Brian Eardley

Natural Resources Division

Scottish Government

Victoria Quay

Leith

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

 09 March 2023

 By e-mail to - brian.eardley@gov.scot

Dear Scottish Ministers

**Notification under Section 3 (1) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004**

**Bargeny Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

I am writing to let you know that formal consultation on Bargeny Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) starts on 09 March 2023 and finishes 11 June 2023.

Scottish Natural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as NatureScot) considers that the land shown within the solid black lines and highlighted in grey on the map referred to in this letter is of special interest because of its natural feature. This feature is specified in the SSSI Citation.

I have also enclosed a link to the list of Operations Requiring Consent for Bargeny Hill SSSI. These are lists of acts that are likely to damage the natural features described.

While the notification remains in force, you as a public body must not carry out any operation likely to damage any of the natural features specified in the notification without written consent from NatureScot unless any of the exemptions described in section 14(1) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 apply. This applies whether or not the operation is on the lists of operations requiring consent and whether or not it would take place within the SSSI.

In addition, as a designated relevant regulatory authority, before deciding whether to permit any operation likely to damage any of the natural features specified in the notification, you must notify NatureScot of the proposal and wait 28 days before making a decision on the proposal, unless NatureScot notifies you that you need not wait. This also applies whether or not the operation is on the lists of operations requiring consent and whether or not it would take place within the SSSIs.

Accompanying these documents is a Site Management Statement for Bargeny Hill SSSI. This is a public statement that provides guidance to the owners and occupiers of each SSSI on how each site’s natural features should be conserved or enhanced. All the documentation detailing the SSSI (Boundary Map, Citation, list of Operation Requiring Consent and Site Management Statement) can be downloaded from <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/protected-area-notices>

If you wish to make representations about this notification, please write to me at the address below by 11 June 2023.

The notification will cease to have effect if it is withdrawn or is not confirmed by NatureScot by 09 March 2024.

Yours sincerely

**Kerry Wallace**

Head of Operations – West Central Scotland

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