# Land sold despite non-compliance with illegal tree felling order in Stirling



In a troubling turn of events, a parcel of land in Stirling, where over 800 trees were unlawfully felled, has been sold without any replanting having taken place. This recent transaction, involving the former Cornton Caravan Park on Cornton Road, raises serious questions about environmental accountability and compliance with legal directives.

Scottish Forestry had issued a legal order requiring the replanting of the felled trees back in March 2022, setting a deadline for compliance by March 31, 2024. However, reports indicate that the previous landowner, Beechtree Wright Ltd, not only failed to comply with this order but also sold the land for £80,000 in February 2024 to James Stewart from Carlisle, without any replanting efforts being initiated. This situation presents a significant dilemma for Scottish Forestry, which has so far been unable to contact the new owner to communicate the enforcement of the restocking order.

A spokesperson for Scottish Forestry commented, “This restocking case is very much still active, and we are continuing to pursue it as quickly as we can. The problem that we are facing at the moment is that, without our knowledge, the previous owner who was served the Restocking Direction, sold on the land.” The agency insists that it remains committed to ensuring the woodland is replanted, although the muted response from the new owner has added to their frustrations.

This incident is not isolated. The initial concerns regarding the site began as early as July 2022 when local residents reported extensive clearing of trees and vegetation without the necessary permissions. Scottish Forestry confirmed that no felling consent was in place and initiated an investigation to assess possible breaches of the law. Residents voiced anxiety not only over the loss of the trees but also over the smoke from fires that followed the clearing work, which affected nearby homes.

Moreover, the situation was complicated by a previous planning application submitted to reinstate caravans on the site, which Stirling Council had rejected in April 2020. The council deemed the site abandoned due to the removal of existing structures and infrastructure critical for caravan use.

Under Scottish law, ignoring an official tree restocking order is a serious offence, punishable by fines ranging from £5,000 to £10,000. The legal frameworks established for tree protection emphasise the importance of woodland preservation, particularly given the ongoing environmental challenges facing Scotland and beyond.

Discontent among local residents continues to simmer, particularly following reports that timber from the felled trees had been sold for firewood during the period of non-compliance. Such actions not only highlight the urgency for regulatory enforcement but also underscore a growing tension between development interests and environmental stewardship in the region.

As Scottish Forestry presses on in its pursuit of the new landowner, the fate of the former caravan park and its surrounding woodland remains uncertain. The conversion of this green space into a site devoid of its natural heritage serves as a stark reminder of the potential consequences arising from unchecked land use practices, and the need for robust environmental governance to ensure that the rights of nature take precedence amid commercial transactions.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5205404/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/), [[3]](https://www.inkl.com/news/forestry-probe-after-tree-felling-at-former-stirling-caravan-site), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/firm-told-to-plant-more-than-800-trees-on-land-cleared-out-after-controversial-work)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/), [[5]](https://www.inkl.com/news/fury-over-tree-fires-at-site-near-stirlings-westhaugh-estate), [[6]](https://www.inkl.com/news/certificate-rejected-for-controversial-vacant-stirling-caravan-site)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5205404/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/firm-told-to-plant-more-than-800-trees-on-land-cleared-out-after-controversial-work)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5244133/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling-sold/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5205404/cornton-caravan-park-trees-stirling/> - In March 2022, Scottish Forestry issued a legal direction to replant over 800 unlawfully felled trees at the former Cornton Caravan Park in Stirling, setting a deadline of March 31, 2024. However, as of March 2023, the landowner, Beechtree Wright Ltd, had not complied with the order, and reports indicated that trees were being sold for firewood. Scottish Forestry was considering next steps but had not taken action against the company at that time.
3. <https://www.inkl.com/news/forestry-probe-after-tree-felling-at-former-stirling-caravan-site> - In July 2022, residents near the Cornton Caravan Site raised concerns about the clearing of trees and vegetation, as well as smoke from fires. Scottish Forestry confirmed that no felling permission was in place for the site and initiated an investigation to determine if a breach had occurred. The decision and future actions were expected to be reached soon.
4. <https://www.inkl.com/news/firm-told-to-plant-more-than-800-trees-on-land-cleared-out-after-controversial-work> - Following controversial clearing work at the former Cornton Caravan Park site, a notice was issued to restock the area with 864 trees. Residents had raised concerns over the clearing of the floodplain site and the burning of trees and vegetation. The clearing work followed a previous application to reinstate caravans at the site, which had been turned down by Stirling Council in April 2020.
5. <https://www.inkl.com/news/fury-over-tree-fires-at-site-near-stirlings-westhaugh-estate> - Residents of Stirling’s Westhaugh estate expressed anger over the clearing of trees and vegetation at the vacant Cornton Caravan Site. Smoke from fires blew across roads and neighboring properties, leading to multiple calls to Scottish Fire and Rescue. The work had commenced a few weeks prior, involving the removal of numerous mature trees and the use of heavy machinery.
6. <https://www.inkl.com/news/certificate-rejected-for-controversial-vacant-stirling-caravan-site> - Stirling Council refused a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' application for the reinstatement of caravans at the vacant Cornton Caravan Park. The council considered the site abandoned, citing the removal of structures and the lack of infrastructure necessary for caravan use. Previous applications for a certificate of lawfulness had also been turned down by the council.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-berkshire-50529767> - In 2019, Reading Borough Council mistakenly cut down 800 young trees in Palmer Park during a routine clearance. The trees had been planted by volunteers with the council's permission in 2016 and 2017. TV naturalist Chris Packham criticized the council for the incident, calling it 'unforgivable' given the dire state of the environment and wildlife.