



**Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way team
Great Moor House
Bittern Road
Sowton
EXETER EX2 7NL**

**Tel: 07837 171000
01392 382771**

devoncaf@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf

██████████
Operations Admin Officer
Forestry Commission England
Operational Delivery Team
Bullers Hill Hub
Kennford
Exeter
EX6 7XR

20 September 2023

Dear ██████████

**Felling Licence Application ref 018/2870/2023
Wolford Lodge (Dunkeswell Turbary)**

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Its statutory remit is to give independent advice “as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area...” Section 94(4) of the Act specifies bodies to whom the Forum has a statutory function to give advice, and this includes the Forestry Commission.

The DCAF currently has seventeen members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum discussed the above felling licence for Dunkeswell Turbary at its meeting held on 18 September.

Felling to enable re-establishment of lowland heath, followed by a grazing regime, was supported. The proposed management would allow better access to the common.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a local access forum. It is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

A few points were raised and the Forum would welcome feedback on these matters.

1. The Forum notes the use of no-fence technology. It would be helpful if information signs could be erected to let members of the public know the purpose of the grazing and how cattle will be contained.
2. It would be useful for the signs to include an emergency number should the no-fence technology fail for any reason.
3. It would be beneficial for the Blackdown Hills AONB, Dunkeswell Parish Council and local access organisations, such as East Devon Ramblers, to know the timing of works so that potential access users could be informed through appropriate channels, in addition to works notices on site.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Winter
Forum Officer

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum
Chair: Sarah Slade
Vice Chair: Chris Cole