

From: Reuben Singleton
To: [Communities](#)
Subject: FW: COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME - LEADBURN
Date: 31 March 2018 20:10:03

FAO: Rebecca Carr

I am writing to offer my support of the proposal by Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland (FLCW) to purchase 9ha of woodland from the Forestry Commission at Leadburn through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

I am familiar with this site having previously undertaken a number of ecological surveys in the area. As is demonstrated in the application, this area forms part of a much larger area of raised bog (peatland) which was planted with coniferous trees in the 1960s/1970s. The 9ha in question still retains woodland cover unlike the remainder of the hydrological unit which is already subject to ecological restoration by FLCW.

I am aware that the site proposed for transfer holds a population of the large heath butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia*). This is a species of high nature conservation importance and is listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List and is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species. Conservation of this species at this location will require careful management and it is conceivable that it could be easily lost through unsympathetic or inadvertently damaging management.

The ecological restoration (ditch blocking and tree removal) undertaken by FLCW over the wider Leadburn Moss site will provide suitable habitat for the butterfly in due course, but it is important that until the butterfly re-colonises the area that management of its existing habitat is sympathetically maintained. FLCW are aware of the butterfly's presence and are committed to maintaining wet open bog habitat and removing the remaining coniferous trees are having a deleterious effect on the peatland.

Yours sincerely

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