

Dear Sirs

Re: - Restoring and expanding open habitats from woods and forests in England consultation.

We write to urge you to do all you can to restore heathland, particularly lowland heath, to its former glory.

By removing plantation forestry, which is virtually sterile of native wildlife, and managing the land for native species we can recreate areas for the benefit of wildlife as well as for human recreation.

Lowland heath supports many threatened species for example Dartford warbler, nightjar, woodlark, sand lizard, marsh gentian, silver-studded butterfly etc. We have an obligation to set very ambitious targets to create habitats for their benefit both in the short and long term to ensure our children and our children's children have the opportunity to enjoy our wild and beautiful countryside.

It is important to restore areas which link other wildlife habitats together thereby creating corridors for species to move from one place to another. By increasing the size of the areas we will have a better chance of combating species extinction as a result of pressure on small areas which occur as a result of man's ignorance as well as climate change.

Please make these points on our behalf in the consultation and to those who will be making recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

K J and W A Wilson