flat and will not provide opportunity, with the type of Camp Site development proposed, for any significant soil erosion impacts.

b. Other Parcels

There are no environmental consequences that will arise from the loss of this land for forestry purposes from the Estate. The land to be removed for the purposes of bank stabilisation adjacent existing residential properties, land registry reparation exercise, reservoir development by Connect St Helena and Government Landlord Housing extension by SHG, and the under-utilised land to be removed in the Guinea Grass area of the Estate hosts little forestry tree species of any value, some land cannot sustain tree growth and so has no overall productive value for forestry purposes.

2. Land Value

What is the value of the land for forestry purposes?

a. Thompsons Wood Parcels

Whilst all areas of the National Forest Estate has value in terms of forestry development through productive uses such as fencing, firewood, timber or fodder production, or through landscape and amenity benefits, this particular area has greater public and social value in terms of community enjoyment through recreational use. The area of land is sheltered from exposure to wind, offers fantastic views of the coast while providing a green space for the local community to rest and relax in an environment that is tranquil and which promotes opportunities to increase the overall health and wellbeing of our community, it's use as a

recreational and amenity area has the potential to better serve the Island's community as a whole.

b. Other Parcels

There is minimal value in the land; those areas earmarked for bank stabilization, reparation and development by Connect and Crown Estates cannot be converted into productive use due to their size, location, presence in low rainfall areas and poor soil structure and nutrition in those areas of the Estate. The area that currently has no productive value in terms of forestry tree species again cannot be converted due to its extreme exposure to the elements, existing reef and shallow soil structure and inaccessibility, making this land undesirable within the Estate.

3. Representations or Objections Lodged

Were there any representations made to the consultation invite via Government Gazette Notice?

No objections or representations were lodged from the public following publication of the Government Gazettes dated 20 November 2020 and 26 February 2021 for the proposed variation of Orders 8 and 12 of 1955.



Myra Young

Forestry Officer

Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio.