

FLS September 2025 Update - Whitefield Farm

Thu, 18 Sept 2025

Dear Neighbour,

I hope this email finds you well.

This is a follow-up to the August update and comes just ahead of the FLS drop-in sessions next week, which I hope you might find the time to attend.

As a reminder, the dates for an FLS Arran Public Drop-in are now confirmed as the 24th and 25th September (Wednesday and Thursday). The locations and times are below.

- Wednesday 24th September – 2.30pm to 6.00pm at the Brodick Community Hall
- Thursday 25th September – 12.30pm to 6.00 pm at the Whiting Bay Village Hall

Updated Issues Log (attached)

There were four assessments pending completion and approval in August to help inform the Issues Log. These were for noise, environmental, landscape and traffic impacts.

The attached Issues Log is now updated to include the output from these assessments except for the traffic assessment, which is still pending, now likely to be completed in October. The main changes are highlighted in green.

All the updates are important, however, the main point to note is that the conclusions from the completed noise assessment does confirm noise as significant constraint to the progressing of a timber export facility at Whitefield Farm. This may not be a surprise to you at all, but it is significant in that the noise impact assessment modelled potential impacts as adverse or significantly adverse for several nearby properties using the BS4142 standard. It also noted that mitigation was not possible for all properties due to the topography of the site. Clearly this will inform FLS decision making going forward.

I am acutely aware that you may want to talk you through any modelled noise impacts for your property. I will be at both public drop-in days next week, and I will ensure that I

am available to discuss any points you want to raise, as well as having a copy of the noise assessments to hand. If you cannot attend either drop-in event, please let me know and we can arrange a catch-up another time.

FLS Web-page

FLS has been working on providing an Arran web-page with all the materials and reports (appropriately redacted) so that you and the public can see progress on any decisions associated with our project activities on Arran. This would include the noise assessment for example. I am hoping this web-page will be live shortly after the public drop-in events next week. This will also be where we can update the Issues Log and provide a summary of feedback from the public drop-in events. I will let you know when this web-page is live and how we will keep you informed of updates to it.

Further assessments

It may seem counter intuitive for FLS to progress with further assessments in light of some of the outputs from our recent assessments as outlined in the Issues Log, however, we are likely to progress further assessments this year for noise and traffic. These assessments will be to ensure that any recommendations put forward regarding the future of Whitefield Farm, are well evidenced and comprehensive. These assessments are not an indication of any decision being made by FLS on a timber export facility at Whitefield Farm, rather they are to help inform our decision making.

FLS public drop-ins

As I said in my previous update, we are looking for feedback on three aspects of FLS work on Arran in particular:

- Timber haulage and export,
- Tree planting and woodland creation at Whitefield Farm,
- The current and future visitor services offer on Arran.

For Timber Transport, this will include asking for feedback on some SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity and threat) assessments of how timber transport is routed on Arran. Much of the previous feedback Kingcross residents and other stakeholders have provided is included in these assessments (e.g. suggestion of alternative in-forest

routes, strong opposition to development at Whitefield Farm), but your feedback on the day would also be appreciated, particularly if there is a particular aspect you think we have missed or understated. If you are unable to attend either of the drop days please let me know and I can arrange for your feedback to be received in another way, potentially via email once the FLS Arran web-page is live.

New Arran timber sale contract clarification

The tender exercise is currently live for the new timber sale contract on Arran, and so I do not have an update at this time. However, I have been asked about the potential timber export points for this contract. I can confirm that the only FLS site put forward for use for timber export in the contract is our Market Road site in Brodick. Any successful bidder can use alternative means of export (e.g. the ferry, or ferry pier), but the only site put forward under FLS ownership is the Market Road site in Brodick. The outcome of this tender exercise (due in October) will be key in informing decisions for Whitefield Farm.

I had hoped to get this update to you earlier this month, apologies for this delay. I hope to see you at one of the planned FLS public drop-in days next week where I'd be happy discuss any points of these points further.

Kind regards,

Colin

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