

DAVID RICE FORESTRY
Arboriculture and Forestry Consultancy

29 05 2020

Proposed development on plot south of March Hywel, Cilfrew, SA10 8LW

Comments on the trees.

To the west and east of the proposed dwellings are mature Douglas Fir which are currently >25m tall and still increasing in height. They are at quite closely spaced, having never been silviculturally thinned to encourage full crown development. Although there has been some self selection resulting in dominant specimens the overall result is that they are all mutually supportive. A thinning now would render them all liable to wind throw, especially in a southwest gale. Even without thinning there is a distinct possibility of wind throw and the taller they become the greater the risk.

A common answer to this problem is to top the trees at an appropriate height. The result is an ugly tree and is only a short term solution as the tree will produce new leading shoots. Recent clear felling of nearby coniferous forest has further exposed these trees to gales.

The upper slopes of the valley have been afforested with conifers whereas the lower slopes are broadleaved dominated. It is considered that the Douglas Fir are an inappropriate species both visually and from a safety aspect.

Ideally they should be felled and the area replanted with native broadleaves.

David Rice