

15 June 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Thursley, Ockley, Elstead, Royal & Bagmoor Commons Stakeholder Engagement

The Surrey Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the Ministry of Defence/Defence Estates, as the three main organisations managing Thursley, Ockley, Elstead, Royal and Bagmoor Commons, are considering the options for the long term, sustainable management of the Commons, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

The three organisations are keen to seek the views of those who visit and value the Commons, before making any decisions on the future management. To assist this process they have engaged consultants with particular experience of commons issues to facilitate the consultation process.

The consultants, Footprint Ecology, have produced a background paper and leaflet on the Commons, both of which are attached, and these include details of a number of drop-in days in local villages and open days that are being held on the Commons, which will be attended by Trust and NE staff. Further details about all the management options are included in a more detailed paper on management of heathland and the Commons which is available to view on the Trust's website: <http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org>

We are particularly keen to hear the views of local organisations, which, through their members and stakeholders have an informed perspective on this important local resource. Please send your views either by e-mail to: Zoe.Grainger@surreywt.org.uk or by letter to Zoe Grainger at Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0JN. We would also be pleased to see and speak to any representatives from your organisation at any of the drop-in days or open days.

We hope to complete these consultations by the end of September, after which all three organisations will need to consider the preferred options for future management in the light of the views you and others have given us. Decisions will then be made on the best way forward to conserve the Commons and its wildlife for the enjoyment of present and future generations. At that point we will be in touch with you again.

The Trust, MOD/DE and Natural England are seeking the best solutions for the future management of the Commons and the widest consensus on how this can be achieved. Please help us by giving your views and ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Pearson

*Director of Countryside Management
Surrey Wildlife Trust*