

4th June 2009

Our ref:

Your ref:



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Dear Dominic

Consultation on restoring and expanding open habitats from woods and forests in England

Thank you for the opportunity you have given Natural England to respond to the above consultation.

Our detailed response to the questions are set out in the attached questionnaire. In summary, Natural England supports the higher target range for the restoration of open habitats. However, we are less concerned with meeting yearly targets, providing the ambition to achieve the higher target is maintained and we recognise that progress will depend on many factors including site conditions, scale and connectivity, community response, owner preference, carbon balance, the impact of overall woodland cover and whether practice demonstrates that restored sites are being suitably managed. Outside SSSI's we believe that a flexible, dynamic approach to management should be explored.

Any clarification you may require on the detail of the response can be obtained from Rob Green (Rob.Green@naturalengland.org.uk), on 0300 060 0230.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Cooke". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey circular stamp.

Rob Cooke
Director Policy