

10 May 2018



Mr B Slack

[depicus@outlook.com](mailto:depicus@outlook.com)

Legal Services  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP

Dear Mr Slack

### **Access to Information Request – Request no 4237**

Thank you for your request for information set out below, which we received on 03 May 2018. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

You asked for:

**1. Are you saying Mytchett Woods currently has no management plan in place, and if so why? and is there any plans to introduce one?**

Not all SSSI land has a management plan. Such plans are desirable, but it is not a mandatory requirement for SSSI owners to produce such plans. The land at Mytchett Woods forms part of the Defence Training Estate. The Defence Estates management plan dating from 2000 is now somewhat out of date. The woodland sections of the management plan are attached. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) are in the process of developing Integrated Rural Management Plans for the training estate. We do not have a timescale for the completion of such plans for each site. In the absence of an approved management plan, Natural England is consulted on works within the SSSI by the landowner/estate managers as required.

**2. Are Natural England aware of the works currently going on at Mytchett Woods undertaken by the MOD and if not why not. If you are aware of such works then please provide all correspondence between the parties to the work?**

We are aware of forestry works which has involved extensive thinning of the conifer plantations. We were consulted by Forestry Commission (FC) over the felling licence application, and we responded that we did not have any objections to FC issuing the felling licence - see attached. We are also aware of the subsequent follow up works – also see attached. We are also aware of the clearance of low bushes and scrub from some of the open habitats within the forestry blocks. That work was agreed with Natural England as part of a previous management agreement between Natural England and the Surrey Wildlife Trust/DIO.

**3. When was the last time Natural England visited Mytchett Woods and when do you next plan to visit?**

The most recent visits by Natural England to the site were on 17 July 2017, 31 July 2017 and 21 February 2018. Two of those visits were with various representatives of the landowner. We do not have a definite date for next visit, but it is likely to be this summer.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. As you may be aware, under the legislation should you have any concerns with the service you have received in relation to your requests and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please contact me and I'll arrange for a colleague to conduct an internal review. Under Regulation 11(2) this needs to be done no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of that complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113, [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

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