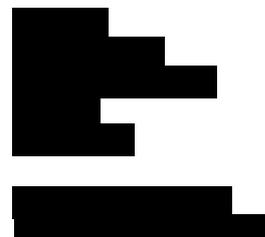


**Dr Tony Juniper CBE**  
**Chair**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



Phillip Dunne MP  
Chair of the Environmental Audit Select Committee



Dear Phillip,

It was a pleasure to provide evidence to the Environmental Audit Select Committee at the session as part of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Inquiry this week. Thank you for the opportunity to outline the role Natural England and nature recovery can play in rising to the twin crises of biodiversity decline and climate change.

As part of your inquiry I wanted to invite you and your Committee colleagues to visit a practical example of the work we are doing in this respect. The work we have been undertaking on heathland conservation at Purbeck in Dorset may be of particular interest to the Committee and really brings to life so many of the points we covered in our session.

Purbeck Heaths “super” National Nature Reserve in Dorset was declared in March 2020. It represents a partnership between Natural England, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, the Forestry Commission and private landowners, who have cooperated to bring together three smaller and previously isolated National Nature Reserves into one coherent area. At over 34 square hectares, this area of mixed heath, wetlands, grassland and woods is an inspiring breakthrough for conservation. It will also support the health and wellbeing of over 2.5 million people who visit Purbeck each year.

I think the Committee would really enjoy seeing what can be achieved first-hand. We would be delighted to host it and I shall ask the team here to follow up with Committee staff to explore options.

I look forward to seeing you again soon and in the meantime should you have any queries or require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Juniper".

Tony Juniper  
Chair, Natural England