

Subject: Restoring and expanding open habitats from woods and forests in England consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment on the public consultation as follows: **Restoration should be targeted to the areas that will ensure the best outcomes for wildlife and sustainable management.** Nature needs space, and creating larger areas of heathland near existing habitats will help ease the vulnerability of the dependent wildlife to threats, such as disturbance, scrub encroachment and climate change.

This policy must set ambitious targets for the restoration of heathland and other threatened open habitats lost to plantation forestry. Short-term targets in line with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan target should be set, but there needs to be a long term plan to unlock the majority of heathland restoration potential, before the remnant heathland conditions are lost. **An ambitious program of restoration will be essential if we are to help the fantastic range of threatened and unique wildlife adapt in the face of climate change.** Restoring lost habitats near existing areas will help species move in response to both local and national climate change and also buffer wildlife from other related threats. **Restored areas of open habitat provide valued areas for relaxation and the enjoyment of nature.**

Yours faithfully,

Bryan Fermoore