

# Stobo Hope June 2026 Update



## A Landmark Opportunity for Change

The Stobo Hope campaign has become one of Scotland's most significant community-led environmental campaigns, challenging a large-scale Sitka spruce plantation proposed on heather moorland, wetlands and species-rich grasslands in the Upper Tweed Valley.

Thanks to public support, expert evidence and legal action, the campaign has already achieved major successes. Forestry operations were halted, a £2 million taxpayer-funded forestry grant was withdrawn, and Scottish Forestry accepted that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required before any future decision can be made.

## Why This Project Matters

Stobo Hope supports valuable moorland, grassland and wetland habitats that provide refuge for species such as black grouse, curlew, hen harrier, merlin, golden eagle and countless insect species.

Independent ecological research has shown that large-scale Sitka spruce plantations on semi-natural habitats can result in substantial biodiversity loss and long-term landscape change. The campaign seeks to ensure that these impacts are properly assessed and that decisions are based on sound scientific evidence.

## Progress So Far

- An enforcement notice remains in place, preventing forestry works from proceeding.
- Scottish Forestry has conceded that a full Environmental Impact Assessment is required.
- A £2 million public forestry grant associated with the project was withdrawn.
- Public awareness of the environmental concerns surrounding the proposal has grown significantly.
- Independent ecological evidence has helped bring national attention to the importance of Stobo Hope and more widely to the environmental impact of commercial forestry.

## What Happens Next

Environmental consultants are preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report, which will be submitted to Scottish Forestry for consideration.

This assessment will be critical in determining whether the proposed plantation can proceed and whether its impacts on wildlife, habitats and landscape have been properly evaluated.

## Why Funding Matters

While important progress has been achieved, the campaign is not over.

Continued support helps fund independent ecological expertise, scientific analysis, legal advice and public engagement. These resources are essential to ensuring that the Environmental Impact Assessment process is properly scrutinised and that environmental decisions are made transparently and lawfully.

## Impact & Outcomes

The Stobo Hope campaign has already demonstrated the power of community action.

It has secured greater environmental scrutiny, prevented further damaging forestry operations, influenced public policy discussions and highlighted the importance of protecting Scotland's internationally valued landscapes and wildlife.

With continued support, the campaign can help establish stronger environmental accountability and ensure that future decisions affecting Scotland's natural heritage are guided by evidence, transparency and the public interest.

## Thank You

Everything achieved so far has been made possible through the support of donors, volunteers, scientists and members of the public.

Together, we have already made a difference.  
With continued support, we can help ensure that Stobo Hope receives the environmental protection and scrutiny it deserves.

