

1543

The Cottage,
Gwaelod y Garth,
Nr. Cardiff

21st Dec. 1977

Dear Sir,

Cosmeston Country Park tree planting

Thank you for letting me see the map of proposed tree planting at the above. I like the disposition of the woodland but am a little perturbed about the composition of the trees chosen - particularly the great preponderance of conifers. These, surely, are not suitable for nurse trees as they cast an all the year round shade and likely to grow faster than the desired deciduous trees and shade them out quite early. Corsican pine is good on the more mobile slopes (as on dunes) but grows low and dense. Black pine would be a good shelter belt if this is thought necessary and mature Scots pines are very decorative as singles or groups in the open - but a mixture of the suggested high proportions in the much more desirable deciduous (indigenous style) woodland seems rather alarming.

Also, please, no sycamore. This will come in anyway. It is a weed tree, non native, which supports very little insect and other animal life and one which the Glamorgan Naturalists' Trust spends a lot of time and money pulling out of its nature reserves. It will cover wide areas with seedlings in a short time!

The other species suggested are all fine, but I would like to see more of the limestone shrubs which do so well on these calcareous soils - some of them, like wayfaring tree (Viburnum lantana) being one of the special features of these Lias soils. Others are spindle (Euonymus europaeus), dogwood (Cornus sanguinea) and guelder rose (Viburnum opulus). Purging buckthorn (Rhamnus catharticus) and whitebeam (Sorbus aria) would also make desirable additions.

I will be happy to cooperate in the production of a Cosmeston leaflet in due course, as suggested in a recent letter from the Cardiff Naturalists' Society.

Yours sincerely,
Mary E. Gillham

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Yours sincerely,

May E. Gillham

1601



County of South Glamorgan Sir De Morgannwg

COUNTY HEADQUARTERS NEWPORT ROAD CARDIFF CF2 1XA Tel: Cardiff 499022
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
County Planning Officer A. J. Plant Dip.Arch., Dip.T.P., R.I.B.A., M.R.T.P.I.

My ref P/EDC/KEP/AML Your ref
23.6.3.

Tel Ext

Date 16th March 1978

Dr. Mary Gillham,
The Cottage,
Gwaelod Y Garth,
CARDIFF.

Dear Madam,

COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK : PILOT TREE PLANTING SCHEME

Please find enclosed a map of Cosmeston Country Park, showing the above.

The planting scheme now incorporates the amendments suggested in your letter of the 21st December 1977. The numbers of conifers have been reduced, sycamores will not be planted around the western lake, and a variety of indigenous species have been incorporated.

Yours faithfully,

County Planning Officer.



County of South Glamorgan Sir De Morgannwg

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
County Planning Officer A. J. Plant Dip.Arch., Dip.T.P., R.I.B.A., M.R.T.P.I.

My ref P/EDC/KEP/AML/Your ref
23.6.3.

Tel Ext

Date
February, 1978
21st.

Dr. Mary Gillham,
The Cottage,
Gwaelod Y Garth,
Nr. CARDIFF.

Dear Madam,

COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK

It is intended to open up the Cosmeston Country Park for the public on the 1st August, 1978. To ensure that recreation and nature conservation interests are maintained and enhanced to the mutual benefit of both, it will be necessary to undertake some development on-site.

To ensure this development is in harmony with nature conservation interests, I would like to receive your comments on the following developments:-

(a) Line of footpath and catwalk (see enclosed map and drawing). It is intended to commence construction of the catwalk at the beginning of April. Is such a start in accord with the bird nesting season and growing season of plants and shrubs? I would also appreciate your views on the alignment of the footpath network. The detailed alignment will still need to be determined on the ground.

It exactly coincides with the start of bird nesting season. Couldn't be less optimal.

(b) Please find enclosed a possible design for wildlife hides. I would be grateful to receive your views on an optimum design, and possible location points around the western lake, and whether one large hide would be preferred to a number of smaller hides.

I should be sufficient. Too many will get used to the wrong things & vandalised.

(c) The original Master Plan for Cosmeston Country Park proposed the creation of an island in the western lake as a wildlife sanctuary. (See attached map). I would be grateful to have your advice on the design and construction of the channel (i.e. width and depth) which would separate the island from the western shore of the western lake. If a site meeting would be in order could you please contact my assistant, Mr. P. Leonard.

(d) The 1978/79 Programme of Works for Cosmeston envisages clearing the overflow channel and construction of sluice gates on the south east corner of the western lake. This will naturally lead to a lowering of the water level of the lakes. If this is the case, what would be the ecological value of the Master Plan car park (see attached map) if the water level is lowered?

I don't understand this. Thought this car park site was abandoned long ago. Lowering of water level will ruin entire marginal veg by drying it out & whole succession will have to restart. This is the 1st I've heard of this disastrous suggestion.

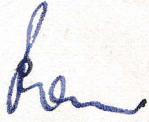
(e) I have received reports that Snipe has been spotted at Cosmeston. If this is so could you outline the significance of this observation, whether the birds have nested at Cosmeston, and where have they been spotted?

When + where

Cont/d....

I look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully,



County Planning Officer.

