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Date: 12 June 2012 12:17:08 GMT+01:00
To: <dougekingsmith@yahoo.co.uk>
Cc: "Ford, Roger" <Roger.Ford@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: Re The Hillyfield Woods - Mr Doug King-Smith: Woodland Management and Woodfuel business

To whom it may concern

I am writing to confirm that Mr King-Smith has an English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) agreement with the Forestry Commission to enable him to bring his woodlands into sustainable management, through creating management access to the woodland and thinning and felling/restocking where appropriate in line with his agreed management plans.

The Forestry Commission published the Woodfuel Strategy and Woodfuel Implementation Plan (see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6PGGQR>) which outlines the social, environmental and economic benefits of bringing our woodlands into management, over 50% of which in the South West are not in management. The only way to make woodland management sustainable in the longer term is to ensure that there are appropriate and viable markets. The growth of the woodfuel market has provided a real opportunity to bring these woodlands into management in line with the Woodfuel Implementation Plan's aspirations.

Mr King-Smith's woodfuel business fits well with these aspirations, which is why the Forestry Commission is supporting his woodlands through the EWGS. In addition to the production of woodfuel, which provides an outlet for coppice and lower quality material, he will also be producing sawn timber from the better quality stems. Mr King-Smith's proposals for machine storage and also woodfuel and timber drying appear to be appropriate and consistent with the woodlands he is managing. In terms of drying, it is crucial to the quality of the woodfuel that it is properly seasoned, which means at least a year or more covered, and for significantly more than this if air drying sawn quality hardwood timber.

Yours sincerely

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