



Mr. Adrian Coward,  
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28<sup>th</sup> June, 2011

Dear Mr Coward,

### **Ensuring the Continued Collation of Biodiversity Data for North Somerset**

As I am sure that you are aware, North Somerset Council, like all local authorities, is facing severe financial shortfalls over the next three years. In order to help balance a deficit of £47 million, the Council is making savings in all areas, including its funding to BRERC.

I am writing because the Forest of Avon Trust has managed to secure a small and very much one-off grant from North Somerset Council to help it to collate biodiversity information in 2011/12 and particularly to identify people/ organisations able and willing to support the continued collation of such data in to the future. The Council has confirmed to me that it will make all biodiversity information that it is sent, available to BRERC.

As the Director of an environmental partnership (now Trust) which the former Avon authorities ceased core funding two years ago, I am very well aware of the political and practical problems that funding cuts present. I do however feel that we have an opportunity to put in place a system which means that the interests of the natural environment continue to be fully represented in North Somerset Council's consideration of planning and policy.

I will contact you shortly to discuss this further and arrange a meeting as appropriate, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on [jonclark@forestofavontrust.org](mailto:jonclark@forestofavontrust.org) or the numbers above.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Clark 

Executive Director, Forest of Avon Trust.

Forest of Avon Trust, Charity Number 1122314, Company Number 6252763.

Patrons: Mike Dilger, Naturalist, Presenter and Writer; Dr Alice Roberts, Anatomist, Writer and Broadcaster.

Directors: Keith Betton (Chairman), Keith Bonham MBE DL, Nigel Howe, Rt. Hon. The Earl of Ducie, Professor William Scott FRSA, Dr John Vanderplank.



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