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Date: 1 June 2009
My ref: JCP/JET

Dear Sir

Forestry Commission – Consultation on Open Habitats

Question 1 - Go for lower area of restoration. Be flexible – opportunity will vary in different areas.

Question 4 - Yes. Involve the community. Look at Dorset's Urban Heath Project bringing in resources (Euro grant, Developer's contribution) to employ wardens as well as involving Fire Services and Police.

Question 5 - Normally agree, but where a good case can be made to take out some ancient woodland and especially where alternative environmental improvements can be provided, exception should be allowed.

Question 7 - Local participation vital.

Question 8 - Great flexibility needed.

Questions 17 & 18 - Great flexibility needed.

Questions 19 & 20 - Could we link creation of open areas with appropriate encouragement of tree planting under Farm Woodland Schemes.

Questions 22 & 23 - Need to research and develop cattle, horse and sheep grazing techniques, maybe at certain times of the year. Three year old mutton from Wethers is delicious – perhaps the older sheep would eat vegetation better than ewes and lambs.

Yours sincerely

John Peake MBE
Chairman of the Council

Copies to: David Northover, (Local Access)
Phil Sterling, Natural Environment Manager