

5 July 2016

Mr Chris Todd
139 Hollingdean Terrace
Brighton
BN1 7HF

Dear Chris,

Pondtail Wood

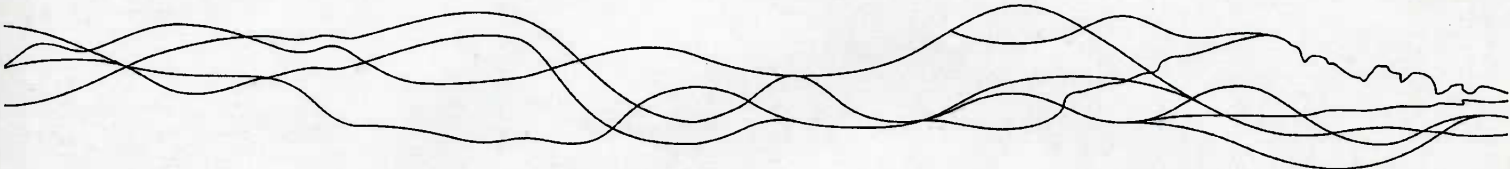
In your letter, you advise of the public anger about this site and the perceived lack of speed in the response of the various agencies. I understand the public anger and we and the other agencies involved have already committed to learning lessons to examine how we all responded and interacted to ensure we continue to improve in the delivery of our work.

As you may be aware from Dr Roger Smith of CPRE, who attended our National Park Authority meeting on 23 June the SDNPA have, in agreement with Mid Sussex District Council, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency taken the lead role in coordinating the joint investigation and enforcement work at Pondtail Wood, as well as leading on communicating with all parties and the public and media regarding developments.

To achieve this we have appointed a member of our Enforcement Team, John Bacon to coordinate the joint working of the various agencies and ensure that all relevant information is circulated as widely as possible. Whilst not all information and enforcement activity can be made public knowledge, we intend to publish as much as we can without compromising the current investigative work.

John is collating all the relevant information and activity during each week and circulating this, as appropriate to all agencies, SDNPA members, Mid Sussex Councillors and the local Parish Council. Information which can be released to the media and public is sent to the SDNPA Press Officer who, in consultation with the other agencies' press offices issues press releases and arranges for updates to be placed on a dedicated page of the SDNPA website (accessible via a link on the front page) <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/south-downs-take-lead-on-pondtail-wood-action/>

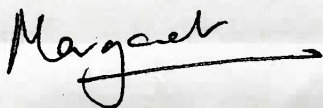
As advised when we spoke I would reassure you that the SDNPA does take the unauthorised development at Pondtail Wood very seriously. You will be aware of the Stop Notice and Enforcement Notice which are the heaviest sanctions we can bring to bear as well as the Restocking Notice issued by the Forestry Commission. Copies of these can be



found on our website, together with the penalties available should they not be complied with. I will not go into the detailed requirements of those Notices here, merely remark the key date is the 23 August by which day the remedial work specified in our Enforcement Notice must be completed. Meanwhile investigative activity continues in relation to the site and the owner, which includes a number of monitoring visits to the location each week.

If you or the other agencies have any further questions or come into possession of any relevant information then please contact our Enforcement Officer, John Bacon on 01730 819279 or john.bacon@southdowns.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



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