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Forestry Commission Public Forest Estate – Public Consultation

PRESS RELEASE - 18th February 2011

The Government has announced that it has decided to abandon its public consultation about the future of the Forestry Commission's English Public Forest Estate, which began on January 27th 2011.

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Official Verderer, said: *" We are enormously relieved that the decision has been taken to stop this consultation, and hopefully that means that the idea of giving the New Forest away to a charity is now truly dead and buried.*

This does show that the Government is prepared to listen, and we hope that it now accepts that the New Forest is a much-treasured public asset that should remain in state ownership, managed by a properly funded Forestry Commission.

We are also very pleased that the Government will be removing all parts of the Public Bodies Bill that relate to Forestry, so that it no longer poses any possible threat to the New Forest Acts."

End