

Defra announcement on future of forestry in England

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Speaking in the House of Commons this afternoon, Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman confirmed that the consultation on the future management of the Public Forest Estate has been halted and all forestry clauses in the Public Bodies Bill will be removed.

An independent panel of experts will examine forestry policy in England and report back to the Environment Secretary in the autumn. We welcome the Governments intention to take a closer look at the value of publicly-owned forests and we urge them to consider carefully the multiple public benefits which these ecosystems provide.

The public enthusiasm for good long-term stewardship of these national assets shows a deep understanding of the value of nature. This delivers a strong mandate to government to prioritise the protection of environmental assets from which we enjoy ongoing benefits. As the public and many businesses act to develop sustainable practices we also look to the government to get the framework right to accommodate and encourage this.

For more information on the announcement [click here](#).