

Ref.



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**  
Welsh Government  
Plant Health & Environmental  
Protection Branch  
Land, Nature, and Forestry Division  
Rhodfa Padarn  
Llanbadarn Fawr  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3UR

Date: 13/10/2022

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017**

I refer to the visit made to your property yesterday by myself and my colleague to investigate allegations of breaches to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agri.) (Wales) Regulations 2017.

All the works that you have carried out to date have not breached the Regulations as they are classed as maintenance operations. Furthermore, the proposed works of scrub control and bramble removal are also classed as maintenance operations under the Regulations, and therefore can continue. There is a possibility that you might have to apply for a felling licence due to the amount of scrub you are proposing removing, therefore, I suggest that you contact Natural Resources Wales to seek advice on the matter, their General Enquires line is 0300 065 3000.

Part of the information received by our office before the visit was that there might be a rare butterfly occurring in the parcel you are managing, the Marsh Fritillary. This butterfly has very specific requirements to survive. They need tussocky grass to lay their eggs, and the larval form of the butterfly needs a plant called Devils Bit Scabious to feed on. The area you wish to manage does contain tussocky grass (and sedge) as well as the food plant. It is an offence to damage or destroy the resting places of this species of butterfly, therefore it would be prudent to manage the land in a manner which would avoid affecting the tussocky grass and food plant, until you are sure that the butterfly does not occur on your land.

Your wish to control and manage the scrub and bramble encroachment would not impact either the tussocky grass or food plant and therefore are fine. If you wish to top the grassland and remove all cut/ dead vegetative material, then care must be taken to avoid the tussocky grass.

Whilst not part of our decision, you should also take note of that this guidance does not replace or affect any other statutory requirements which may constrain operations on this land.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information regarding the land and any other proposed works under the Regulations.

Yours sincerely

**Plant Health & Environmental Protection**