



Peter Riley

RECEIVED
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FORESTRY COMMISSION
ENGLAND NATIONAL OFFICE

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15th May 2009

LOWLAND HEATHLAND

Consultation on 'Restoring and Expanding Open Habitats from Woodland Forests in England'

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the above consultation regarding Lowland Heathland and would ask you to consider the following representations:

1. I firmly believe that the policy should set ambitious targets for the restoration of heathland and other threatened open habitats lost to plantation forestry. This should include short term targets to meet UK Biodiversity Action Plan objectives as well as a long term aim to unlock the majority of heathland restoration potential, before the remnant heathland conditions are lost.
2. The restoration should target those areas that will ensure the best outcomes for wildlife and sustainable management. Larger areas of heathland near existing habitats will help ease the vulnerability of the dependent wildlife to threats, such as disturbance and scrub encroachment.
3. The amazing range of threatened and unique wildlife on heathlands will benefit from larger areas, linked with existing areas, through helping species to move in response to climate change developments.
4. Heathlands are often close to existing population centres and restoring this habitat will provide places for people to appreciate our long cultural history with this landscape which often includes significant archaeological features. Local people will also be able to better enjoy and appreciate the wonderful wildlife that inhabits heathland.

I do hope that the policy consultation will take on board the above considerations in the interests of preserving and expanding this unique habitat which is of global significance.

Yours faithfully,

Pete Riley

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