



[www.slattadale.org](http://www.slattadale.org)

Slattadale  
c/o Gairloch High School  
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Huw, Sam & Sofie Banister  
Slattadale House  
Loch Maree  
Achnasheen  
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Dear Banister Family,

Thank you for taking the time to express your views on the Slattadale CATS. We hope that by continued collaboration and conversation we will be happy neighbours as we too share your love of this special place, in particular the need to protect it from inappropriate behaviour. We see our role as educators to promote good practice and embed custodianship in the hearts and minds of the next generation. The forest will undergo huge change as the logging plan unfolds and we hope that part of our activities can help to restore the native flora and fauna to be in the best shape to survive the challenges in the years to come.

By reusing a community Keder house we see this as a low-impact sustainable way to trial a small native tree nursery at the heart of the Gairloch Associated Schools Group while also providing an undercover space to shelter from the elements for pupil and volunteer work parties. The forest is already home to an eclectic mix of buildings old and new and we look forward to working with the planning department where this is appropriate. Families from Shieldaig to Laide will make up our community, not just the High School, although GHS has had a special relationship with Slattadale Forest since the 1990s and releasing our use of the forestry hut for private sale has not diminished the strength of feeling of belonging here. Pupils have enjoyed nights in the woods since long before homes were built, enabling a deeper connection with nature by spending time here is a big part of nurturing a love for wild spaces which is a direct pathway to care and custodianship for the wider environment. Travelling to a special place is all part of the adventure, this also happens to be the nearest lochside woodland location to the school.

A big part of our responsibility is to underpin all our activities with respect to the SOAC and we hope that by utilising the forest location to the full we will be able to do this in a very real way.

We look forward to continued conversations to steer our course in a sensitive way, hopefully together we can be a stronger voice and forum for action to help address inappropriate behaviour that visitor traffic can bring, and also the bigger issues of the climate crisis. We are very keen on open communication to address any concerns and happy to meet at your convenience to smooth the way for the inevitable change that lies ahead, with clear felling of the non-native trees planned, how we help the forest regenerate while using this opportunity to educate and nurture the future custodians and shared users of the public space that surrounds us both.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona MacKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fiona MacKenzie

on behalf of

Slattadale SCIO Managing Trustees