



Forestry Commission

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The Chairman Rt Hon
Lord Clark of Windermere

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Dear Dr Edwards,

When I wrote to you on 8 August about the Forestry Commission's proposals for an open air concert venue in Ringwood Forest I said that we would be writing to let people know the outcome of the exploration and re-evaluation of possible alternative sites and our consideration of the comments we have received.

Since we started to develop our plans earlier this year there has been a significant change in the economic climate. We think that the market in which the forest concerts operate is likely to tighten and the return on any new investment may be insufficient to justify that investment. We have therefore decided to put to one side our plans for the development of a new venue in the Ringwood area.

We will be continuing with our plans for a gradual change to Ringwood Forest, seeing a progression to a mixture of pine and native woodland interspersed with swathes of heathland. Also, when the economic situation improves and depending on how our forest concerts have fared, we are likely to look again at the opportunities for a new venue in the area. We do not expect this to be until some two to three years have elapsed and any future plans will take into account the Forestry Commission's national objectives and local reaction to the proposals that are now redundant.

Yours sincerely

David Reid