



The Estate Office  
Ashton Court Estate  
BRISTOL  
BS41 9JN

[www.forestofavon.org.uk](http://www.forestofavon.org.uk)

11 November, 2009

Dear Friend/ Colleague,

### **The Forest of Avon- The End of an Era and New Opportunities**

It is with regret that I have to inform you that the Forest of Avon Partnership and team ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>, due to growing pressures upon public sector funding. Whilst this is a sad occasion, it is gratifying to reflect that the Forest has had a major impact locally, including the planting of over a million trees; hundreds of hectares of woodland being brought in to active management; over 1,000 kilometres of paths being improved and a thriving co-operative for local wood products, established. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution and support in past years.

For those of us who believe in the hugely positive role that trees and woodlands play in the lives of people, and there are many, we have the ability to continue the legacy of the Forest, through the new Forest of Avon Trust. This is an Independent charitable company limited by guarantee, working across the former Avon area, which is committed to:

- o Actively promoting the many benefits of local trees and woodlands, including as a way of adapting to climate change, maintaining the West as a great place to live and work;
- o Providing opportunities for people to be actively involved in making a difference by planting trees in their gardens, local green spaces and more widely within the area;
- o Delivering projects which extend the educational, training and wider benefits of trees to all ages, abilities and backgrounds; and
- o Working with a range of groups to provide practical and cost- effective solutions to the long- term management of new woodlands.

The Forest of Avon Trust will need to access funding from a wide variety of sources and in the current financial climate, will face big challenges. I would therefore ask you to consider whether you are able to support it in its mission by joining the Friends Scheme: <http://www.forestofavon.org.uk/about/forest-of-avon-trust/friends-of-the-forest>. ? The Trust would also welcome any other suggestions you might have regarding potential funding. To discuss these, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Clark on [jonclark@forestofavon.trust.org](mailto:jonclark@forestofavon.trust.org) , or on (0117) 963 3383.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Guest  
Chairman- Forest of Avon Partnership