

Response from Save Sandlings Forests campaign to forestry panel call for views, July 2011

Some images and some views from forest users



Families from Woodbridge enjoying a picnic in Rendlesham Forest - Petra Napthine:

"I have a yearly pass. I like it because there's so much to do. We've been camping, we like the slides, we go for walks, sometimes we bring the bikes – the boys are just learning at the moment and it's a safe place – we just love it here and we don't want to stop coming."

Steven Edwards runs the cycle hire and food kiosk in Rendlesham Forest Centre

"We employ local people and if we couldn't trade in the forest we would have to shut down. People like the service – families can come along and park here, hire bikes and have a lovely ride in a safe and fantastic place."



Alison Coote, with her horse at ride organised by the mid-Suffolk Bridleway Association

"If these forests weren't owned by the Forestry Commission a new owner would want to keep us out with height barriers, and they wouldn't provide parking and tracks where we can ride safely in beautiful forests like Tunstall."



Sam Dean and family on why they come to Rendlesham Forest

"They ride their bikes, have picnics, there's something for everyone here, it gives them freedom to do things like building dens."



Helen Smith lives on the edge of the forest

"I ride my horse Harley in it every day and walk my dog, it's very important to me, it's my whole life. I moved here because of the forest and I'd do anything to help save it from being sold off."

Clive Coles, member of Suffolk Orienteering club and walk leader for the Suffolk Stepping out Walking for Health programme.

"Continuing unimpeded access is of prime concern for both these activities. We like to get off the beaten track into the forest where we can orienteer or walk well away from other forest users. It takes you away from the hustle and bustle of every day life, where you can relax, socialise, and most importantly, be at peace with the world."



Gill Elmer, mid-Suffolk Driving for the Disabled

"The forests are for everyone, and our groups really love being in the forest. Wheelchair users get a real sense of freedom bowling along the forest tracks in the carriages. I couldn't bear it if we couldn't do it any more."

Some of the many activities in Sandlings forests, including picnicking, cycle hire, den building, walking for health, motorbike rally, birdwatching, horseriding, orienteering, carriage driving, pond dipping and mountain bike rally.

