



#### Enquiries

Public Forest Estate  
Consultation Co-ordinator,  
Forestry Commission England  
620 Bristol Business Park  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol BS16 1EJ

#### Email

publicconsultation@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

### Consultation on the future of the Public Forest Estate in England

1. I am writing to invite views on the future of the Public Forest Estate in England.
2. The consultation is about the future ownership and management of the public forest estate in England – land managed by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
3. It sets out the rationale for a move away from the Government owning and managing significant areas of woodlands in England and the principles which will guide the Government in deciding the way forward. The consultation proposes a mixed model approach to reforming the ownership and management of the public forest estate to create a far greater role for civil society, businesses and individuals.
4. We invite views on the mixed model approach, the criteria for deciding which parts of the estate fit within each model, the principles guiding each model, the safeguards for providing public benefits, and alternative approaches. We also invite views on the implications for the future role of the Forestry Commission in England of these proposals.
5. The consultation document can be found on the Defra website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/forests/index.htm>

The following link will take you to the online survey:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/england-pfeconsultation](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-pfeconsultation)

### Responses

6. You can either respond to the consultation online or by completing a hard copy and posting it to:



[forestry.gov.uk/england-pfeconsultation](http://forestry.gov.uk/england-pfeconsultation)



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Or call the Forestry Commission on 0845 3673787 to request a hard copy which you can complete and return to the address above. The consultation closes at 5pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

### **Consultation Criteria**

7. In line with Defra's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of responses we receive may be made publicly available through the Defra Information 2 resource Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses.

8. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your email system will not be treated as such a request. You should be aware that there are circumstances in which Defra will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.

9. The Information Resource Centre will supply copies of consultation responses to personal callers or in response to telephone or email requests (tel: 0207 238 6575, email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)). Wherever possible, personal callers should give the library at least 24 hours notice of their requirements. An administrative charge will be made to cover photocopying and postage costs.

10. Comments or complaints about the consultation process (as opposed to comments about the issue which is the subject of consultation) should be addressed to:

Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator  
Area 7C Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
Email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully  
Defra Forestry Team